



# Varvara Nikulina, PhD

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## Summary

Multilingual (Russian, Ukrainian, English, Swedish, Czech, German) Researcher and Lecturer (PhD) with 10+ years of teaching experience within and outside academia. Designed and managed 10+ international projects on inclusion, participation, and sustainability for 10-65 people. Acquired grants worth more than €95 000. Internationally published (e.g., Sustainability, Futures) and awarded (Researchers at Risk, Erasmus Mundus).

## Skills

*Languages* Russian (native), Ukrainian (native), English (fluent), Swedish (fluent), Czech (very good), German (intermediate)

*Hard skills* Strategic sustainable development, participatory urban planning, tools for stakeholder management and dialogue, systems thinking, impact assessment methods, CSR methods, methods for sustainable entrepreneurship, R&D, onboarding, project management, strategy development, grant writing, consortium building, budgeting

*Soft skills* Interdisciplinary communication, facilitation, leadership, accuracy, creativity, stakeholder management, presentation skills, teamwork, attention to detail, critical problem solving, analytical mindset, quick learner

## Professional Experience

*Apr. 2023 – Present* Lecturer (universitetsadjunkt)  
Blekinge Institute of Technology, Karlskrona, Sweden

*Mar. 2016 – May 2016* Unpaid research internship  
IVL (Swedish Environmental Research Institute), Gothenburg, Sweden

*Sep. 2015 – Jun. 2016* Project Assistant  
Chalmers University of Technology (Prof. Frances Sprei group, Department of physical resource theory), Gothenburg, Sweden  
Mistra Urban Futures (Prof. David Simon group), Gothenburg, Sweden

*Feb. 2011 – Aug. 2013* Chairperson of the regional branch, co-founder  
all-Ukrainian Association for Youth Cooperation “Alternative-V” (a national NGO focusing on societal development), Donetsk, Ukraine

*Jan. 2010 – Oct. 2010* European Voluntary Service  
Free Time Activity Centre TYMY, Holešov, Czech Republic

*Apr. 2009 – Dec. 2009* Research Assistant  
Donetsk Botanical Garden of National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Donetsk, Ukraine

*Sep. 2007 – Aug. 2013* Interviewer  
Kyiv Youth Labor Centre, Kyiv, Ukraine

## Education

<i>Jan. 2017 – Jun. 2023</i>	PhD in Strategic Sustainable Development Blekinge Institute of Technology, Karlskrona, Sweden Dissertation title: Scaffolding for multistakeholder dialogue-based processes in strategic planning for transitioning to sustainable mobility
<i>Jan. 2017 – Jan. 2019</i>	Licentiate in Strategic Sustainable Development Blekinge Institute of Technology, Karlskrona, Sweden Mistra Urban Futures, Gothenburg, Sweden Licentiate dissertation title: Need for speed: towards urban planning for rapid transitioning to sustainable personal mobility
<i>Aug. 2013 – Nov. 2015</i>	Erasmus Mundus Joint MSc Industrial ecology Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg, Sweden University of Graz, Graz, Austria Thesis title: How can future methodologies be applied in the planning process? Case study of the bus park and railway station in Kisumu, Kenya and Centralen Gothenburg, Sweden
<i>Sep. 2008 – Jun. 2009</i>	MSc Biophysics (with distinction) Donetsk National University, Donetsk, Ukraine Thesis title: The influence of the tree roots' vibrations on the soil-making process
<i>Sep. 2004 – Jun. 2008</i>	BSc Biology (with distinction) Donetsk National University, Donetsk, Ukraine Thesis title: Plant vibrations and their biological effects

