Nicholas J. Cull is Professor of Public Diplomacy and Director of the Master’s Program in Public Diplomacy at USC. His research and teaching focus on the role of public engagement in foreign policy. An acknowledged pioneer in Public Diplomacy teaching and research and its best-known historian, he is the author of The Cold War and the United States Information Agency: American Propaganda and Public Diplomacy, 1945-1989 (Cambridge, 2008); The Decline and Fall of the United States Information Agency: American Public Diplomacy, 1989-2001 (Palgrave, 2012) and the recently published Public Diplomacy: Foundations for Global Engagement in the Digital Age (Polity, 2019). He and his research were featured in the Peabody award-winning documentary film Jazz Ambassadors (PBS/BBC 2018). His first book was Selling War (Oxford, 1995), a study of British information work in the United States before Pearl Harbor. He has published numerous articles, chapters and edited collections on the theme of public diplomacy and media history. He is an active media historian who has been part of the movement to include film especially within the mainstream of historical sources. His film work includes (with James Chapman) Projecting Empire: Imperialism and Popular Cinema (I. B. Tauris, 2009) and Projecting Tomorrow: Science Fiction and Popular Cinema (I.B. Tauris, 2013). He is currently writing a history of the international campaign against Apartheid in South Africa.

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He took both his BA and PhD at the University of Leeds. While a graduate student, he studied at Princeton in the U.S. as a Harkness Fellow of the Commonwealth Fund of New York. From 1997 to 2005, he was Professor of American Studies and founding Director of the Centre for American Studies in the Department of History at Leicester. In the spring of 2019 he was a visiting fellow of the Reuter’s Institute for the Study of Journalism and Green Templeton College and the University of Oxford. He is outgoing President of the International Association for Media and History and a board member of the Public Diplomacy Council.