Provisional programme

Diplomacy in the information age

Wednesday 22 – Friday 24 February 2017 | WP1519

This forum will examine the changing nature of diplomacy in the information age. It will explore new opportunities for the FCO to make better use of data in diplomacy, but also emerging threats that challenge the current ways of working. While some new opportunities and threats are applicable to any large international organisation, the focus of the forum will be on those that are of particular application to the FCO's role in diplomacy and making international policy. The framework for discussion will be the exploration of four inter-related themes; Networks: Diplomatic and social, Fusing insight and information in new data sources, Forecasting and Analytics, and Influence and Impact – ensuring effect. Discussion will look at recent trends and developments within these. There will be an element of futures exploration in considering a 10-20 year horizon scan. Within this framework there is also space for other topics of relevance to the core discussion.

The intended outcomes of the forum are to:

- Ideas and recommendations for the FCO to consider in making better use of data in foreign policy

- Raise awareness of the threats and opportunities arising through the use of data in the areas of the conference themes, including through the sharing of experiences among likeminded international partners and to encourage further collaboration between experts and the FCO through the development of a community of thought leaders on Diplomacy in the Information Age

In association with The Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Wednesday 22 February

1500	Participants arrive
1600	**Welcome and introduction**
	Mark Smith Programme Director, Wilton Park, Steyning
	Jonathan Allen Acting Director General, Defence and Intelligence, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London
1615-1745	**1. Networks: diplomatic and social**
	How are networks evolving beyond traditional geographically centred relationships to align

with interests and ideologies? How do we understand, develop, and disrupt them?

Carl Miller
Research Director, Centre for the Analysis of Social Media, Demos, London

Ali Fisher
Explorer of Extreme Realms, Human Cognition Limited, London

Nico Prucha
Researcher and Consultant, Human Cognition, University of Vienna

Nishanth Sastry
Senior Lecturer, King's College, London

1745-1830	Photograph followed by tea/coffee

1830-1930	## 2. Fusing insight and information from new data sources

How best do we combine open source, proprietary and privileged information to deliver powerful insights and deep understanding? With the vast quantities of big data at hand, how do we find the signal in the noise?

Steve Herrmann
Editorial Director, BBC Monitoring, Reading

Vitaliy Shevchenko
Editorial Lead, Russian Team, BBC Monitoring, Reading

Marian Cramers
Director, Global Network Agency Growth, Crimson Hexagon, London

1930	Reception followed by conference dinner

Thursday 23 February

0800-0845	Breakfast

0915-1045	## 3. Forecasting and analytics

How can data and data-driven decision making help us to anticipate issues and opportunities early and where possible take effective action to mitigate/exploit these?

Michael Story
Senior Consultant Director , Good Judgment, London

Phil Cavanagh
Solutions Technical Architect, Improbable, London

1045-1115	Tea/coffee. Close of breakout group voting.

1115-1245	## 4. Influence and impact

How is the way people get information and form opinions changing? What impact are new phenomena that are emerging such as post-truth, echo-chambers, and filter bubbles having? What are effective influencing strategies that embrace these changes? What ways do we have of measuring the impact of diplomacy? How effective are they? How best to utilise findings?

Kate Ferguson
Director of Policy and Research, Protection Approaches, London

Weijer Losecaat Vermeer
Communications Advisor for Digital and Public Diplomacy, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The

	Hague
	Carl Miller Research Director, Centre for the Analysis of Social Media, Demos, London
1300-1415	Lunch
1500-1700	**5. Breakout groups** Working groups on the 4 key themes, world café format. Chairs to be FCO representatives.
1700-1745	Tea/coffee
1745-1845	**6. Breakout group feedback** Report backs from the breakout group chairs/rapporteurs, focussing on recommendations for how data can be better employed in foreign policy.
1900	Reception followed by dinner

Friday 24 February

0800-0845	Breakfast and checkout
0915-1045	**7. Using data in campaigns – a case study** Examining the application of data in the recent US Presidential election. **David Wilkinson** Data Scientist, SCL Elections (SCL Group), London **Mark Turnbull** Managing Director, SCL Elections (SCL Group), London
1045-1115	Tea/coffee
1115-1125	**8. eQuestionnaire** Completion of online eQuestionnaire
1125-1200	**9. Conclusions** **Paul Gaskell** Head, European Union and International Data, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London
1200	Lunch
1400	Participants depart

This is a preview programme and as such may be subject to change.

This is an invitation only conference.

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