Talk and Action of Science Diplomacy

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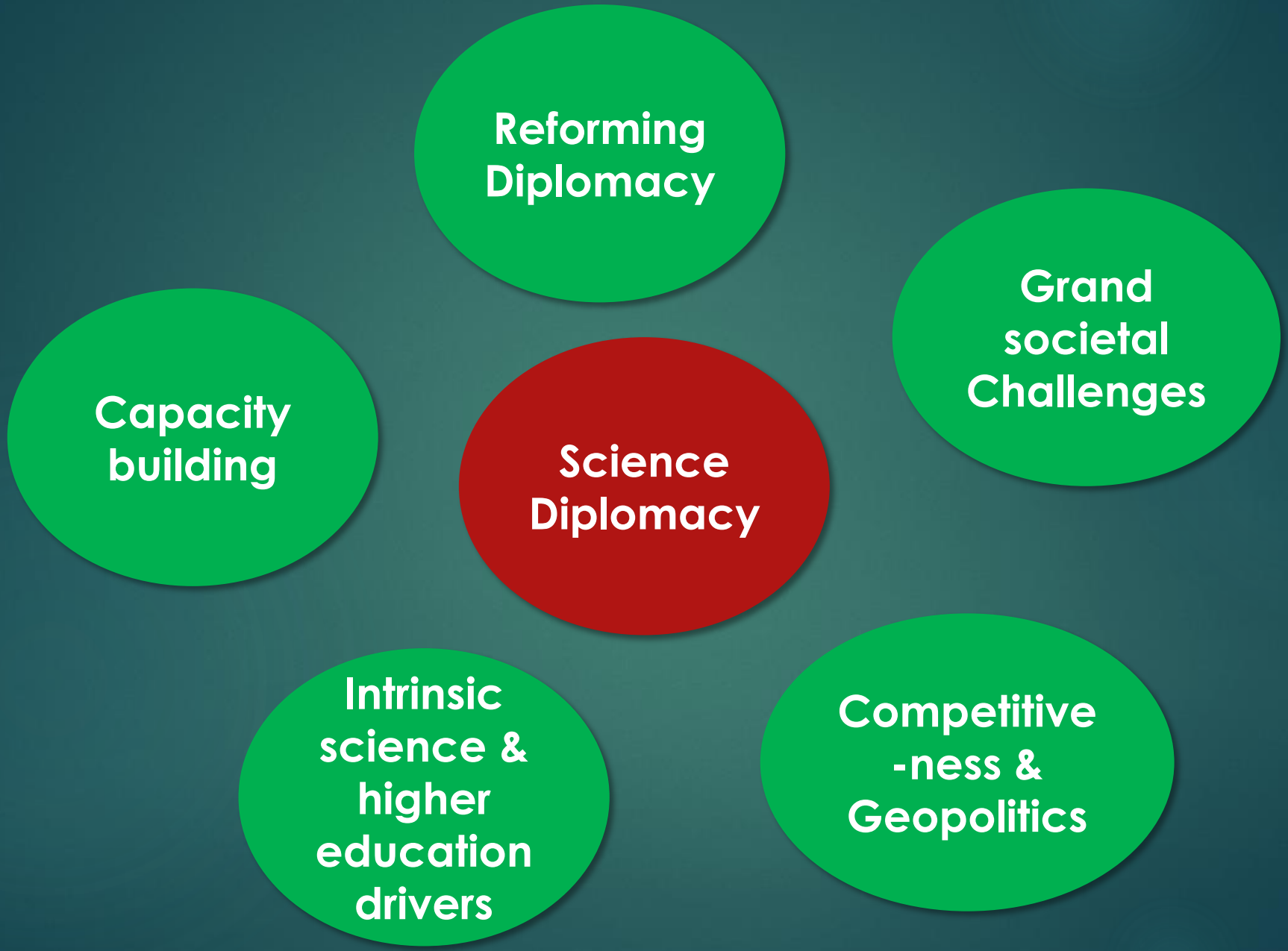
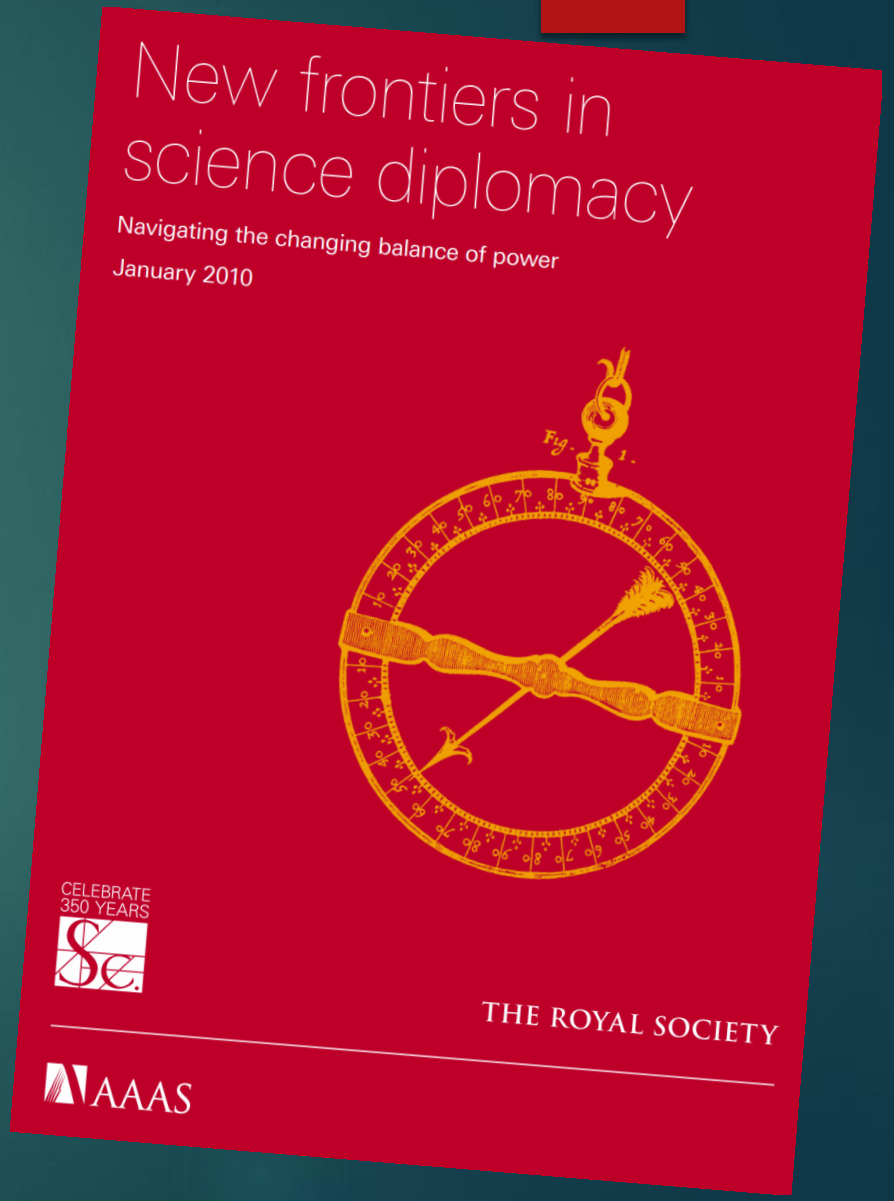
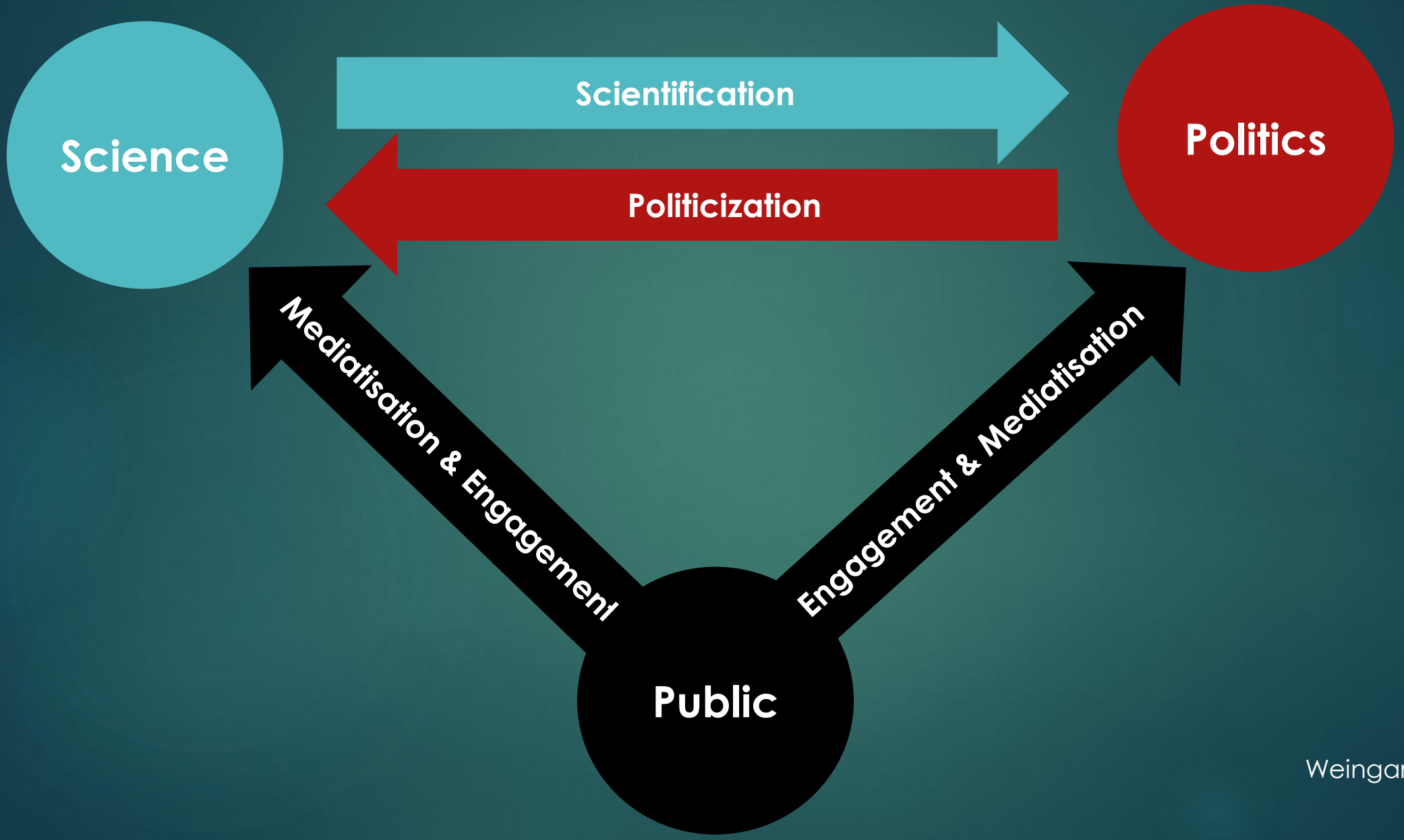

