

***Cold War Scientific Diplomacy and Identity: The US-Soviet Union Interacademy Exchange Program***

Brit Shields, University of Pennsylvania

Panel 73: *Diplomacy in Transnational History: New Connections*

Email: [bshields@seas.upenn.edu](mailto:bshields@seas.upenn.edu)

*For more on this work, please visit: <https://www.britshields.com/> and/or contact me at the email address above.*

**Abstract:**

Under the Lacy-Zarubin agreement of 1959, the US National Academy of Sciences and the Soviet Academy of Sciences agreed to scientific exchanges in the form of visiting scholars, guest lectures, and joint symposia. Analyses of the exchanges reveal not only the diplomatic goals of the program, but also the scientists' own self-constructed identities as ambassadors and their long-held commitments to an international community of scientists. This paper considers how a transnational approach to the exchange program provides a broader consideration of its establishment and evolution over the following decade.