



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 €90 000. Internationally published (e.g., Sustainability, Futures) and awarded (Researchers at Risk, Erasmus Mundus).

Objective: Senior Lecturer at the Spatial Planning Department, Blekinge Institute of Technology

Skills

<i>Languages</i>	Russian (native), Ukrainian (native), English (fluent), Swedish (fluent), Czech (fluent), German (intermediate)
<i>Hard skills</i>	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
<i>Soft skills</i>	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

- Taught first-cycle courses “Behavioural change for sustainability” in English and “Responsive sustainable environments” in Swedish for up to 50 students each.
- Instructed 4 second-cycle courses on topics such as “Strategic sustainable development of energy and transport systems” for between 15 and 150 students.
- Compiled research on participatory urban planning, participatory research modes and strategic sustainable mobility planning.
- Applied for grants for research about strategic participatory planning for transitioning towards sustainable urban mobility.
- Selected participant of the Advancing Strong Sustainability in the Nordic Social Science and Humanities (StrongSSH) network.

Mar. 2016 – May. 2016 **Unpaid research internship**

IVL (Swedish Environmental Research Institute), Gothenburg, Sweden

- Implemented a research on climate change effects on forests and soil in cooperation with a senior researcher
- Collected and measured samples, recorded & analysed data in Excel
- Analysed waste to energy in a research: literature review, data analysis, together with a senior researcher
- Cooperated in a team of 4 on research on mobility solutions
- Conducted interviews, reviewed literature and cooperated with the team and partners in the Swedish language

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

- Analysed and managed data in the projects “Analysis of effects of free-floating car sharing services”, and “Electronic Library”
- Organised the Urban Lunches of Mistra Urban Futures in a team of 5
- Assisted the communications team and administrative work

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

- Developed, organised and coordinated international projects, local events and trainings, ranging between 5 days and 1 year, in teams of 2-10 people for 15-65 participants
- Cooperated transdisciplinary with public, private and academic sectors
- Topics of work: intercultural learning, social inclusion, environmental awareness, and sustainability
- Trained, led, managed, and successfully applied for grants for 12 international projects in Hungary, Poland, and Ukraine

Jan. 2010 – Oct. 2010

European Voluntary Service

Free Time Activity Centre TYMY, Holešov, Czech Republic

- Applied and attained Erasmus+ funding (€29 211) for the international youth exchange, led and managed the project from the ideation to evaluation and reporting
- Taught Russian and English languages to children and adults
- Organised activities such as keyboard lessons and trips for children and adults in a team of 3-10 people

Apr. 2009 – Dec. 2009

Research Assistant

Donetsk Botanical Garden of National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Donetsk, Ukraine

- Conducted biophysical experiments, analysed data and co-authored academic articles in Russian, Ukrainian and English
- Project “The influence of the tree roots’ vibrations on the soil making process”
- Guided excursions for groups of 10-50 adults and children
- Translated English-Russian-Ukrainian-English

Sep. 2007 – Aug. 2013

Interviewer

Kyiv Youth Labor Centre, Kyiv, Ukraine

- Interviewed applicants for the Camp America and the Au-Pair in America Programmes (in English)

Jan. 2017 – Jun. 2023

PhD Strategic Sustainable Development

Blekinge Institute of Technology, Karlskrona, Sweden

Assoc. Prof. Henrik Ny, Prof. Göran Broman, Prof. Henrikke Baumann, Dr. Rebecca Laycock Pedersen

- PhD dissertation: Scaffolding for multistakeholder dialogue-based processes in strategic planning for transitioning to sustainable mobility
- Methodological process-supporting tools were investigated and developed. They offer a form of “scaffolding” that aids facilitators to organise more efficient and effective participatory processes. These scaffolding tools are rooted in transdisciplinary co-production of knowledge research and offer promising elements for a toolbox for strategic planning for transitioning to sustainable mobility.
- Taught bachelor, master and PhD students on sustainability studies, urban and regional planning, and behavioural studies (20% for 3 years, group sized between 3-150+)
- Contribution to the successful international funding application (€49 000) from the Swedish Institute in collaboration with the Region Blekinge (Sweden) and partners from Lithuania, Poland, and Russia

Jan. 2017 – Jan. 2019

Licentiate Strategic Sustainable Development

Blekinge Institute of Technology, Karlskrona, Sweden

Mistra Urban Futures, Gothenburg, Sweden

Assoc. Prof. Henrik Ny, Prof. Göran Broman, Prof. Henrikke Baumann, Prof. David Simon

- Licentiate dissertation: Need for speed: towards urban planning for rapid transitioning to sustainable personal mobility
- 3 methodological process-supporting tools were analysed and 1 developed. The systematic literature review completed. Based on that: there is a need for research that would show how mobility actors can contribute to resolve pressing issues related to climate change fast enough without compromising other aspects of sustainability, including how temporary trade-offs can be addressed in a strategic way.
- Awarded with full scholarship Researchers at Risk from MISTRA (24 months)

Aug. 2013 – Nov. 2015

Erasmus Mundus Joint MSc Industrial ecology

Chalmers University of Technology, Gothenburg, Sweden

University of Graz, Graz, Austria

Prof. Henrikke Baumann, Prof. David Simon, Prof. Frances Sprei, GPA: 1,6/1; 3,4/5

- Awarded with Erasmus Mundus full scholarship (24 months)
- Master's thesis was a comparative study between Kisumu, Kenya and Gothenburg, Sweden in collaboration with Mistra Urban Futures (Kenyan and Swedish offices) and Jaramogi Oginga Odinga University of Science and Technology, Kenya
- 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”
- Awarded a research grant (€4 870) from the Swedish Secretariat for Environmental Earth Systems Sciences (SSEESS) to do a master's thesis
- Co-organised a conference and facilitated a session for the European Master Network in Industrial Ecology in Gothenburg, Sweden (Apr. 2014, 120+ participants).
- Internship at the Swedish Transport Administration (Trafikverket)
- Internship at the Challenge Lab (Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden): collected and analysed data, wrote a report “Benchmarking of the sustainable transition organizations in the Northern America and Europe. European funding opportunities for the Challenge Lab”, collaborated with a team of 3 on the course development

Sep. 2008 – Jun. 2009

MSc Biophysics

Donetsk National University, Donetsk, Ukraine

Prof. Maksym Netsvetov group, GPA: 5/5

- Completed with distinction
- Awarded with the Ukrainian national government full scholarship (10 months)
- Thesis title “The influence of the tree roots' vibrations on the soil-making process”
- Unpaid internship at the Donetsk National University, teaching assistant

Sep. 2004 – Jun. 2008

BSc Biology

Donetsk National University, Donetsk, Ukraine

Prof. Maksym Netsvetov group, GPA: 4,95/5

- Completed with distinction
- Awarded with the Ukrainian national government full scholarship (46 months)
- Thesis title “Plant vibrations and their biological effects”
- Unpaid internship at the Donetsk Technical Lyceum, teaching assistant
- Co-organized the I International conference of young scientists “Fundamental and applied research in biology”

Publications:

- Published 6 scientific articles (+1 submitted publication) in peer-reviewed international journals, 3 of which are first-author publications, including Futures and Sustainability

Volunteering Experience

Feb. 2014 – present

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

02.10.2023

Varvara Nikulina