Reforming Diplomacy
Grand societal Challenges
Capacity building
Science Diplomacy
Intrinsic science & higher education drivers
Competitive -ness & Geopolitics

The Talk about Science Diplomacy

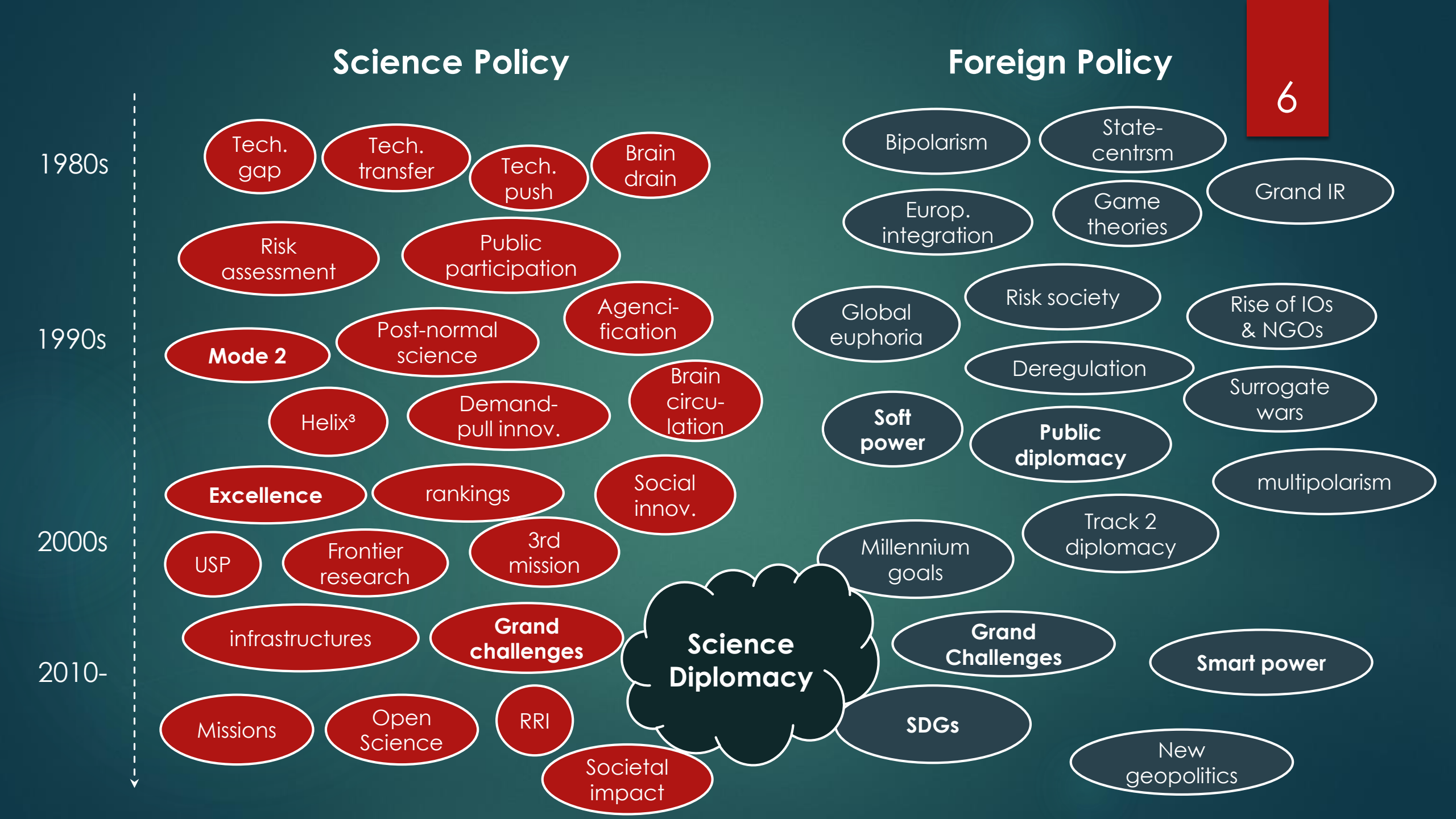
Popularisation of Science Diplomacy

- **Diplomacy for Science**: „facilitating international science cooperation“
- **Science in Diplomacy**: „informing foreign policy objectives with scientific advice”
- **Science for Diplomacy**: „using science cooperation and values to improve international relations between countries”





Weingart (1997)


Science Policy
Foreign Policy
1980s
1990s
2000s
2010-
Tech. gap
Tech. transfer
Tech. push
Brain drain
Risk assessment
Public participation
Agenci-fication
Post-normal science
Mode 2
Helix³
Demand-pull innov.
Brain circu-lation
Excellence
rankings
Social innov.
USP
Frontier research
3rd mission
infrastructures
Grand challenges
Missions
Open Science
RRI
Societal impact
Science Diplomacy
Bipolarism
State-centrsm
Grand IR
Europ. integration
Game theories
Global euphoria
Risk society
Rise of IOs & NGOs
Deregulation
Surrogate wars
Soft power
Public diplomacy
multipolarism
Track 2 diplomacy
Millennium goals
Grand Challenges
Smart power
SDGs
New geopolitics

Framing of Science Diplomacy

"It is time for the scientific community to increase its role in diplomacy - and maybe even take the lead. Nongovernmental scientific organizations are more credible, more nimble, and - as honest brokers - in many cases more respected than the U.S. government overseas." (Lord and Turekian 2007, 770).

"When traditional forms of diplomacy have been exhausted and conflicting sides have not reached a common understanding, science diplomacy may offer a breakthrough, bonding them through a shared goal." (European Commission 2019, 75)

Framing of Science Diplomacy

