CfP - Objects in Conflict. The Material Culture of Intercultural Diplomacy (1600 - 1830) - Deadline: January 31, 2022

Announcement published by Volker Depkat on Monday, December 13, 2021

Type: Call for Papers
Date: January 31, 2022
Location: Germany
Subject Fields: American History / Studies, Diplomacy and International Relations, Early Modern History and Period Studies, European History / Studies, Native American History / Studies

Objects in Conflict. The Material Culture of Intercultural Diplomacy (1600 - 1830)

International Conference at the University of Regensburg, October 6-8, 2022, organized by the DFG-funded project "Entangled Objects? The Material Culture of Diplomacy (1700-1830)," directed by Volker Depkat (American Studies) and Harriet Rudolph (Early Modern History)

Call for Papers

Deadline January 31, 2022

The interdisciplinary conference examines the variable forms, functions, and politico-legal semantics of object use in diplomatic interactions between European and non-European actors in European and non-European regions. We are interested in diplomatic encounters of representatives of early modern political units that were perceived as highly different by the contemporaries, and seek to analyze diplomatic situations, in which the use of objects and their meanings were contested, or in which artifacts were used to prevent, intensify, moderate, or disguise political conflicts between the negotiating parties. We want to investigate, from a comparative perspective, the complex interplay of ideas (concepts of rule, ideologies, and political core values), operational political interests
Proposals can address important individual objects, specific object groups, or the entire material setting of diplomatic interactions. Papers could, for example, investigate

- spaces of diplomatic interaction (the furnishings of audience chambers, diplomatic lodgings, ephemeral structures and their material equipment in open spaces)

- the use of objects by diplomatic actors during solemn entries into a city or during formal public parades to a reception (clothing, jewelry, badges of honor, weapons, flags, musical instruments, etc.)

- the materiality of diplomatic documents (treaties, ratifications, credentials, maps, and other informational media as material artifacts including the various forms of their storage and presentation)

- objects of gift exchange (official-ritualized gift exchange between rulers, but especially gift exchange between diplomatic actors of different hierarchical levels and functions)

- food cultures and the use of objects at formal dinners during diplomatic meetings

- object-based cultures of remembrance with regard to diplomacy (production and distribution of memorabilia, presentation of event-related objects in rulers' residences or homes of diplomatic actors, commemorative plaques, etc.)

Papers investigating other contexts not outlined here would also be
welcome, if they provide illuminating perspectives on diplomatic object use in the period of investigation. We are especially interested in how the use of diplomatic objects in the early modern period was visualized, textualized and incorporated into narrative structures. We would like to know, which functions artefacts assumed with regard to the self-constitution of diplomatic actors or the dramaturgy of diplomatic interactions. We are interested in how artifacts functioned in the self-definition of diplomatic actors and the dramaturgy of diplomatic situations. We invite proposals from all disciplines in the humanities (history, art history, ethnology, literary studies, cultural studies, etc.) which take into account the perspectives of both sides of diplomatic negotiations, or which specifically address non-European practices and patterns of interpretation.

Please send your abstract (500 words) and a CV to sekretariat.Fruhe Neuzeit@ur.de by January 31, 2022.

Contact Info:

Professor Volker Depkat
Professor of American Studies
Department of British and American Studies
University of Regensburg
93040 Germany
phone: 0049 941 943-3476
e-mail: volker.depkat@ur.de

Contact Email: volker.depkat@ur.de
URL: https://www.uni-regensburg.de/philosophie-kunst-geschichte-gesellschaft/neuere-geschichte/dfg-projekt/index.html