



# VOICES OF UKRAINIAN SCIENTISTS

BOOK OF INTERVIEWS





The European Council of Doctoral  
Candidates and Junior Researchers

**Voices of Ukrainian scientists in times of war**  
**Serie of interviews**

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## WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE ADVOCATE



The European Council of Doctoral  
Candidates and Junior Researchers

Eurodoc, The European Council of Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers, is an umbrella organisation of 26 national associations (NAs) representing doctoral candidates (DCs) and junior researchers (JRs) in 24 countries of the European Union (EU) and of the Council of Europe. Eurodoc was established in 2002, in Girona (Spain), and is based in Brussels. It is Eurodoc's mission and vision to advocate for a fair and sustainable research culture where early career researchers (ECRs) are treated with respect and have access to long-term and stable career pathways. For more information, see Eurodoc Mission and Vision statement.



The **Young Scientists Council at the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine** is an independent collegial body representing Ukrainian young scientists. The Council has an advisory capacity and cooperates with the Ministry of Education and Science of Ukraine. YSC was founded on June 13, 2012. The mission of the Council is to consolidate and protect the interests of young scientists of Ukraine: graduate students, PhDs and Doctors of Science as well as promoting science and engaging student body in research.



## FOREWORD

When we were children, some of us wanted to explore the vast expanse of space and distant galaxies, some wanted to dig up dinosaur remains and determine whether they indeed had feathers, and some wanted to create a cure for cancer. Others wanted to find a way to better recycle plastic, or took their inspiration from sci-fi films and wanted to invent an exoskeleton, and others again wanted to reveal the secrets of Egyptian pharaohs or revive endangered languages.

Many fulfilled their childhood dreams in other occupations, but some of us set out on the path of science. The best reward for a researcher is curiosity and the joy of discovery: gaining new insights, finding new solutions, developing technologies that will help improve the quality of life and contribute to society. Perhaps invisible to many, researchers are changing and improving the world we live in, step by step, article by article, experiment by experiment.

For centuries, researchers conducted experiments at the cost of their health and at times even their lives, sacrificing themselves to the scientific inventions which changed entire branches of science and sometimes even the whole world, take for instance Marie Skłodowska-Curie, Ignaz Semmelweis, or Rosalind Franklin. As of now, more than 156 Ukrainian researchers have been killed by the Russians and will no longer be able to make discoveries or inventions (numbers according to the “Ukrainian scientists at war” project). Many others are continuing their work under dangerous conditions.

Imagine conducting research during blackouts, between air raids, while hiding in bomb shelters, amidst tragedies, losses and grief, and while constantly worrying about your life and the safety of your family and friends. Imagine using equipment broken by shelling, working sometimes without water or gas - driven by a glimmer of hope and pure determination.



What follows are the stories of early-career researchers from the West, South, East and North of Ukraine to lift the veil of secrecy over what it is like to work as a researcher under the conditions of war and how the war affected their work. But they will also tell us what they like most about their job.

These are the stories of early career researchers from Lviv, Vinnytsia, Kharkiv, Kyiv, Poltava, and Odesa who completed their research and defended their thesis amid a full-scale war. These are the stories of researchers who carry out research in very different spheres—from the environmental safety of biodegradable polymers, to functionality of radar systems, algorithms for active and passive radio systems, data analysis, machine learning methods, verbal aggression, transformer oils, electrical engineering, or advertising, public relations, and the development of social engagement through volunteer activities. Working under the challenging conditions of wartime, these early career researchers from Ukraine are working for a common goal: to make this world better and more peaceful—to make it a place we'd all love to live in.

The following series of interviews was conducted by Eurodoc together with YSC (Ukraine). We want to give the young scientists in Ukraine a space where they can tell their own stories, their dreams, their challenges, and their achievements - and where we can learn of their concrete lived experiences.



**Anna Pavelieva**

## DISCLAIMER

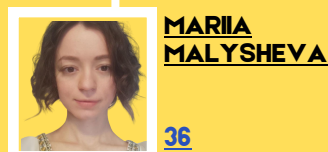
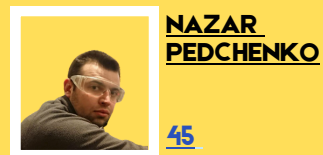
The European Council of Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers (Eurodoc) launched this initiative to highlight how the war in Ukraine has impacted the lives and careers of young scientists living and working in the country. To this end, Eurodoc invited young Ukrainian scientists to participate in written interviews, sharing their personal and professional experiences.

Eligible participants were Ukrainian researchers residing in Ukraine who were either enrolled in a PhD programme or had obtained their PhD after February 2022. Each participant responded to five questions in both English and Ukrainian and submitted a personal photograph along with other relevant information.

All participants provided informed consent for the publication of their responses and agreed to Eurodoc's GDPR-compliant data protection policy.

The twenty-two interviews featured in this booklet were published on Eurodoc's social media channels between January and July 2025, in both English and Ukrainian.

# INTERVIEWS



2025 JANUARY

FEBRUARY

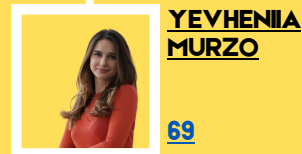
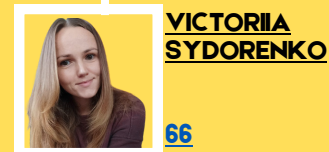
MARCH

APRIL

MAY

JUNE

JULY



**INTERVIEW 01**  
2025 January



# VOICES OF UKRAINIAN SCIENTISTS

**STANISLAV  
BILKO**





### WHO ARE YOU, AND WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

I am a young scientist living in a beautiful, green Ukrainian city, Poltava. I defended my PhD thesis in February 2024, at the National University “Yuri Kondratyuk Poltava Polytechnic”, on the topic of the formation of information security in the national economy. It so happened that the 4 years of my postgraduate studies included two years of COVID-19 and two years of war.

Currently, I am working as a researcher at the Department of Computer and Information Technologies and Systems of the National University “Yuri Kondratyuk Poltava Polytechnic”, and I continue researching the issues I also looked at in my PhD.

### WHAT IS YOUR RESEARCH ABOUT?

My research focuses on forming the information security of the national economy, developing a methodology for the assessment of it and looking for ways to maintain it at a level that meets the challenges of today. Thus, the digitalisation processes currently taking place worldwide have led to new risks and threats to the functioning of national economies. Information wars, information terrorism, and large-scale cyber-attacks - these destructive phenomena characterise the modern world and are accompanied by financial losses from information leaks. Therefore, the issues of ensuring the protection of economic interests, sustainability of the national economy and strengthening national security are significant, and their solution directly depends on the national economy's information security level.

### **WHY DID YOU GO INTO RESEARCH?**

During my first years at university, studying Finance, Banking, and Insurance, I realised how vital information support is. Timely, complete, and accurate information is a prerequisite for making management decisions at various levels. Loss, damage, or misuse of information can cause huge financial losses.

The global economy has become information-based: competitiveness and productivity depend on generating, processing, and effectively using knowledge-based information. In today's environment, information is both a product and a critical economic resource in the information economy in terms of added value. That is why information protection and information security are key issues today.

I would also like to mention the great support given to the ECRs by the National University “Yuri Kondratyuk Poltava Polytechnic”, in particular by the Rector Volodymyr Onyshchenko, which is a significant factor to higher education students continue their research and enter the postgraduate-studies.

### **WHAT ARE THE BEST THINGS ABOUT DOING RESEARCH?**

It is probably the feeling of being involved in the large-scale changes taking place in the country. Science has always been an engine of progress, and the feeling that you are involved in the qualitative changes currently taking place in Ukraine is priceless.