„If we understand public diplomacy in these terms, the role of S&T is pivotal. Scientific education creates citizens with the **critical thinking skills** necessary for **successful participatory governance** and **competition in the global economy**.“
(Lord and Turekian 2007)

“[A]s a geneticist and molecular biologist […], I was invited to serve as the Science and Technology Adviser to the US Secretary of State. **My position is not a political one.**”
(Fedoroff 2008)

The Mainstream Actions of Science Diplomacy

First wave of governmental discourse and programs

- 2000 – **GB:** Launch of the **Science and Innovation Network (SIN)** under the *Millennium Agenda for Global Change,* (2006) foundation of the inter-ministerial Global Science and Innovation Forum. Strategic planning with bi- & multilateral funds for science, technology and innovation
- 2006 – 2009 – **DE:** Federal Hightech Strategy (2006), German Science and Innovation Houses (2007), Internationalisation Stratgegy (2008), Initiative on Foreign Science Policy (2009), founding of bilateral universities and DAAD Excellence Centers etc.
- 2007 – **CH:** Swiss Strategy on Education, Research and Innovation 2008-2011; Defining international science and technology agreements with partners outside Europe & US for the first Swiss time ever; since 2000 SWISSNEX houses
- 2008 – **JP:** Council for Science and Technology Policy; dissemination of the Denkschrift *Toward the Reinforcement of Science and Technology Diplomacy;* similar activities as the European reference countries
- 2008 – 2009 – **USA:** NSB *International Science and Engineering Partnerships: A Priority for U.S. Foreign Policy*; strengthening the Presidential Office of Science and Technology Policy; founding of AAAS Center for Science Diplomacy (2008), new priorities and positiongs created in the Department of State

