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Dr Hanna Shelest is a Director of Security Studies and Global Outreach Programmes at the Foreign Policy Council “Ukrainian Prism” and Editor-in-chief at UA: Ukraine Analytica. Dr Shelest also is a non-resident senior fellow at CEPA (Washington, DC). Before this, she had served for more than ten years as a Senior Researcher at the National Institute for Strategic Studies under the President of Ukraine, Odesa Branch. In 2014, Dr Shelest was a Visiting Research Fellow at the NATO Defense College in Rome. She has experience in strategic communication and consultancy for government and business, as well as teaching at universities. Since 2006, Dr Shelest has been a guest lecturer for the Diplomatic Academy of Ukraine, George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies, Swedish Defence University, Ukrainian Catholic University, National Defence College of the UAE, etc. She is a regular presenter at international conferences and commenter for the international media.

Dr Shelest was an adviser of the Working Group preparing Ukrainian Navy Strategy 2035 and was involved in working groups developing the Foreign Policy Strategy of Ukraine, Asian Strategy for MFA, and Ukraine’s NATO Public Communication Strategy. She led different policy-related projects, among others: Scorecards of the Ukrainian Foreign Policy (2015-2022); Ukraine-NATO: Enhanced Level (2021-2022); The Hybrid War Decade: Lessons Learned to Move Forward Successfully (2019); Foreign Policy Recommendations for the Parliament of Ukraine (2017-2021).

Dr Shelest is a Rotary Peace Fellow 2010, Black Sea Young Reformer 2011, John Smith Fellow 2012, NDC PfP Research Fellow 2014, Marshall Memorial Fellow 2016, TUBITAK Research fellow 2018, Think Visegrad Fellow 2019, IWM Europe’s Future Fellow 2023/2024.



OLHA VOROZHBYT

Affiliated expert with the Foreign Policy Council “Ukrainian Prism”

Deputy editor-in-chief of “Ukrayinskyi Tyzhden”

Olha Vorozhbyt is an affiliated expert with the Foreign Policy Council “Ukrainian Prism”, visiting lecturer at Ukrainian Catholic University (Lviv, Ukraine), deputy editor-in-chief of “Ukrayinskyi Tyzhden” weekly magazine.

Since 2013, Olha has been working as a journalist and observer at Ukrainian and European media. In 2014 she cooperated with German ARD Channel as a local producer focusing on the MH17 crash investigation. In 2014-2021 she worked as a foreign desk observer for the Ukrainian weekly “Tyzhden”.

For over a decade Olha has been cooperating with the East European Development Institute, a non-governmental organization in Ukraine, where she focused on research of post-coloniality and the development of South Asian countries. Since 2018, she has been an affiliated expert with the Foreign Policy Council “Ukrainian Prism”, network-based non-governmental analytical center, where she focuses on the research of Ukrainian relations with the countries of South Asia.

Olha was a visiting scholar at Birmingham University, 2023 DW Media Forum Fellow. She is pursuing her PhD on Indian political parties at Ivan Franko Lviv National University.



MYKHAILO SAMUS
Director of the New Geopolitics Research Network

After more than 20 years in media as well as in security and defence analysis and consultancy, Mykhailo is an experienced researcher in the sphere of international relations, national resilience and new generation warfare. Served 12 years in the Ukrainian Armed Forces, he gained his Master's Degree in International Journalism from the Institute of Journalism, Kyiv Shevchenko National University (2007). Having started his career as a journalist at Defense Express, he became the Editor-in-Chief of the Export Control Newsletter magazine, and then the Deputy Director of the Center for Army, Conversion and Disarmament Studies.

He was the founder (2009) of the EU CACDS office in Prague (Czech Republic), and was responsible for the coordination of CACDS international activities, its regional sections, and projects with NATO and the EU. Mykhailo also was the member of the editorial board of the CACDS Analytical Bulletin Challenges and Risks.

Now Mykhailo is a chief and one of the drivers of the fresh international project – The New Geopolitics Research Network which is an independent and nonpartisan initiative to provide a think tank platform for researchers, academics, experts, journalists, intellectuals who aspire to shape a new facets of geopolitics.



NATALIYA BUTYRSKA

journalist, expert of the Asia-Pacific

Nataliya Butyrska is the author of more than 100 analytical articles, researches on the issues of international relations with a special focus on the Asia-Pacific region. The areas of professional interest are international relation, geopolitics, impact of the Russian- Ukrainian war on the Ukraine's relations with Asian countries, geopolitical problems of the Asia-Pacific, China's regional and global influence.

Nataliya Butyrska has been actively collaborating with the analytical centers such as the Foreign Policy council “Ukrainian Prism” (Ukraine), New Europe (Ukraine), Observer Research Foundation (India), Prospect Foundation (Taiwan), COICE (Czech Republic). She also worked with the Expert Council of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the development of the Asian Strategy of Ukraine.

The expert has been cooperating with the newspaper The Mirror of the Week, The Ukrainian Pravda, The Ukrainian Week, The Deutsche Welle, The Associated press, the radio program The Ukrainian Radio, The Radio NV, The Radio Svoboda, TV channels of Freedom, Kyiv, ICTV, STB, Ukrlive, Belcat, BBC.

Natalia is a regular presenter at the round tables, conferences and discussions of the international issues in the National Institute for Strategic Studies (Kyiv, Ukraine), Diplomatic Academy of Ukraine (Kyiv, Ukraine), Kyiv National Taras Shevchenko University (Ukraine), Ukrainian Catholic University (Lviv, Ukraine), Government College University Hyderabad (Hyderabad, Pakistan), Institute of Social Sciences (New Delhi, India), Tillotoma Foundation (India) etc.