### **HOW HAS YOUR RESEARCH BEEN AFFECTED BY THE FULL SCALE WAR IN UKRAINE?**

Of course, it is tough to do science under constant air raids. You have to spend most of your time sitting in shelters, often without light and internet, day in and day out, and still try to concentrate on analysing and developing concepts and strategies. It isn't accessible both physically and psychologically. On top of that, there is an acute shortage of statistical information in my field of research. This is because access to some data is restricted for security reasons. In addition, some statistical indicators cannot be reliably determined due to the occupation of part of the territory of Ukraine. Nevertheless, Ukrainian scientists continue their research. We have only one life and need to live it to the fullest.

**INTERVIEW 02**  
2025 January



# VOICES OF UKRAINIAN SCIENTISTS

**ANDRII  
CHMYR**



### WHO ARE YOU, AND WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

My name is Andrii Chmyr. I am from Odessa. I am in the third year of my PhD at the Odessa I. I. Mechnikov National University, the same university where I have done my bachelor and a master. While studying, I have simultaneously been working for four years as a teacher in both Ukrainian language and literature and German language and literature at Odessa Lyceum No. 56 of the Odessa City Council.

### WHAT IS YOUR RESEARCH ABOUT?

I have a degree in philology, and my research is related to philology. Currently, I am studying contemporary Ukrainian historical fiction, particularly the works of Petro Kraliuk. I am interested in how historical novels have developed and their future prospects. After all, their significance lies in their relevance, ability to respond to the challenges of the times, and ability to find solutions to the present problems.

### WHY DID YOU GO INTO RESEARCH?

Research has always fascinated me, and this feeling hasn't disappeared yet. Also, in the work process, you have a certain insight when you notice some patterns, an unexpected connection of phenomena or something radically new. You realise that this is your vocation and the very "kindred work", according to H. Skovoroda, which no one else but you could have done better. Ultimately, a successful defence of my dissertation will allow me to become a university lecturer and continue with my research.





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### **WHAT ARE THE BEST THINGS ABOUT DOING RESEARCH?**

I think this is an opportunity to benefit society. You can find and reveal something unexplored before, inspire others to make discoveries, represent Ukrainian science internationally, and participate in the development of Ukraine. You improve the current state of research, and then someone will continue it after you. That is, the evolution of science will never stop.

### **HOW HAS YOUR RESEARCH BEEN AFFECTED BY THE FULL SCALE WAR IN UKRAINE?**

Because of the shelling and explosions in the city, I periodically felt afraid. Sometimes I would go for cover. Eventually, I developed my version of stoicism when, despite all the surrounding troubles, I concentrated on my work. Repeatedly, during the subsequent shelling, I worked hard, seeing it as my salvation, a form of calm and purpose. The whole world was collapsing, but I had paper, a keyboard, and thoughts. And it was calming.

**INTERVIEW 03**  
2025 January



# VOICES OF UKRAINIAN SCIENTISTS



**ANASTASIA  
DMYTRUK**

### **WHO ARE YOU, AND WHERE ARE YOU FROM?**

My name is Anastasia Dmytruk, and I am currently pursuing a PhD focusing on signal processing research. In addition to that, I work as a fire protection systems designer and I also teach. I am from Ukraine, and I take great pride in the resilience, rich heritage, and culture of the Ukrainian people. I hope my research will be useful and make a positive impact on both academia and industry.

### **WHAT IS YOUR RESEARCH ABOUT?**

My research primarily focuses on signal processing, specifically the development and optimization of algorithms for efficient filtering and analysis of signals. I am particularly interested in implementing adaptive filtering to improve the functionality of moving target detection radar systems. The main goal of advancing these algorithms is to increase detection accuracy and ensure the robust performance of radar systems even in complex interference scenarios. This is crucial for ensuring the effectiveness of radar systems in important industries such as aviation, defence, and meteorology.

### **WHY DID YOU GO INTO RESEARCH?**

I chose to go into research because I'm fascinated by the process of discovery and innovation. I enjoy the challenge of tackling complex problems and finding solutions that can have a real implementation. Additionally, the opportunity to contribute to advancements in technology, the chance to explore new ideas, improve existing technologies, and see results from work motivates me to pursue research.

### **WHAT ARE THE BEST THINGS ABOUT DOING RESEARCH?**

The most rewarding aspect of research is solving complex problems, discovering new ideas, and seeing your work translate into practical applications. It provides the opportunity to learn from experts and be involved in research projects. Moreover, collaborating with fellow researchers broadens our perspectives and enriches our knowledge and experience. In general, research is an exciting pursuit that promotes continuous learning and plays a crucial role in personal development.

### **HOW HAS YOUR RESEARCH BEEN AFFECTED BY THE FULL SCALE WAR IN UKRAINE?**

The full-scale war in Ukraine certainly had and still has an impact on my research. First of all, it affects our mental health, as stress and anxiety affect the quality and efficiency of research. Another aspect is problems with the infrastructure - such as having access to data, a stable internet connection, and uninterrupted electricity, which also complicates the implementation of the tasks. However, these difficulties also strengthened creativity in finding non-standard solutions, and the desire to solve tasks that could meet urgent needs and contribute to recovery efforts.



**INTERVIEW 04**  
2025 February



# VOICES OF UKRAINIAN SCIENTISTS



**ALINA  
DULIA**



**VOICES OF  
UKRAINIAN  
SCIENTISTS**

## **WHO ARE YOU, AND WHERE ARE YOU FROM?**

I am a PhD within the field of Social Work, and work as senior Lecturer at the Department of Social Pedagogy and Social Work, Faculty of Psychology of Social Work and Special Education, Borys Grinchenko Kyiv Metropolitan University.

Since the beginning of Russia's invasion of Crimera, Ukraine, I have been actively providing social assistance to victims of the armed conflict, including combatants and their families in my capacity as a psychologist.

My involvement in various projects has shaped my experience as a psychologist and social worker. These projects include “The Establishment of Social Centres to Strengthen the Capacity to Overcome Difficulties and Develop Self-help Potential of Conflict-affected People and Communities in Ukraine”, “Advocacy for sustainable social services” (Charitable organisation “Caritas Kyiv”), “Art workshop for families of combatants” (Charitable organisation “Caritas Kyiv” in cooperation with the NGO “Organization of veterans of antiterrorism operation of Kyiv and Kyiv's region”).

## **WHAT IS YOUR RESEARCH ABOUT?**

In 2017, I graduated with honours from the Borys Grinchenko Kyiv University, Institute of Humanities, with a Master of Social Work, Lecturer in Higher Education.

My field of research is social work. The topic of my PhD thesis was “Social support by non-governmental organisations for families of combatants in the participants in the anti-terrorist operation”, which I successfully defended in 2023.

More specifically, my research focus includes NGOs' social support of combatants and their families, social work with internally displaced persons and refugees, and representation of the interests of socially vulnerable groups.



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### **WHY DID YOU GO INTO RESEARCH?**

I started researching the issues of social support by NGOs of combatants when I entered the master's programme because Russia's invasion of Crimea had caused a new group of social service recipients to emerge in Ukraine - namely combatants and their families. At that time, there were no effective mechanisms for assisting this group of service recipients, and there was no comprehensive approach to its provision. In addition, families of combatants had specific problems and needs, and no tools were developed to assess them. In my research approach I am inspired by the natural sciences, researching something through an algorithmic approach of action based identification of the problems and needs of vulnerable social service recipients, as opposed to through trial and error. I have always wanted people to receive help according to their needs, which I find is impossible without research.