Instruments of Science Diplomacy

- **Attaché- and Counselor-Networks** in embassies and liaison offices
- Bi- and multilateral **ISTA (International Science & Technology Agreements),** mostly MoUs on collaboration, logistics, funding conditions)
- Bi- and multilateral **programs** to support science, technology, innovation and higher education (projects, people, institutions)
- **Events** (all sorts of topics intersecting science, technology and foreign affairs, e.g. on international standards of good scientific practices, research ethics, actual topics of cross-border concern etc.)
- **Track-2** diplomacy (secret/unofficial support of international science collaborations, science envoys, risk-containment and espionage)
- **Science Advice Mechanisms** (from ad-hoc/permanent; personalized/ institutionalised forms)

3 Logics of Action

Access: to researchers, findings, resources and markets related to science, technology and innovation

Promotion: of a country's achievements in R&D to attract foreign partners for collaborations, to gain, regain and retain talent and to hedge foreign investments for R&D

Influence: on other countries' public opinion, decision-making and leadership ('soft power')

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DOI: 10.3152/030234210X12778118264530; http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/beech/spp

Science diplomacy at the intersection of S&T policies and foreign affairs: toward a typology of national approaches

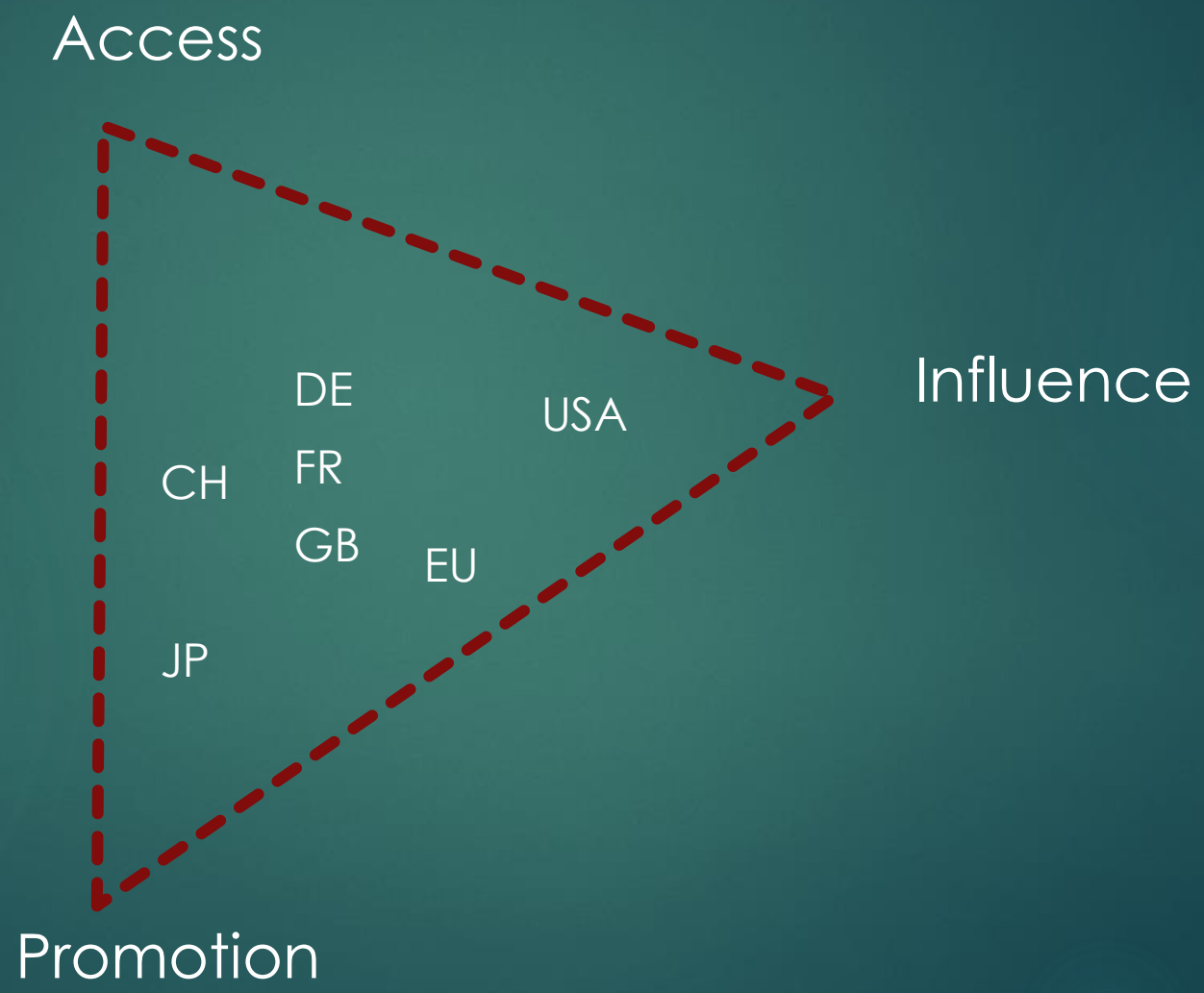
Tim Flink and Ulrich Schreiterer

In the wake of burgeoning international activities and collaborative venues in S&T, rich industrial countries have taken to science diplomacy to strengthen their innovative capacities or to foster cross-border civil relations. Apart from some theoretical considerations and empirical case studies, however, we still know little about its different objectives or the strategies, administrative procedures and resources deployed at this fuzzy intersection of S&T policy and foreign affairs. Presenting findings of a comparative study of six countries' science diplomacy, this article puts forward some simple heuristics to account for different programmatic styles and organizational patterns in this emerging field.

