

OLENA MYKHAILENKO

Ph.D. in Economics · Researcher in AI, Culture & Economies of Continuity

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PROFILE

Olena Mykhailenko works at the frontier where artificial intelligence meets culture, economy, and social resilience. Drawing on economics, sociology, and cross-cultural studies, her research reframes AI not as a productivity tool but as infrastructure for sustaining work, meaning, and cultural life under pressure. Through concepts such as digital survivance, she examines how cultural workers and educators in crisis-affected environments use human-machine collaboration to navigate institutional breakdowns and preserve cognitive and cultural continuity — opening new ways of thinking about regional development, cultural economies, and the future of work.

RESEARCH & EXPERTISE AREAS

- Human-AI/LLM partnerships & cognitive complementarity
- Digital survivance & cultural continuity in crisis
- Digital competencies & transformative learning
- Cross-cultural research & intercultural facilitation
- Socio-economic transformation & regional development
- Future of work, gender & digital labour markets
- Mixed-methods evaluation & policy analysis

EDUCATION & CERTIFICATION

Ph.D. in Economics (Industrial Economics) · *Research Institute, Ministry of Economic Development of Ukraine*

Specialist Degree, Labour Economics · *Vadym Hetman Kyiv National Economic University, Ukraine*

Certified Digital Learning Designer & Facilitator · *SIETAR Europe*

Visiting Research Fellow, Democratized Digital Learning & Culture · *EILAB, Ontario Tech University, Canada*

CURRENT APPOINTMENTS & FELLOWSHIPS

Research Fellow · *Hanse-Wissenschaftskolleg (HWK), Delmenhorst, Germany*

2026–2027

Brain & Mind Programme — Project: “Normalno under Fire: Human-LLM Partnerships to Stabilize Educators’ Daily Rhythms in Wartime Ukraine”

- Investigating how LLMs sustain professional resilience and workforce capacity for educators under extreme disruption (war, infrastructure collapse) in Ukraine.

Program Developer & Coach · *Goethe-Institut Ukraine · House of Europe – Culture Transformation Lab (EU-funded)* **2019–Present**

- Co-design and deliver wartime professional development with a strong focus on future-oriented, trauma-informed, and cross-cultural learning for cultural-sector practitioners.
- Lead workshops on AI, project management, and communication for creative industry entrepreneurs.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Researcher · *University of Alberta · Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities, Canada* **2023–2024**

Social and Political Attitudes in Rural Canada Project (SSHRC-funded)

- Conducted mixed-methods analysis of economic, social, and institutional trust indicators (WVS data + qualitative fieldwork).
- Examined regional differences in civic and economic participation to understand labour-market and community dynamics in rural areas.
- Engaged community partners through consultations and interviews; prepared evidence-informed briefs supporting rural development discussions.

Principal Investigator · *Rezekne Academy of Technology (Latvia) & West Ukrainian National University* **2020–2021**

Gender Aspects of Digital Readiness in Education and Regional Labour Markets

- Led comparative international research on digital readiness, gender equity, and labour-market participation in Latvia and Ukraine.
- Designed mixed-methods methodology and coordinated a six-person, multi-country research team; engaged ministries, universities, and IT-sector employers.
- Published peer-reviewed findings; produced policy briefs informing inclusive digital-skills strategies; secured follow-on funding.

Visiting Scholar & Principal Investigator · *Ontario Tech University · EILAB, Faculty of Education, Canada* **2015–2016**

Collaborative Digital Learning and Culture Project

- Led mixed-methods study on digital competencies and cultural factors shaping technology adoption in Canada, Ukraine, and Georgia.
- Co-developed and piloted the Future-Oriented Learning Collaborative (FOLC) model.
- Published 4 peer-reviewed articles in high-impact journals; developed a validated digital-readiness instrument adopted by researchers in 3+ countries.

Research Leader & Government Advisor · *Research Institute, Ministry of Economic Development of Ukraine* **2003–2015**

- Led interdisciplinary research on structural economic change, labour economics, and social investment policy; supervised teams of 5–10 researchers.
- Developed and patented a methodology for analyzing structural economic transformations, adopted by regional governments.
- Provided policy advice to senior government officials; contributed recommendations that informed national labour-market and social-investment reforms.

Researcher · *Institute for Economic Forecasting, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine* **2007–2012**

- Conducted quantitative analysis of industrial shifts, demographic trends, and regional infrastructure investments using statistical and econometric methods.
- Co-authored comprehensive assessment methodology for structural shifts in regional economies, used in national mid-term development plans.

UNIVERSITY TEACHING & KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

Visiting Professor · *FH Potsdam (University of Applied Sciences), Germany* **2022**
Applications for Cultural Analysis in Economics, Business, and Education

Sessional/Visiting Faculty · *National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy & Kyiv-Mohyla Business School* **2018–2021**
Cultural Analysis of Economic Behavior; Organizational Learning and Business Culture

Visiting Scholar · *Ontario Tech University, Canada* **2015–2016**
Cultural Dimensions and Economic Strategies

Associate Professor · *Vadym Hetman Kyiv National Economic University, Ukraine* **2005–2016**
Microeconomics; Business Strategies; Corporate Planning & Control; Economic Research Methods

EXPERT EVALUATION & ADVISORY WORK

Evaluation Expert · *Goethe-Institut Ukraine · Creative Business Boost Program (EU-funded)* **2024**

- Evaluated 30+ project applications, producing rigorous assessment findings that directly informed program-level funding allocation totalling €500K+.
- Developed streamlined evaluation rubrics improving assessment consistency.