### **WHAT ARE THE BEST THINGS ABOUT DOING RESEARCH?**

The best thing about research is that you can contribute something new and innovative to developing your scientific field which in my case is social work. In my field, it is essential to know that you can assess the problems and needs of different groups of social service recipients and, based on this, develop an effective mechanism for providing assistance or solving a particular problem. Research will improve the quality of service delivery and increase the level of professional competence of specialists.



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### **HOW HAS YOUR RESEARCH BEEN AFFECTED BY THE FULL SCALE WAR IN UKRAINE?**

Though my research focus has been the social support of combatant and their family, it is important to note that the full-scale invasion has caused that now almost everyone has family members who are combatants as opposed to after the invasion of Crimera, as it then was only a minority of Ukrainians who was so closely affected. Secondly, it has become much more common with female combatants. As I do research on the social services of combatants this has affected my research significantly. As a consequence, in connection with the programme “Social Support for Families of Combatants”, which we have developed, we have begun to study the gender aspect, make adjustments and develop measures specifically for female combatants to address their problems and needs. We have also started to pay more attention to the issue of resilience and work with trauma and loss. We are now considering how to help people who have been victims of torture or witnesses to torture, and we are actively studying and developing measures of support for this group of social service recipients.



INTERVIEW 05  
2025 February



# VOICES OF UKRAINIAN SCIENTISTS



**YULIA  
HADAIEVA**

### **WHO ARE YOU, AND WHERE ARE YOU FROM?**

My name is Yuliia Hadaieva, I am currently in the second year of my PhD education, conducting research within the field of ecology at the Department of Chemical Engineering and Industrial Ecology, at the Kharkiv National Technical University «Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute».

### **WHY DID YOU GO INTO RESEARCH?**

In the last decades the increased production of plastics has in turn has led to a rise in plastic waste. This situation creates several environmental problems, including pollution of soil, water, and air.

Plastic waste has long-term adverse effects on the environment. They do not decompose naturally and can remain in the environment for hundreds of years. Burning plastic waste releases toxic substances that pollute the atmosphere. Plastics can also absorb and concentrate harmful chemicals, further increasing their negative impact on ecosystems. Therefore, the study of bioplastics and their environmental impact is a topical issue today, and research to solve the plastic waste problem focuses on developing and implementing bioplastic polymers, which can be an environmentally friendly alternative to traditional plastics is crucial in order to create a more sustainable future.

### **WHAT IS YOUR RESEARCH ABOUT?**

The topic of my PhD thesis is the environmental safety of biodegradable polymers. My scientific and practical activities aim to conduct an in-depth study of modern methods of sustainable bioplastics management and develop effective strategies for managing this waste. An important aspect is to improve environmental safety, which is possible through applying a comprehensive analysis of the impact of bioplastics on the environment and introducing effective recycling technologies. In my research work, I focus on determining the environmental effects of bioplastic waste and developing methods for its recycling and reuse.



**VOICES OF  
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### **WHAT ARE THE BEST THINGS ABOUT DOING RESEARCH?**

Research in the field of biopolymers is exciting and vital, as it allows us to better understand their impact on the environment. Research can be used to evaluate the degree of decomposition and the effectiveness of biopolymers compared to traditional ones. The study includes experiments at home and in the field, focusing on the decomposition of polymers, tracking their impact on vegetation and soils, and considering temperature, humidity and environmental safety. The research will result in an assessment of the effects on soils, the decomposition rate of biopolymers, and the reduction of their negative environmental impact compared to traditional plastics. The studies will determine the actual rates of biodegradation, changes in soil properties, the effect of decomposition intermediates on biota, and the amount of residual microplastics and will allow us to develop recommendations for optimal utilisation.

### **HOW HAS YOUR RESEARCH BEEN AFFECTED BY THE FULL SCALE WAR IN UKRAINE?**

The full-scale war in Ukraine has made it much more challenging to conduct research. The destruction of infrastructure and constant shelling have made it impossible to use research equipment, and security risks pose severe obstacles to scientific work.



INTERVIEW 06  
2025 March

# VOICES OF UKRAINIAN SCIENTISTS

**ANTON**  
**KASPIROVYCH**



### **WHO ARE YOU, AND WHERE ARE YOU FROM?**

My name is Anton Kaspirovych. I live in Vinnytsia, where I moved 1 month before the full-scale invasion. Since May 2023, I am enrolled in the PhD education in Management at Vinnytsia National Technical University. Besides this, I am the Executive Director (CEO) at “Promavtomatika Vinnytsia LLC”, which has taken an active position since the beginning of the war: restoring energy facilities, building new generation, and developing new battery solutions for households and businesses.

### **WHAT IS YOUR RESEARCH ABOUT?**

My research focuses on studying approaches and methods of managing a manufacturing enterprise at different stages of its life cycle. It involves analysing manufacturing enterprises for comparability and finding interdependencies between different stages of production development, different management tools, and financial success. Understanding these mechanisms can help create more sustainable models of manufacturing enterprise management, which is critical in the context of global changes in Ukraine's economic landscape.

### **WHY DID YOU GO INTO RESEARCH?**

I have always been interested in how businesses operate and develop over time. I am fascinated by the complexity and dynamism of production processes, and the desire to understand these processes more deeply has driven me to research. At the same time, production in our company has begun to grow exponentially, which requires new approaches and their timely use. Thus, research in this area satisfies my scientific curiosity and has practical significance for the company where I currently work.





**VOICES OF  
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### **WHAT ARE THE BEST THINGS ABOUT DOING RESEARCH?**

The best thing about research work is the opportunity to deeply study the chosen topic and contribute to developing science and practice. Research work allows you to expand your knowledge and skills by working on current issues. In addition, research work will enable you to collaborate with leading experts in your field and exchange ideas and experience. Such interaction stimulates innovative thinking and promotes professional growth.

### **HOW HAS YOUR RESEARCH BEEN AFFECTED BY THE FULL SCALE WAR IN UKRAINE?**

I started researching in 2008 in Donetsk, joining the Youth Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. The outbreak of the war in 2014 dramatically changed my life and the direction of my research, from civil aviation to the competitiveness of commercial enterprises. The outbreak of a full-scale war in 2022 necessitated another change in the direction of research favouring manufacturing enterprises. In this area, we see the potential for GDP growth, including increasing the resilience of the manufacturing sector.



INTERVIEW 07  
2025 March

# VOICES OF UKRAINIAN SCIENTISTS

**ANASTASIIA  
KOTELEVETS**



### **WHO ARE YOU, AND WHERE ARE YOU FROM?**

My name is Anastasiia Kotelevets, and I am in the fourth-year of my PhD within the field of Social Pedagogy and Social Work. My plan is to defend my thesis in 2024. Since October 2022, I have also been a lecturer at the Department of Social Pedagogy and Social Work, Faculty of Psychology of Social Work and Special Education, Borys Grinchenko Kyiv Metropolitan University.

I was born and have lived in Kyiv my whole life, and I have stayed in the city during the full-scale invasion.

### **WHAT IS YOUR RESEARCH ABOUT?**

My PhD's topic is "Development of Social Activity in Volunteering," and my field of study is social work.

In 2014, I received master's degree in Social Pedagogy and qualification as a teacher of social pedagogy and a practical psychologist in educational institutions. In 2015, I got a master's degree in educational institution management, running an institution and organisation (in education and industrial training).

After that, she had experience working in various NGOs, including projects of the All-Ukrainian Public Center "Volunteer", was a volunteer specialist at Caritas Kyiv and an assistant at the project "Charitable assistance to IDPs and the most vulnerable families affected by the conflict in Ukraine" implemented by the All-Ukrainian Charity "Child Well-being Fund Ukraine".