NOWADAYS IT IS widely acknowledged that science, technology and international affairs affect one another, bearing pervasive mutual influences. It goes without saying that globalization

nation's knowledge and innovation base, international scientific cooperation comes to be seen as an effective agent to manage conflicts, improve global understanding, lay grounds for mutual respect and

Overall objectives and preferences



Flink/Schreiterer 2009; 2010

Example: Britain

GSIF: headed by GCSA, Integrating all CSA and FCO, BEIS, other departments, BC, UKRI

Tasks:

- Coordination of SIN, and reflexive feedback
- Quarterly exchange with all governmental and science organisation to provide strategic planning for SIN
- Theme-country-matrix („business plans“) of priorities for actions, annual assessment and adjustment

Flink/Schreiterer 2009; 2010; Flink/Rüffin 2019

Instrument‘s example: the British Network

Flink/Schreiterer 2009; 2010; Flink/Rüffin 2019

Coordination in the British case

„[S]o the Chief Scientific Advisors, but also the Research Councils, Innovate UK, the Department for International Trade, and you know […] all of them have a chance to say what they think SIN should and shouldn't be focusing on. Therefore, we established a quarterly meeting in London, in fact, quite difficult convening this large group of senior people. But at least, you know […] in terms of a very clear means of commenting or agreeing or objecting to what's in the SIN's strategy, that's, you know, one route through that structure." (BEIS Interview)

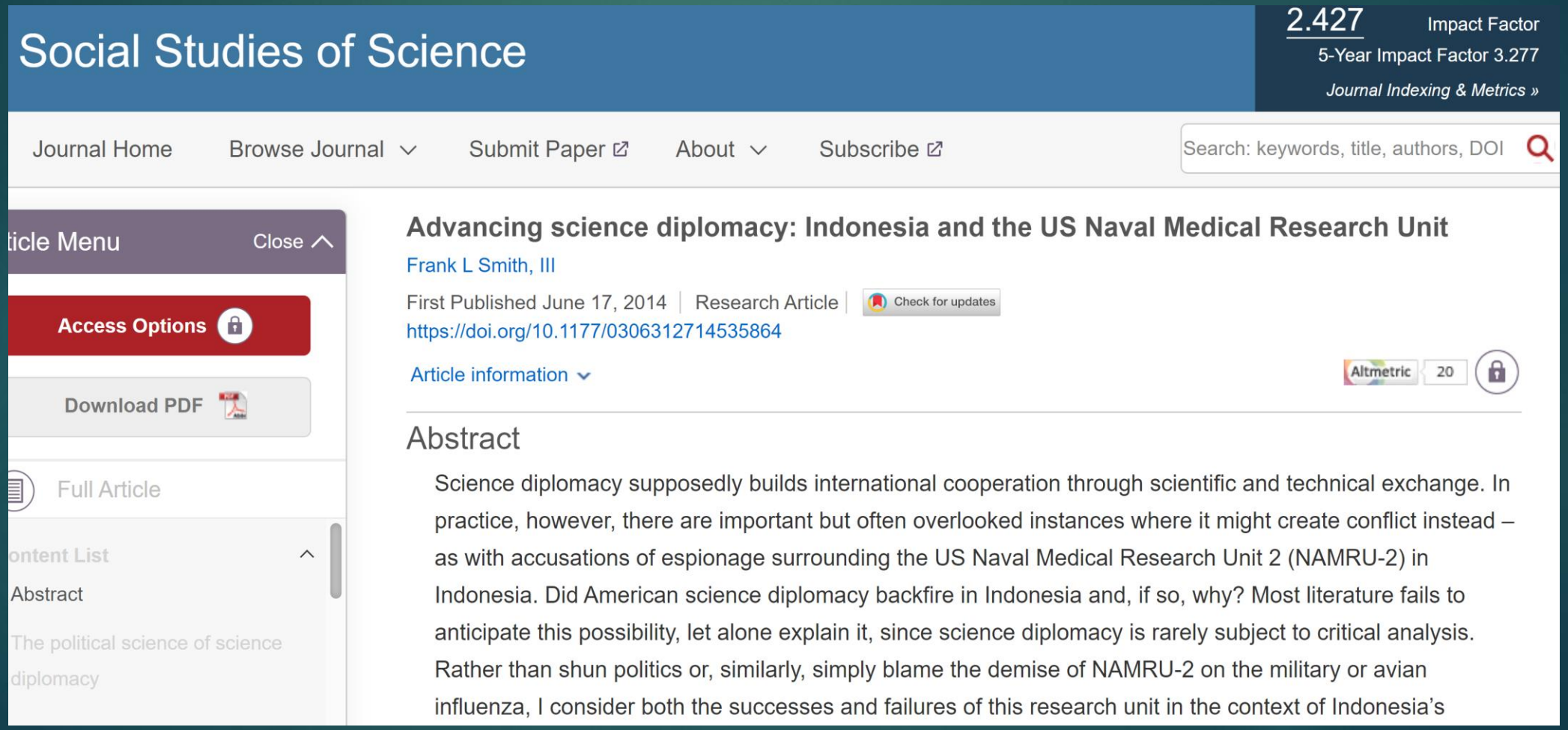
„And we say to SIN teams, 'you can choose to work on a few of those [strategic themes].' So they generally work on between three and six of those. And we will on the whole agree with whatever themes they choose. But for some countries we may ask that they either do or don't do a particular theme, because we feel it's important for the UK, you know, the UK's international priorities." (FCO Interview)