Evaluation Expert · *Goethe-Institut Ukraine · EU4Culture Program (EU-funded)* **2021–2023**

- Evaluated urban cultural development strategies and assessed socio-economic impact across 4 cities in Ukraine.
- Delivered 15+ comprehensive evaluation reports informing €2M+ in strategic investments and shaping program continuation decisions.
- Contributed to policy dialogue on culture-led urban development at municipal, national, and EU levels.

- Creative Industries Expert** · *Ukrainian Cultural Foundation*2018–2023
- Evaluated 200+ creative-industry projects across visual arts, performing arts, publishing, and digital creative sectors, contributing to evidence-based allocation of \$5M+ in funding.
 - Mentored 50+ creative entrepreneurs in project planning, evaluation, and impact measurement; developed innovative assessment frameworks adopted across diverse sectors.

- Mentor & Evaluator** · *Global Case Study Challenge, SIETAR-Europe (Austria/Spain)*2020–2022
- Mentored international student teams in Sustainable Business Solutions and Intercultural Communications.

RECOGNITION

- Top 20 Most Influential Scholars in Ukrainian Higher Education— Educational Policy Media, Ukraine — 2020
- University of Alberta Fellowship, Centre for Sustainable Rural Communities, Canada — 2023–2024
- Hanse-Wissenschaftskolleg Fellowship (HWK), Brain & Mind Programme, Germany — 2026–2027

METHODS, TOOLS & LANGUAGES

Research Methods	Mixed-methods research design; qualitative inquiry (interviews, focus groups, case studies); quantitative analysis (surveys, descriptive and comparative statistics); program and project evaluation; cross-cultural and comparative analysis. Economic analysis — structural and regional economic analysis; quantitative methods applied to industrial and labour-market research.
AI & LLM Tools	Claude, ChatGPT, Gemini for research synthesis, qualitative analysis, and content development; prompt engineering for structured outputs; integration of LLMs into professional training and evaluation workflows.
Data Sources	Statistics Canada (tables & microdata); Labour Force Survey; World Values Survey (WVS); OECD databases.
Platforms	MS Office Suite; Google Workspace; Zoom; MS Teams; Moodle; Google Forms; SurveyMonkey; EndNote.
Languages	English (fluent), Ukrainian (native), Russian (fluent).

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- Blayone, T. J., & Mykhailenko, O. (2025). *Using Digital Technologies for Indigenous Sociocultural Advancement in an Era of AI: A Systematic Critical Synthesis*. *Preservation, Digital Technology & Culture*.
- Byelikova, Y., & Mykhailenko, O. (2025). *Transforming Survivor Guilt into Social Activism: Ukrainian Women Refugees in Germany*. *Migration and Diversity*, 4(1), 21–35.
- Mykhailenko, O. (2025). *Culture as Strategy: An Analysis of Cultural and Creative Industries’ Impact on Post-Crisis Recovery of Countries*. *Innovative Entrepreneurship: Status and Development Prospects*, Kyiv, Ukraine.

- Mykhailenko, O., Blayone, T. J. B., Usca, S., Desyatnyuk, O., & Kvasovskyi, O. (2022). Optimism, Interest and Gender Equality: Comparing the Attitudes of University Students in Latvia and Ukraine Toward IT Learning and Work. *Compare: A Journal of Comparative and International Education*, 1–31.
- Zogla, I. (Ed.), Mykhailenko, O., et al. (2021). *Transformative Digital Learning: Emerging Cases and Considerations*. Monograph. Rezekne Academy of Technologies. ISBN 978-9984-44-264-8.
- Blayone, T. J. B., Mykhailenko, O., Usca, S., Abuze, A., Romanets, I., & Oleksiiv, M. (2020). Exploring Technology Attitudes and Personal–Cultural Orientations as Student Readiness Factors for Digitalised Work. *Higher Education, Skills and Work-Based Learning*, 11(3), 649–671.
- Blayone, T. J. B., Mykhailenko, O., Kokhan, M., Kavtaradze, M., vanOostveen, R., & Barber, W. (2018). Profiling the Digital Readiness of Higher Education Students for Transformative Online Learning in the Post-Soviet Nations of Georgia and Ukraine. *International Journal of Educational Technology in Higher Education*, 15(1), 1–22.
- Blayone, T. J. B., Mykhailenko, O., vanOostveen, R., Grebeshkov, O., Hrebeshkova, O., & Vostryakov, O. (2018). Surveying Digital Competencies of University Students and Professors in Ukraine for Fully Online Collaborative Learning. *Technology, Pedagogy and Education*, 27(3), 279–296.
- Blayone, T. J. B., Mykhailenko, O., vanOostveen, R., & Barber, W. (2018). Ready for Digital Learning? A Mixed-Methods Exploration of Surveyed Technology Competencies and Authentic Performance Activity. *Education and Information Technologies*, 23(3), 1377–1402.
- Mykhailenko, O. (Ed.), et al. (2016). *Business Strategies: Case Studies*. Kyiv: KNEU, Ukraine.
- Bernat, T., & Mykhailenko, O. (Eds.). (2015). *Microeconomic Background of Managerial Decisions: Case Study Collection*. Lancashire, UK.