### **WHY DID YOU GO INTO RESEARCH?**

I started volunteering when I was younger. I taught classes for children in shelters, pre-trial detention centres, vocational schools, reception centres, etc. I worked in summer camps with children. Later, I started working in public organisations, however the focus of my work was still aimed at helping children and youth.

I was invited to start a PhD immediately after my master's degree in 2015. Still, I decided to wait and first began my PhD degree in 2020, after having gained a vision of the topic and some experience from the field, which I then transferred to a research plan. I chose a topic that has accompanied me throughout my professional career: social activism and volunteering.

### **WHAT ARE THE BEST THINGS ABOUT DOING RESEARCH?**

I like practical research activities the most, so the most exciting thing for me is to conduct training programs or other events for participants to acquire new knowledge and skills. As a researcher, I am also fascinated by creating questionnaires and conducting surveys to understand my work's effectiveness. This feedback helps me know how to improve my job to bring better results.

### **HOW HAS YOUR RESEARCH BEEN AFFECTED BY THE FULL SCALE WAR IN UKRAINE?**

The full-scale invasion changed the concept of my research, the methods and forms I planned to use, and the formats of surveys and classes I conducted. The security situation came to the forefront, and it was with this in mind that I had to choose the experimental and control groups, taking into account the full range of risks and opportunities.

As part of the study, I interviewed 335 students from Ukrainian universities. Of these, 274 said they had volunteered at least once in their lives, and 50.7% said they had started their volunteer journey after the full-scale invasion on February 24, 2022.



INTERVIEW 08  
2025 March

# VOICES OF UKRAINIAN SCIENTISTS

**VALENTYN  
KOVAL**





## **WHO ARE YOU, AND WHERE ARE YOU FROM?**

My name is Valentyn Koval. I live and work in Kharkiv, Ukraine. In 2023, I obtained a PhD in chemical engineering and bioengineering. I have ten years of experience in coal chemistry and coke chemistry. Now, I am a Senior Researcher at the State Enterprise “Ukrainian State Research Institute for Carbochemistry (UKHIN)” in Kharkiv, Ukraine. My responsibilities include research work, methodical and scientific work, quality control of conducted tests, management of research works and projects, development of technical documentation, and business trips to enterprises of the coke industry.

## **WHAT IS YOUR RESEARCH ABOUT?**

Currently, I am engaged in research in coal chemistry, solving tasks related to the development of optimal charges for coking in the metallurgical industry, studying the characteristics of the mechanical properties of coal, its inability, and research and forecasting of the properties of coke. I am researching and modelling the properties of coal particles in laboratory conditions with further possibilities of applying the obtained results in natural industrial conditions. My work also extends to exploring alternative energy sources and studying their calorific qualities to provide practical solutions to our energy needs. I publish articles.

## **WHY DID YOU GO INTO RESEARCH?**

My passion for science, particularly Chemical Technologies, has been a driving force since childhood. This passion led me to graduate from the Faculty of Technology of Organic Substances at the National Technical University “Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute”, Ukraine. I am fortunate to work directly in my field of interest and education. Over the years, my interest in science has not only remained steadfast but has grown, fueled by the belief that my research has the potential to improve myself and contribute to the further development of domestic and global coke chemistry.

### **WHAT ARE THE BEST THINGS ABOUT DOING RESEARCH?**

In my opinion, the best thing about research work is its positive impact on improving the quality of life, the development of industry, the improvement of safety and working conditions, and the growth of the quality of the obtained products. I also like that it's possible to reproduce a scientific experiment if necessary, changing its conditions and initial data until a positive result is achieved. After all, negative experiences also allow you to improve yourself and avoid mistakes in the future.

### **HOW HAS YOUR RESEARCH BEEN AFFECTED BY THE FULL SCALE WAR IN UKRAINE?**

The full-scale war affected all spheres of citizens' lives, not bypassing professional and scientific activity. I was forced to interrupt my scientific activities for at least six months. Now, the building of my scientific institute has been partially destroyed by Russian missiles. Air alarms sound dozens of times daily in the city, so we have to think about our safety and the safety of our families. Almost every day, the light and the Internet are turned off for several hours, and the number of business trips to other companies has decreased several times. In addition, some of our partner enterprises were occupied or wholly destroyed. We also have to donate part of the salary to the defence forces of Ukraine.

**INTERVIEW 09**  
2025 March



# VOICES OF UKRAINIAN SCIENTISTS



**ANNA  
MALITSKA**



**VOICES OF  
UKRAINIAN  
SCIENTISTS**

### **WHO ARE YOU, AND WHERE ARE YOU FROM?**

I am Anna Malitska, a third-year PhD student at the Odesa I. I. Mechnikov National University. At the same university, I completed my bachelor's and later master's degrees. My research is within the field of Philology.

### **WHAT IS YOUR RESEARCH ABOUT?**

My dissertation thesis, which I am currently working on at the Department of Ukrainian Literature and Comparative Studies at the Faculty of Philology, is focused on lyrical discourse in contemporary military literature. This research is particularly relevant as it explores the period after the full scale invasion on February 24 2022, making war and military discourse the object of my research interests.

### **WHY DID YOU GO INTO RESEARCH?**

My passion for scientific work has always driven my academic journey, leading me to pursue a PhD. The study of lyrical discourse is a natural progression from my previous studies of text poetics, the concepts of lyricism, and the analysis of figurative and symbolic systems of works. The selection of material for my research was not only dictated by the time but also by a personal connection: at the time of my entry into graduate school, several anthologies of literature about the war of 2022, about the full-scale phase of the invasion, had already been published. I am deeply interested in researching the formation process of this literature, its connection with the previous tradition of fiction militarism, and studying these texts as documentary evidence of the Russian-Ukrainian war and literary texts with artistic and aesthetic value.



**VOICES OF  
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### **WHAT ARE THE BEST THINGS ABOUT DOING RESEARCH?**

Research helps reveal new thinking and expression aspects to deepen scientific knowledge. It is the best way to test the theoretical skills acquired at the university while also providing new competencies. A research project that is successfully implemented, such as a PhD dissertation, can form the basis of research collaborations and expand the scope and effects of the research.

### **HOW HAS YOUR RESEARCH BEEN AFFECTED BY THE FULL SCALE WAR IN UKRAINE?**

Since my work deals with military literature produced during the full-scale phase of the Russian-Ukrainian war, the war has significantly impacted scientific research. However, I think it is also worth mentioning the emergence of additional external stress and external restrictions on research, such as air raids, blackouts, and so on. These have an extremely negative impact on the overall physical and psychological state and, thus, on the quality of scientific research. However, doing scientific work can also positively impact the psychological state, as focusing on a complex thought process helps to “distract” from some external factors, thus reducing stress levels.



**INTERVIEW 10**  
2025 April



# VOICES OF UKRAINIAN SCIENTISTS

**MARIIA  
MALYSHEVA**





**VOICES OF  
UKRAINIAN  
SCIENTISTS**

### **WHO ARE YOU, AND WHERE ARE YOU FROM?**

My name is Mariia Malysheva. I live in Odesa and am a lecturer at the Department of Applied Linguistics at the Odesa I. I. Mechnikov National University. I am a postgraduate student (fourth year of study). In May 2024, I successfully defended my PhD on the topic “Verbal Aggression in Online Discourse” within the field of Philology.

### **WHAT IS YOUR RESEARCH ABOUT?**

The full title of my dissertation is “Verbal Aggression in Online Discourse: Linguistic and Pragmatic Aspect”, and the research in it was carried out within the framework of two topical areas of modern linguistics - linguistic pragmatics and Internet linguistics - focusing on digital technologies.

### **WHY DID YOU GO INTO RESEARCH?**

I have always been interested in research because it allows me to expand the boundaries of knowledge and contribute to the development of science. I am particularly fascinated by analysing speech behaviour in the digital environment, as it allows me to understand how technology is changing our communication. This inspires me to continue researching.