Intermediary conclusion

- SD has a European standard model, featuring **diplomacy for science** (international S&T funding) and **science in diplomacy** (advice)
- Standard model geared toward **promotion** and **access** for the sake of **policy/scientific collaboration** and **market competition**
- **Increasing discourse making solutionistic promises in the name of SD**, especially from North-American, Anglosaxon and EU context
- SD a catch-phrase to address any problem related to international relations and science/higher education
- Increasing discursive focus on **values** and **science for diplomacy**

The Limits of Talk and Action pertaining to science diplomacy

When talk about collaboration is to justify technological competition



When science falls prey to politicization

nature International weekly journal of science

NATURE | COLUMN: WORLD VIEW

Alvaro Moro

How dare you call us diplomats

Amaya Moro-Martín is furious about Spanish government attempts to brand her and other exiled scientists as strategic partners.

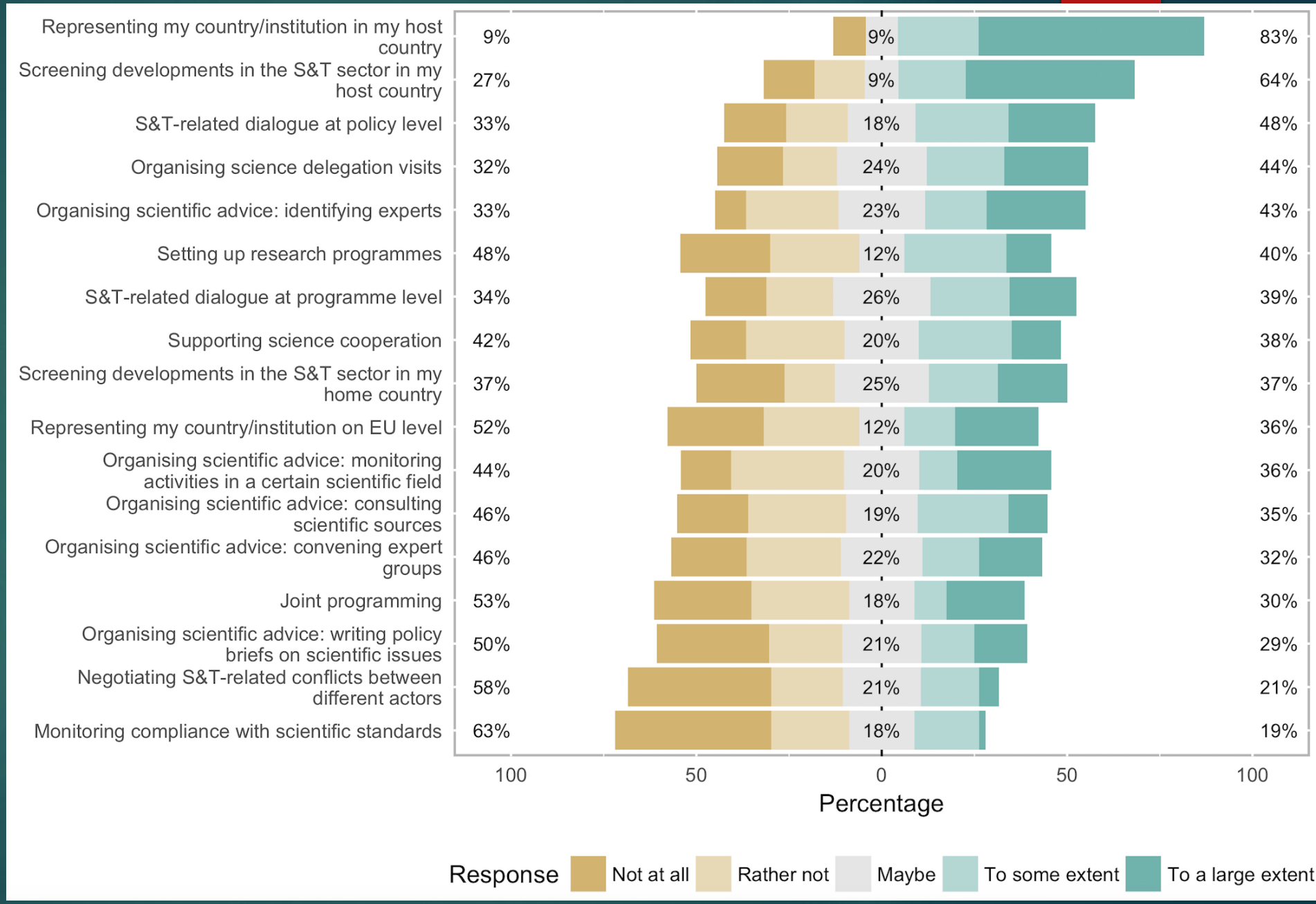
14 March 2017

I never considered myself a diplomat, so it came as a surprise to be labelled as one last month by the Spanish government. Officially, Spanish emigrant scientists like me, forced to leave Spain because of the dire circumstances surrounding research at home, did not previously exist. We were told we were an ‘urban legend’. Now, I learn, not only am I real but I am also part of a deliberate and cunning political strategy by the Spanish government to send scientists overseas to

When science diplomacy is utilitarian

„Yeah good question - what *is* science diplomacy, right? You know, it‘s really hard to say. If you‘re asking me…erm… I don‘t see myself as a science diplomat. Sometimes it‘s not bad having this kind of talk. It can open doors and…I think it creates some sort of common ground. But mostly during my post here [country], I organise bilateral funding between our government and our partner country here. And this is clearly about hedging the nuggets abroad vis-à-vis our German or French colleagues. In some countries, it‘s more about security issues, in some it‘s more about energy, climate, or nano-medicine. We sometimes join forces with our European colleagues, but mostly it‘s about bilateral funding in technologically promising fields“ (FCO interview, UK)

Tasks of „science diplomats“



Degelsegger, Flink & Rungius (2019)

Is science diplomacy overbooking expectations about science *and* politics?

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Article

Taking the pulse of science diplomacy and developing practices of valuation

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Abstract