## Research funding and grants

<i>Jul. 2024 – Dec. 2024</i>	Project employment Stanford University, USD 5,000; main applicant; principal investigator – Margaret Krebs.
<i>Sep. 2020 – Aug. 2023</i>	Research grant Swedish Energy Agency, SEK 7,600,000; work package leader; principal investigator - assoc. prof. Henrik Ny.
<i>Sep. 2021 – Mar. 2022</i>	Seed funding Swedish Institute, SEK 489,995; co-applicant; principal investigator - Mattias Andersson (Region Blekinge).
<i>Jan. 2017 – Dec. 2018</i>	Scholarship – Researchers at Risk MISTRA, SEK 1,029,600; main applicant under the supervision of Prof. David Simon, prof. Henrikke Baumann, prof. Göran Broman, assoc. prof. Henrik Ny.
<i>Jan. 2015 – Aug. 2015</i>	Planning Grant for Sustainable Solutions Swedish Secretariat for Environmental Earth System Sciences, SEK 48,700; Project manager, co-applicant; Principal investigator – Prof. Henrikke Baumann.

## Teaching merits

Pedagogical training and other demonstrated pedagogical expertise: Psychology and Pedagogy of Higher Education (4,3 ECTS) from Donetsk National University, Ukraine; Higher Education Pedagogy (15 ECTS) from Blekinge Institute of Technology.

Research-based and collaborative development of teaching and teaching methods: Nikulina, V., Bryant, J. Transformative Learning in Transdisciplinary Distance Education for Sustainable Development. Submitted to journal.

Teaching experience in general: I taught at the bachelor level (772 hours) and master level (1375 h.) at universities in Sweden (1966 h.), Austria (18 h.) and Ukraine (160 h.). I taught in English (1725 h.), Swedish (260 h.) and Russian (160 h.), both on campus (372 h.) and online (1775 h.). My teaching includes but is not limited to lectures, practical exercises, supervision of the project groups, grading and course development.

## Visiting guest lectures

Nov. 2021 – Nov 2023

### University of Graz, Graz, Austria

Guest lecturer at the Methods for inter- and transdisciplinary problem-solving second-cycle course led by Dr. Ralf Aschemann for 25-50 students.

Developed a module on “Selected methods and tools for transdisciplinary co-production of knowledge”. Presented in 2021, 2022, 2023. These guest lectures are based on my research and experience as a facilitator of multistakeholder dialogue-based processes

## Other key academic merits

Memberships and positions of trust in scientific communities:

- Founding member of the International Inter- and Transdisciplinary Alliance
- Working group “Education and training” co-leader (in the process of establishment)

Selected participant of the Advancing Strong Sustainability in the Nordic Social Science and Humanities (StrongSSH) network.

Evaluation activities in the researcher’s own scientific discipline: International Erasmus Mundus Master’s in circular economy *programme evaluator* for the European Commission (2022-2024)

Referee for two scientific publications in Futures and Gaia journals.

Organising scientific conferences:

- 2016, Mistra Urban Futures and Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden, Realizing Just Cities international conference, co-organiser, session facilitator.
- 2014, Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden, “Industrial Ecologists – the Future Makers”, co-organiser, session facilitator.
- 2009, Donetsk National University, Ukraine, I International Conference for Young Scientists “Fundamental and Applied Research in Biology”, co-organiser.

## Volunteering Experience

Sep. 2017 – now

### Tipsy dance club

Lindy hop teacher at all levels; leadership training for larger groups (aug 2024)

Feb. 2014 – Aug. 2024

### Erasmus Mundus Association

International Erasmus Mundus Master’s in circular economy programme evaluator for the European Commission. Programme representative of Erasmus Mundus Master’s in industrial ecology: successfully applied for grants and organised events for the students, communicated European Commission’s relevant information to the students, promoted the programme. Project leader: in a team of 3 led a project about the cultural diversity of the students in the Erasmus Mundus Association. Took part in the discussion of the EU Global Strategy at the European Commission (Mar. 2016).

Aug. 2015 – Aug. 2017

### International Industrial Ecology Professionals

Board member: in a group of 6-8 developed vision, mission, and the statutes for the organisation. Registered the NGO in Sweden. Treasurer. Developed several project ideas

Sep. 2014 – Dec. 2014

### Chalmers Students for Sustainability

Board member (event manager). Organised sustainability-related events for the students. Took part in the decision-making of the organisation

28.11.2024

Varvara Nikulina