**VOICES OF  
UKRAINIAN  
SCIENTISTS**

### **WHAT ARE THE BEST THINGS ABOUT DOING RESEARCH?**

In my research, something that I am attracted to is the possibility of constant self-improvement and discovering new things. This continuous challenge motivates me to develop critical thinking and a creative problem-solving approach. The moments when the answers found can have practical application are especially valuable. The most helpful thing in scientific work is the feeling that your work matters and can improve the world.

### **HOW HAS YOUR RESEARCH BEEN AFFECTED BY THE FULL SCALE WAR IN UKRAINE?**

The full-scale war in Ukraine has had a significant impact on my research work. On the one hand, I have learnt to work under conditions of uncertainty, considerable psychological pressure, shelling, prolonged power outages, etc. On the other hand, this challenge highlighted the need to study destructive communication in online discourse. Nevertheless, I managed to implement my plans, complete my dissertation and successfully defend it in May 2024.



**INTERVIEW 11**  
2025 April

# VOICES OF UKRAINIAN SCIENTISTS

**ARTUR**  
**NIKOLAYENKO**



**VOICES OF  
UKRAINIAN  
SCIENTISTS**

### **WHO ARE YOU, AND WHERE ARE YOU FROM?**

My name is Artur Nikolayenko, I am pursuing a PhD degree at the National Aviation University, Kyiv, Ukraine.

### **WHAT IS YOUR RESEARCH ABOUT?**

My research focuses on Ukraine's IT market, its peculiarities of development, and transformational trends in the context of Russian aggression and related socio-economic changes. My dissertation topic is “Determinants of the Development of the National IT Market in the Context of Global Challenges.”

### **WHY DID YOU GO INTO RESEARCH?**

My interest in the IT sector and the development of the national IT market was sparked during my master's degree studies. This interest was further fueled while working as a developer at a national IT company. I realised that combining practical activities with research is crucial, as it allows us to understand the real-world implications of our work and ensure that science and business are in synergy.





**VOICES OF  
UKRAINIAN  
SCIENTISTS**

### **WHAT ARE THE BEST THINGS ABOUT DOING RESEARCH?**

In my opinion, the best thing about research is that you, as a scientist, have the opportunity to evaluate a familiar area and the specifics of its activities from a radically new angle, ask several questions that have not been asked before, and try to find answers to them. Research is always a journey, the results of which allow you and other stakeholders to rethink and improve their interaction with a particular technology/field.

### **HOW HAS YOUR RESEARCH BEEN AFFECTED BY THE FULL SCALE WAR IN UKRAINE?**

The full-scale war in Ukraine poses significant challenges for the Ukrainian people and businesses. The IT sector, in particular, has had to adapt to rapid changes, including data protection issues, employee mobilisation, and a decline in foreign customer confidence. My research aims to address these urgent challenges, providing clear recommendations and an action plan to protect the national IT sector in these difficult times.



INTERVIEW 12  
2025 April

# VOICES OF UKRAINIAN SCIENTISTS

**DMYTRO  
OVSII**





**VOICES OF  
UKRAINIAN  
SCIENTISTS**

### **WHO ARE YOU, AND WHERE ARE YOU FROM?**

My name is Dmytro Ovsii. I was born on October 21, 1995, in Poltava, Poltavs'ka oblast', Ukraine. I have lived in Poltava all my life. At the beginning of 2024, I defended my dissertation for a PhD in Civil Engineering. Currently, I work as a researcher at the National University "Yuri Kondratyuk Poltava Polytechnic" and as an engineer at the private enterprise "Budekspertyza".

### **WHAT IS YOUR RESEARCH ABOUT?**

My research is in the scientific field of "Architecture and Construction", more specifically within the speciality "Construction and Civil Engineering". My research is focusing on how to improve the methodology for calculating the bending strength of steel and reinforced concrete beam and slab structures. The solutions proposed in the work can complement existing national design standards and the international standard Eurocode 4.

### **WHY DID YOU GO INTO RESEARCH?**

While a bachelor and master student, my teachers proved that being curious is good. They also got me, as a schoolboy, interested in participating in the competition to defend research papers by students-members of the Junior Academy of Sciences of Ukraine. As a university student, I began to participate actively in research projects and scientific conferences. Therefore, after receiving my master's degree with honours in 2018, I thought about a career as a scientist. As a result, I entered post-graduate studies and continued working on the topic that interested me as an undergraduate student.



### **WHAT ARE THE BEST THINGS ABOUT DOING RESEARCH?**

The best thing about research is being fascinated by the scientific process of creating something new and improving the existing one. I get satisfaction from confirming the desired and real (scientifically confirmed) research result. After all, all scientists desire fame, at least by publishing results in scientific journals, participating in conferences, and receiving awards.

### **HOW HAS YOUR RESEARCH BEEN AFFECTED BY THE FULL SCALE WAR IN UKRAINE?**

The outbreak of a full-scale war created a sense of uncertainty about the future. Therefore, I made a decision to abandon experimental research and instead use the achievements of the global scientific community. Even this decision faced specific difficulties in the form of power outages and Internet access. In the end, I collected more than 100 experimental samples, the test results of which were used to confirm the correctness of the proposed calculation methodology.



INTERVIEW 13  
2025 April

# VOICES OF UKRAINIAN SCIENTISTS



**NAZAR**  
**PEDCHENKO**



## **WHO ARE YOU, AND WHERE ARE YOU FROM?**

I am Nazar Pedchenko, Senior Lecturer at the Department of Oil and Gas Engineering and Technologies at the National University “Yuri Kondratyuk Poltava Polytechnic” (Poltava, Ukraine). Education: I hold a PhD in Oil and Gas Engineering and Technology (National University “Yuri Kondratyuk Poltava Polytechnic”, Poltava, Ukraine) and a Master's degree in Applied Physics of Energy Systems (V.N. Karazin Kharkiv National University, Kharkiv, Ukraine).

## **WHAT IS YOUR RESEARCH ABOUT?**

My research primarily focuses on two key topics. I explore technologies for developing deposits of unconventional and hard-to-recover hydrocarbons such as gas hydrates, bitumen, and viscous oils. Second, I am involved in enhancing unmanned robotic systems for military use. Both topics are of significant relevance to Ukraine.

## **WHY DID YOU GO INTO RESEARCH?**

My interest in the oil and gas industry was sparked long before my university days, as the Poltava region has well-established oil and gas production. This early exposure to the industry's challenges and my hands-on experience in a gas hydrate laboratory fueled my passion for this field of study.

At the same time, military aggression against Ukraine has been going on for eleven years. The desire to help the country and its poor technical equipment gradually evolved from individual and personal tasks into a highly relevant scientific and engineering area - the development of combat unmanned systems. The research group that I am part of patented our first development already in 2021.



**VOICES OF  
UKRAINIAN  
SCIENTISTS**

### **WHAT ARE THE BEST THINGS ABOUT DOING RESEARCH?**

Every experimental confirmation of a hypothesis is a small discovery and a victory. It brings me immense personal satisfaction. I thrive on solving non-standard problems, especially when the line between hobby and work disappears.

### **HOW HAS YOUR RESEARCH BEEN AFFECTED BY THE FULL SCALE WAR IN UKRAINE?**

Of course, it had a negative impact. On a very personal level, the date of the defence of my PhD dissertation coincided with the day of a blackout. In my opinion, most Ukrainian scientists have adapted well to today's situation of minimal funding and difficult psychological conditions. For us in Poltava, as being near the combat zone, the possibility of direct contact with the military, and the possibility of operational testing of samples on the front line profoundly positively affect the result of research.