Science diplomacy has caught remarkable attention in public policy and academic research over the last fifteen years. However, the concept is plagued by a huge talk–action discrepancy: its public discourse has reached a problematic state of dazzling self-adulation, while it is unclear if and how the actual policies and associated organizations live up to these expectations. The article reconstructs three structural causes to explain the recent hype about science diplomacy. It further encourages actors to organize evaluations that ask whether and how actions of science diplomacy can be valuable. In this regard, a first set of fundamental principles is proposed for setting up an evaluative framework. In conclusion, the article advises science diplomacy actors from democratic states and institutions, from both academic research and public policy, to stop dreaming about soft power influence on authoritarian states and regimes but rather face new geopolitical realities.

Key words: science diplomacy; governance of science; critical discourse analysis; international relations; evaluations.

BRILL NIJHOFF

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The Sensationalist Discourse of Science Diplomacy: A Critical Reflection

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Summary

For almost twenty years, the concept of science diplomacy has gained momentum in a public discourse that brings together science policy and international affairs. While some policy actions were newly established and others got into the stride of science diplomacy, the public discourse kept proliferating and has greatly enlarged the concept's meaning. Reviewing one of its most common definitions, this contribution critically reflects on the sensational promises made by advocates and endorsers of science diplomacy. Their framing bears on a popular and romantic image of science that would hold salutary capacities to solve problems no matter how complex and that goes into rhapsodies about scientists as cosmopolitans who would eagerly collaborate with kindred spirits regardless of national and cultural contexts. Apart from the fact that science tends to get instrumentalised for particularistic purposes, these reveries are problematic, as they overbook expectations about science and foreign politics that can hardly be fulfilled.

Conclusion: what is not science diplomacy?

- Science diplomacy as an action ***and*** an increasing talk at the intersection of international science and foreign policy

- Unclarified on how to distinguish competitive and collaborative actions
- A formula of maximum inclusion and call for engagement: *everyone can be a science diplomat!*

- Strongly affirmative discourse about the political functions of scientific collaborations across borders

- Little empirical evidence and weak levels of critical self-assessment

Some Sources worth reading

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More information needed?

https://www.science-diplomacy.eu/

Thank you for your attention

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