# WHY SCIENCE IS YET ANOTHER CASUALTY OF WAR:

## SCIENTIFIC COOPERATION IN A GEOPOLITIC ERA


UAB
Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona

**ANNA ROSSELL NAVARRO**

TUTORED BY DR. ORIOL COSTA



## INTRODUCTION

> **Science diplomacy**
> /'saɪəns dɪ'pləʊməsi/ · noun
>
> Science is more than a global good: it can also be a powerful tool to build peace and trust between confronted nations through cooperation.

**Science diplomacy** was very successful during the **Cold War**. Many research projects and exchange agreements were started and later survived serious episodes of diplomatic crisis.

Today, it is different.

**Chinese scientists** were expelled from American universities and research facilities after in 2018 the FBI claimed some were spies.

In 2022, the **invasion of Ukraine** has led to termination of most academic and scientific cooperation agreements with Russia.

**What has changed?**

The key **hypothesis** is that we are more keen to implement sanctions on those who attack us or our ideals **today** than we were **half a century ago.**

## METHODOLOGY

We start with an anomaly: scientific cooperation is expected to resist diplomatic crisis, but in reality it has not.
It makes sense to use a **backward-looking design:** we start by looking at the evidence and then theorize to find our variables.

## ANALYSIS & RESULTS

### Which factors influence the resilience of scientific cooperation?

#### About **bilateral relations**

- **Economic competition**
*If there is notable economic competition, we are less likely to cooperate.*
- **Historical relationship**
*It can entail a positive or negative bias.*
- **Type of technology developed**
*Data collection is a security concern.*
- **Interdependence**
*How much would we suffer from retaliation?*

#### About **the conflict**

- **Severity of the aggression**
*A military invasion is worse than spies.*
- **Visibility of the conflict**
*If the population is aware of the reality of the conflict, they will be more eager to act.*
- **Proximity to the conflict**
*Not only in geographical terms, but also culturally and even racially.*

A state may decide it's best to suspend scientific cooperation with another state

TOP-DOWN SANCTIONS

If the scientific community cares enough about a conflict, scientists and institutions will want to stop cooperation themselves

BOTTOM-UP SANCTIONS

Since last century there has been a normative evolution which affects how we see conflict and cooperation.

→ There is a social obligation to act against injustice.
→ Not speaking up is the same as siding with the aggressor.

Today, there are...

- ✔ More fields of action
- ✔ More targets sanctioned
- ✔ More actors sanctioning

## CONCLUSIONS

Among great powers, **science drives diplomacy**, not the other way around.
It was scientists and engineers who pushed for international collaboration.
As long as there's a wish and a will from the scientific community to keep working together, cooperation can survive.

**Science is yet another casualty of war** because our opposition to war is an opposition to all ties with the aggressor. Scientific cooperation hasn't inherently changed; we just choose not to engage as a way of **sanctioning** the opponent.

Speaking out against injustice is good, but in the name of ethics other norms suffer.

In an era where many **global threats** require international scientific cooperation (like climate change or pandemics) this poses a moral dilemma.

**What is more important:**
advancing science
or standing up for
human rights?


### SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

**Dolan, B. M.** (2012). Science and Technology Agreements as Tools for Science Diplomacy: A US Case Study. *Science & Diplomacy, 1(4).*
**Richmond, Y.** (2003). Cultural Exchange and the Cold War: Raising the Iron Curtain. *Penn State University Press.*
**Schweitzer, G.** (2004). Scientists, Engineers, and Track-Two Diplomacy: A Half-Century of US-Russian Cooperation. *National Academies Press.*
**Jin, X.** (2020). The Challenge and Necessity of US-China Technology Cooperation. *Columbia University Journal of International Affairs.*