INTERVIEW 14  
2025 May

# VOICES OF UKRAINIAN SCIENTISTS

**VIACHESLAV  
PEREPELYTSIA**



### **WHO ARE YOU, AND WHERE ARE YOU FROM?**

My name is Viacheslav Perepelytsia, I live in Vinnytsia and work at the Department of Computer Science at Vinnytsia National Technical University (VNTU). From 2019 to 2023, I studied at VNTU's postgraduate program and successfully defended my thesis. In January 2024, I received my PhD's degree in Applied Mechanics.

### **WHAT IS YOUR RESEARCH ABOUT?**

In my PhD research, I studied work processes in hydraulic drive systems. In particular, I developed a system of hydraulic drives for synchronising the working movements of an automated brick moulding machine. The system was also improved by installing control from the controller. The experimental sample of the computerised brick blank moulding machine was developed and tested at the Department of Mechanical Engineering Technology and Automation of VNTU.

### **WHY DID YOU GO INTO RESEARCH?**

My research interest in industrial automation and hydraulic drive systems is driven by the immense potential I see for improving the efficiency of industrial processes. The possibility of making production faster, more accurate and less dependent on human labour is a future that I am optimistic about. My fascination with this area began during my bachelor's degree at VNTU, and studying hydraulic drive systems only solidified my belief that they can significantly increase the productivity and reliability of various mechanisms.



**VOICES OF  
UKRAINIAN  
SCIENTISTS**

### **WHAT ARE THE BEST THINGS ABOUT DOING RESEARCH?**

Research work is impossible without a thirst for learning something new, constant self-development, and professional growth. The best part is probably the opportunity to contribute to the development of technology and science in general. In addition, solving a complex problem and seeing the results of your work brings great satisfaction and motivates you to continue working.

### **HOW HAS YOUR RESEARCH BEEN AFFECTED BY THE FULL SCALE WAR IN UKRAINE?**

The last 1.5 years of my PhD were during the period when a full-scale war broke out in Ukraine. This caused difficulties with access to the necessary equipment and materials. The hardest part was conducting experimental research and implementing the results of the work in production. After all, many companies have reduced their production volumes or have not worked. Some processes took longer than planned. However, the satisfaction and motivation derived from overcoming these challenges and seeing the results of my work have been immense, inspiring me to continue my work in the face of adversity.





INTERVIEW 15  
2025 May

# VOICES OF UKRAINIAN SCIENTISTS

**YULIA  
PETROVA**



## **WHO ARE YOU, AND WHERE ARE YOU FROM?**

I am Yulia Petrova, I have a PhD in Metallurgy, and I am a Senior Lecturer at the Foundry Department at NTU. In 2010, I entered the National Technical University “Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute” NTU “KhPI”) at the Department of Foundry.

2016 was decisive for me because I had to choose between pursuing an academic career or a career outside of the university. I decided I wanted to devote my life to developing my scientific field. Metallurgy is an industry that is one of the main economic components of Ukraine's stability.

I was supposed to defend my PhD thesis on March 1, 2022, but the beginning of the full-scale invasion of Russia postponed the defence. On June 16, 2022, I was the first NTU “KhPI” PhD student to pass my defence online. The defence took place in a significant place for me; I connected from the secondary school in the Lubny district, where my grandmother taught.

## **WHAT IS YOUR RESEARCH ABOUT?**

Metallurgy is one of the most important industries for Ukraine's sustainable development. This industry combines ferrous metallurgy and the processing and melting of non-ferrous metals, essential for creating components for electronics, the aviation industry, and renewable energy sources. I chose the topics of metal melting, metal defects in manufacturing cast products, and improving casting processes for existing products.

## **WHY DID YOU GO INTO RESEARCH?**

Looking back at the development of human history and my abilities, I realised that I wanted to work in metallurgy because this industry is the basis of almost all enterprises in Ukraine, from automotive to aircraft, energy, and even food processing. Such industries never stop developing, and I want to grow with them. I enjoy developing, adjusting, and simply implementing my knowledge, which can then help humanity solve problems.

### **WHAT ARE THE BEST THINGS ABOUT DOING RESEARCH?**

The most exciting thing about research is that it opens up new knowledge and opportunities. When I study new phenomena or develop technologies, I feel that a part of my contribution can influence the future. Developing new technologies that can change the world or improving existing ones is another great motivation. I believe that our efforts in research can have a significant social and economic impact by helping to solve important problems of humanity. Communication with scientists and exchanging ideas is another aspect I value in our profession. And, of course, the continuous learning and self-development that each new research project requires allows me to grow as a scientist constantly.

### **HOW HAS YOUR RESEARCH BEEN AFFECTED BY THE FULL SCALE WAR IN UKRAINE?**

For me, the full-scale war in Ukraine was hard. We couldn't connect for a while; the university was closed, and I couldn't defend my PhD thesis in time. Realising that my industry would now be working with old technologies and there was no time to change, I started working on educational projects for children because they would be the ones who would later rebuild the country with their knowledge and skills. During the war, my team and I organised various events for children in a safe environment, such as "Women in Science", a science festival with more than 1500 participants, and "STEM Championship" in Kharkiv. Kharkiv is a scientific championship among high school students with over 1000 children and 30 lecturers. This is a small number of the events I have described in which my team and I were the organisers, but my dream is not to stop and develop. Because the scientific knowledge that I am passing on to the next generation will be my main achievement in life, they are the ones who will work for the benefit of our beloved Ukraine!



**INTERVIEW 16**  
2025 May



# VOICES OF UKRAINIAN SCIENTISTS



**SERHII**  
**PONOMARENKO**

## WHO ARE YOU, AND WHERE ARE YOU FROM?

My name is Serhii Ponomarenko. I successfully defended my PhD at the Kharkiv National Technical University, «Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute» in 2023, where I now work as an assistant lecturer.

I am an expert on accreditation of educational programs at the National Agency for Higher Education Quality Assurance, where I improve the quality of higher education in Ukraine. I am the head of the “ELECTROLIUM” Scientific Club and actively participate in numerous popular science projects: “Science is FUN!”, “International Day of Light”, “Science Picnics”, “Science Night in Kharkiv”, “Choose your dream profession in Kropyvnytskyi”, “Engineering Championship in Chernivtsi” and many others. In my free time, I go biking and I live in the wonderful city of Kharkiv.

## WHAT IS YOUR RESEARCH ABOUT?

In 2024, I defended my PhD thesis on improving diagnostic methods for transformer oil conditions in 110-330 kV equipment, considering the influence of operating modes and conditions. This research is relevant since only about 18% of all 330 kV autotransformers in Ukraine's power grids operate within their rated service life.

## WHY DID YOU GO INTO RESEARCH?

I started doing research before the full-scale invasion. I believe that electrical engineering has excellent potential for development and innovation. My goal is to contribute to the development of this promising field. I think that electrical engineering will play a vital role in the future by enabling sustainable development, energy efficiency, and technological breakthroughs. Through research, I strive to find new solutions and technologies that will help improve the quality of life and contribute to the development of society.

Other autotransformers have already exceeded this period, so keeping them in excellent condition is crucial. Diagnostics allows us to predict the possible service life of expensive equipment and, using appropriate measures, increase it.



### WHAT ARE THE BEST THINGS ABOUT DOING RESEARCH?

The best thing about research is the opportunity to collaborate, discover new things, be intellectually challenged and contribute to society. Collaboration allows you to share knowledge and experience with colleagues, contributing to more effective solutions to complex problems. Discovering new things gives you unique feelings and inspiration when you find solutions you did not know about. Intellectual challenges stimulate thinking, make you look for innovative approaches and go beyond the usual framework. And contributing to society gives you a sense of significance and the opportunity to make the world a better place for everyone.

