Celebrity Diplomacy

PD Dr. Ulrich Franke
Monday 18:00-19:30, online via WebEx (https://uni-erfurt.webex.com/meet/ulrich.franke)
B InB 2014 SVIntB#02+#05 (3/6 LP); B Sta 2012 SVIntB#02+#05 (3/6 LP)

Globally renowned representatives from sport, film and other branches of the culture industry often use their celebrity for political goals. The United Nations, for instance, has been working with celebrities since the 1950s. More recent examples encompass Leonardo DiCaprio as UN Messenger of Peace with a special focus on climate change, Dirk Nowitzki as ambassador of the United Nations Children’s Fund UNICEF, or Angelina Jolie as Special Envoy of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. To make sense of the phenomenon of celebrity diplomacy we have to compare it to concepts of classical diplomacy. Next to war and trade, diplomacy is among the oldest means of that cross-border communication which is usually referred to as foreign policy. Hence, theorizing diplomacy is another goal of the seminar. In this context, we will address the question of what the present prominence of celebrity diplomacy says about our times and the current state of world politics. Moreover, we will deal with celebrities’ understanding of (international) politics. What views of the world are guiding them? And how do they see their role in this world? The seminar aims at enabling all participants to find answers to these questions. For this purpose, we will engage in the art of reconstructing the worldviews of celebrity diplomats from their statements as UN ambassadors, for instance.

Course aims

Participants will acquire the competence...
- to deal with theoretical perspectives on diplomacy;
- to address “celebrity diplomacy” as a special form of diplomacy;
- to distinguish between celebrity activism, celebrity advocacy, celebrity politics, celebrity diplomacy, and celebrity humanitarianism;
- to autonomously study aspects of “celebrity diplomacy”;
- to normatively judge aspects of “celebrity diplomacy”;
- to look for, read, excerpt, and produce a coherent text out of academic sources;
- to take and defend a position;
- to fairly criticize the positions held by others;
- to study self-motivatedly and to autonomously and effectively work with others.

Contact

Office hours: Thursday, 10:35-11:45 (please register via <https://terminplaner4.dfn.de/8jO22BbcEyBZeLaV>)
Location: LG1 0036 → via telephone or WebEx
Email: ulrich.franke@uni-erfurt.de

Assignment

Qualifizierter Teilnahmeschein (3 credits or ‘Leistungspunkte’):
- preparation of sessions;
- active participation;
- ‘file’ of 6 pages in English (text only) on a celebrity diplomat of your choice to be uploaded on moodle on 4 July, 8 am at the latest; on 8 June, we will coordinate who will work on whom and establish criteria on what information the file has to include;
- teamwork is strongly encouraged (10 pages are required from 2 authors).
Modulprüfung (6 credits or 'Leistungspunkte'):
- preparation of sessions;
- active participation;
- term paper proposal (0.5 to 1 page) in English to be uploaded on moodle on 4 July, 8 am at the latest;
- term paper of 12-15 pages (text only) in English (to be submitted via email to ulrich.franke@uni-erfurt.de at Monday, 21 September, 8 am at the latest);
- teamwork is strongly encouraged (22-25 pages are required from 2 authors);
- it is also possible to combine a 'file' of 6 pages (see the above on qT) with a short paper of 7-8 pages (due on Monday, 21 September, 8 am).

Readings

Like this syllabus, the readings are available on the University's e-learning platform moodle.

Overview

Part I: Introduction
#01 (4 May), Introduction, general overview, and assignments: how we will proceed

Part II: On diplomacy and celebrity diplomacy
#02 (11 May), Inside diplomacy
#03 (18 May), Diplomatic culture
#04 (25 May), Techno-diplomacy
#05 (1 June), no session taking place (holiday: Pentecost)
#06 (8 June), Celebrity diplomacy
#07 (15 June), The power of celebrities

Part III: Miscellaneous activities of celebrity diplomats
#08 (22 June), Celebrity diplomats and the United Nations
#09 (29 June), Celebrity diplomats and development
#10 (6 July), Celebrity humanitarianism

Part IV: Conclusion
#11 (13 July), Summary, outlook, and discussion of term paper proposals

Detailed Reading List

Part I: Introduction

#01, Introduction, general overview, and assignments: how we will proceed

Part II: On diplomacy and celebrity diplomacy

#02, Inside diplomacy


#03, Diplomatic culture

#04, Techno-diplomacy


#05, no session taking place (holiday: Pentecost)

#06, Celebrity diplomacy


#07, The power of celebrities


**Part III: Miscellaneous activities of celebrity diplomats**

#08, Celebrity diplomats and the United Nations


#09, Celebrity diplomats and development


#10, Celebrity humanitarianism


**Part IV: Conclusion**

#11, Summary, outlook, and discussion of term paper proposals

term paper proposals on moodle

**Further Readings:**

**Angelina Jolie**


**Audrey Hepburn**

Wilson, Julie 2011: A new kind of star is born: Audrey Hepburn and the global governmentalisation of female stardom,
Celebrity Studies 2: 1, 56-68.

Ben Affleck

Bono

George Clooney

Jacques Cousteau

Madonna

Sean Penn