### HOW HAS YOUR RESEARCH BEEN AFFECTED BY THE FULL SCALE WAR IN UKRAINE?

The full-scale war in Ukraine has affected my research. After the shelling of Kharkiv, my work became more difficult due to constant power outages and the destruction of infrastructure. I often had to adapt my plans and look for new ways to continue my research with limited resources. In addition, I had to focus on safety and security issues, which distracted me from my scientific work. However, these challenges have motivated me to appreciate the opportunity to conduct research and contribute to the development of science, even in such difficult conditions. The war also emphasised the importance of electrical engineering and the continuation of research activities.

**INTERVIEW 17**  
2025 May



# VOICES OF UKRAINIAN SCIENTISTS



**DARYNA  
SAHALAI**

### **WHO ARE YOU, AND WHERE ARE YOU FROM?**

My name is Daryna Sahalai. I am 28 years old and live in Kyiv, Ukraine. I am currently pursuing my PhD degree at the Department of Oil, Gas, and Solid Fuel Technology at the National Technical University “Kharkiv Polytechnic Institute”. Currently I am preparing to defend my PhD thesis on “Rational use of Coke fines”.

### **WHAT IS YOUR RESEARCH ABOUT?**

For the past 2 years, I have been actively engaged in research related to the development of biopolymer materials modified with lignite derivatives in the form of humic substances and acids. Such new biopolymeric materials are highly efficient biopolymeric nanocomposites with a functional useful set of properties: antibacterial, sorption, and biological activity. Thanks to this, biopolymer nanocomposites have been developed, which are the basis for the creation of antibacterial, wound healing and hospital forms, suppositories and preparations, adsorbents and membranes for neutralising heavy metal ions and other hybrid dosage forms. Today I perform research on the latest biopolymers.

### **WHY DID YOU GO INTO RESEARCH?**

As a scientist, I can say that research is one of the most interesting and important aspects of my life. I became interested in science for several reasons:

First, I have always been attracted to the opportunity to discover new and unknown things. Science allows you to get to the bottom of things, understand how the world works, and find answers to questions that no one has yet solved.

Secondly, research can change our lives for the better, contribute to technological progress, find new methods of treating diseases, solve environmental problems, and much more.

Thirdly, science is a constant challenge. It requires critical thinking, creativity, and perseverance. Every day of a scientist is full of new discoveries, unexpected difficulties and successes.

Ultimately, I started researching because of my passion for knowledge and desire to make the world a better place.

### **WHAT ARE THE BEST THINGS ABOUT DOING RESEARCH?**

In my opinion, the best thing about research is the opportunity to constantly discover and create innovations. Research work constantly presents us with new questions and challenges, which stimulates the brain and keeps us interested. It helps to develop critical thinking and analytical skills.

Scientists often work in teams, where the exchange of ideas and collaboration with colleagues from different parts of the world help to develop new approaches and solutions. Science is constantly evolving, so researchers must constantly learn and update their knowledge. This allows them to stay at the forefront of innovation and progress. All this makes research work incredibly exciting and meaningful

### **HOW HAS YOUR RESEARCH BEEN AFFECTED BY THE FULL SCALE WAR IN UKRAINE?**

Ukraine is now in a state of severe military aggression by Russia, and my ability to conduct active research in the scientific laboratory of NTU "KPI" face many obstacles and sometimes simply impossible. Many research institutions have been forced to suspend or curtail their activities due to hostilities, infrastructure destruction, or evacuation. This has led to significant delays in the implementation of research projects. The war caused problems with access to necessary equipment, materials, and funding. The constant stress of the war affected my mental health, which also affected my productivity and ability to focus on research. However, the circumstances led to many scientists being forced to look for new approaches and methods to conduct their research. This contributed to the development of innovative solutions and adaptation to new conditions.





**INTERVIEW 18**  
2025 June

# VOICES OF UKRAINIAN SCIENTISTS

**ANDRII  
SINKO**







### **WHO ARE YOU, AND WHERE ARE YOU FROM?**

My name is Andrii Sinko. I am from Nemyriv, in the Vinnytsia region, but I have lived in Kyiv for the past seven years. I am, as of the summer of 2024, in the third year of my PhD in the field of “Journalism” at the Faculty of Journalism of Borys Grinchenko Kyiv Metropolitan University. Besides this, I have been working as a lecturer at the Department of Advertising and Public Relations at the same institution.

### **WHAT IS YOUR RESEARCH ABOUT?**

Since my bachelor's degree, I have been interested in public relations. The choice of the field of Journalism for my research field was obvious because all the works that impressed me were published within this field ” Studying in this speciality allowed me to choose an exciting topic - “Information Activity as a Separate Management Institute of Social Communications.”

### **WHY DID YOU GO INTO RESEARCH?**

It is important for me not only to develop myself but also to develop the environment around me. Analysing scientific research during my studies at previous levels of higher education, I noticed the lack of data and the inadequate relevance of most of the information that is freely available. There are definitely a number of scientists who are skillful in this area, but, in my opinion, this is not enough. It is important to constantly support and develop the communication market at the scientific level.



**VOICES OF  
UKRAINIAN  
SCIENTISTS**

### **WHAT ARE THE BEST THINGS ABOUT DOING RESEARCH?**

Research allows scientists to draw conclusions within the framework of their own judgement and analysis, which, if effectively justified, can spark a discussion among other researchers. The next stage of the discussion can be the creation of something new and more effective than previous research. If this process is constantly supported, science will continue to develop.

### **HOW HAS YOUR RESEARCH BEEN AFFECTED BY THE FULL SCALE WAR IN UKRAINE?**

My research is realised through the prism of the conditions that every Ukrainian is currently experiencing. For example, when determining effective channels for communicating information to the population, it is impossible to overlook that there is no electricity or data on the occupation of specific regions. In addition, the priority of researching the area of information warfare has increased, which requires analysis and continuous improvement.



INTERVIEW 19  
2025 July

# VOICES OF UKRAINIAN SCIENTISTS

## EDUARD TSERNE



### **WHO ARE YOU, AND WHERE ARE YOU FROM?**

I am Eduard Tserne, born in 1996. I come from the small village of Pokrovske, Bakhmut district, Donetsk region. I have recently completed my postgraduate studies at the Department of Aerospace Radioelectronic Systems of the National Aerospace University «Kharkiv Aviation Institute» and have successfully defended my PhD thesis in Telecommunications and Radio Engineering.

### **WHAT IS YOUR RESEARCH ABOUT?**

My research has always focused on synthesising optimal signal processing algorithms for active and passive radio engineering systems and simulating their operation. However, a formula with an algorithm on a blackboard is only complete when implemented in a natural system. Therefore, I am also actively working on the hardware implementation of radio systems involving analogue and digital signal processing components.

### **WHY DID YOU GO INTO RESEARCH?**

The staff of the department where I studied and where I work now showed me that, in addition to teaching, there is also a research world at the university. I was invited to help solve some interesting problems. After solving one, another more interesting one appeared, and then another one. The tasks became more complex and exciting, and research became a part of life that was impossible to give up.

### **WHAT ARE THE BEST THINGS ABOUT DOING RESEARCH?**

I think the best thing about research is the feeling of completing a task. Of course, the content of this feeling, and even more so the way to it, largely depends on the research area and changes over time and the development of the researcher. For me, a few years ago, a completed task was to confirm the performance of the developed algorithm during computer simulation. Now, the correct operation of the experimental model of the system implements this algorithm. Only time will tell what will happen next.

### **HOW HAS YOUR RESEARCH BEEN AFFECTED BY THE FULL SCALE WAR IN UKRAINE?**

War is a tragic challenge - a challenge that has to be accepted. Due to the country's current needs, research areas were rapidly adjusted and further developed. The research process itself and the publication of results have also gained some specifics. We have to weigh every sentence or photo from the materials we receive before publishing them to avoid endangering ourselves or others.





INTERVIEW 20  
2025 July

# VOICES OF UKRAINIAN SCIENTISTS



**VICTORIA  
SYDORENKO**

### **WHO ARE YOU, AND WHERE ARE YOU FROM?**

I am Victoriia Sydorenko, 4th year PhD student in the Department of General Biology and Aquatic Bioresources of Oles Honchar Dnipro National University.

### **WHAT IS YOUR RESEARCH ABOUT?**

My research is on ichthyopathology, namely the effect of parasites on fish bodies. I studied the changes that occur in the bodies of infected fish at the biochemical, cellular, tissue, and metabolic levels in eustrongylidosis and ligulosis. The objects of my research were fish of the Dnipro Reservoir, which are of commercial importance.

### **WHY DID YOU GO INTO RESEARCH?**

The reasons why I started doing research were different. As a student, I had a natural curiosity and desire to learn more about the world around me, how it works and what laws govern its functioning. Science provides an opportunity to discover new knowledge and contribute to expanding mankind's existing knowledge base. This was a significant motivating factor for me. In addition, scientific research is a path to professional growth and career development. The practical significance of my research was also important to me, as it can help solve current problems in fish farming.

### **WHAT ARE THE BEST THINGS ABOUT DOING RESEARCH?**

For me, research work has many advantages that can make it an exciting activity. Research allows you to discover new facts, phenomena and laws of nature. This sense of discovery and the opportunity to contribute to the world's treasure trove of knowledge is exciting. Research often requires solving complex tasks and problems, stimulating intellectual development and maintaining mental activity. There are many opportunities for creativity and creative thinking in science. We can develop our methods, experiments and theories, which is inspiring. Scientific work brings deep personal satisfaction and a sense of self-realisation.

### **HOW HAS YOUR RESEARCH BEEN AFFECTED BY THE FULL SCALE WAR IN UKRAINE?**

My postgraduate studies took place during quarantines and a full-scale war. I received online training instead of the face-to-face training I was looking forward to. It was hard to get used to it, because I believe nothing can replace the live classroom communication between a student and a teacher. After all, even the university walls inspire research. During the war, it was challenging to select materials because biologists had to go to water bodies, fisheries, and fieldwork. This is what led to a delay in research. The war caused significant psychological stress, which greatly affected my concentration, motivation and productivity. Fear for myself and my family prevented me from working. I did not migrate, I stayed at home and found solutions to finish my dissertation. Despite all the difficulties, and there were many of them, I completed my research work, which will be defended in September this year. At the moment, this is my greatest scientific achievement.

**INTERVIEW 21**  
2025 July



# VOICES OF UKRAINIAN SCIENTISTS



**YEVHENIIA  
MURZO**



**VOICES OF  
UKRAINIAN  
SCIENTISTS**

### **WHO ARE YOU, AND WHERE ARE YOU FROM?**

My name is Yevheniia Murzo. I was born and raised in Kyiv, where my life has always been about service and responsibility. My father, a police officer, showed me that true leadership is not just strength but also the ability to stay humane even in the hardest times. He'd come home calm and confident, and I wanted to be like him.

Now I'm pursuing my PhD at the National Academy of Internal Affairs, combining theory with practice in law enforcement. For me, this isn't just a job - it's a calling to contribute to society's security and development.

### **WHAT IS YOUR RESEARCH ABOUT?**

My research focuses on investigating criminal offences related to looting (pillage), which has become especially widespread under martial law. I aim to analyze legal regulation and develop effective investigative methods with real practical value—so the results aren't just theory, but tools that investigators and prosecutors can use daily.

Ultimately, this work helps improve investigators' training, unify the practice of qualifying such crimes, and strengthen Ukraine's legal system during wartime.

### **WHY DID YOU GO INTO RESEARCH?**

My scientific journey started in my first year of undergrad, when I realized I didn't just want to learn - I wanted to improve criminal procedure and forensics. I felt that by diving into research, I could propose solutions that would truly help society.

For me, research is a way to grow as a professional and earn a PhD in law, opening new opportunities to influence legal science. It also hones my analytical skills, perseverance, and teamwork. Science teaches you to collaborate, share ideas, and work toward common goals.





**VOICES OF  
UKRAINIAN  
SCIENTISTS**

### **WHAT ARE THE BEST THINGS ABOUT DOING RESEARCH?**

One of the greatest rewards is diving deeply into issues that matter for society. It's an intellectual challenge with real-world impact. Every discovery is a building block for justice and law and order in Ukraine - especially important in these difficult times.

Knowing that my work helps strengthen the legal system and protect citizens' rights gives me pride and motivation. Sometimes research feels like playing chess with an invisible opponent: every move matters, and a single idea can change the game.

### **HOW HAS YOUR RESEARCH BEEN AFFECTED BY THE FULL SCALE WAR IN UKRAINE?**

The full-scale war has completely changed the environment in which I work. Constant anxiety, shelling, and instability make research much harder. Even in calmer moments, the tension never disappears. But the war is also an incentive: when I feel exhausted, I remind myself that our work helps build a better future for Ukraine.

The war has given my research new meaning. My work has become part of the broader fight for justice that every Ukrainian is engaged in. It's made me even more careful and committed to finding effective ways to counter these crimes.

**INTERVIEW 22**  
2025 July



# **VOICES OF UKRAINIAN SCIENTISTS**

**KHRYSTYNA  
ZUB**



### **WHO ARE YOU, AND WHERE ARE YOU FROM?**

My name is Khrystyna Zub. I am an early career researcher with a PhD. I live in Lviv and work at Lviv Polytechnic National University.

I am an assistant at the Department of Social Communications and Information Activities and a leading software engineer at the Web Services Support and Development Department. I am also the webmaster at Eurodoc (European Council of Doctoral Candidates and Junior Researchers).

### **WHAT IS YOUR RESEARCH ABOUT?**

My research focus is on information technology. In particular, I research methods and tools for building decision support systems and recommender systems, as well as data analysis and machine learning methods to solve tasks using such systems.

### **WHY DID YOU GO INTO RESEARCH?**

While working at the university, I realized that the admission campaign is one of the most critical areas of activity - both for the university and applicants - and requires constant improvement through information technology. I began researching the current challenges faced by higher education institutions, with a focus on identifying solutions through information technology, aiming to contribute to enhancing the effectiveness of HEI admission campaigns.

### **WHAT ARE THE BEST THINGS ABOUT DOING RESEARCH?**

The best aspect of research is the acquisition of new knowledge and understanding, the development of new technologies, and the generation of novel results. By supporting applicants during the admission process, we can enhance the effectiveness of their choices, thereby influencing their academic trajectory and contributing to establishing a sustainable higher education and research sector in our country. So, another positive aspect is that the research outcomes have the potential to enhance the effectiveness of the higher education institution's admissions campaign, which is particularly significant under the current conditions of full-scale invasion of Ukraine by Russia.

### **HOW HAS YOUR RESEARCH BEEN AFFECTED BY THE FULL SCALE WAR IN UKRAINE?**

During a full-scale invasion, efforts are directed not only towards core activities but also towards supporting the front lines, necessitating additional effort. Reductions in funding for the higher education sector have, to some extent, limited opportunities for both individual development and collaborative opportunities in research and education. The ongoing missile attacks, blackouts, and air alarms in our region, as well as the general situation in the country, have impacted our mental well-being and worsened our working conditions.

