

Zoya Slavina

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*Interdisciplinary researcher bridging international relations, sociology of technology, and human-computer interaction. Specialized in **observing real-world AI system behavior, analyzing societal impacts through empirical research, and designing evaluation frameworks** that close the loop between expected deployment and actual social impact. Experienced in translating complex technical concepts for policy, business, and general audiences.*

Education

PhD in International Relations ***Accomplishing...**

Expected 2029

University of Białystok, Poland

2025–Present

Research Focus: AI agents in international relations; minimal state capacity for becoming "The Agentic State"; US-EU-China technology rivalry and AI governance frameworks

MA in Cultural Studies **(Cum Laude)**

2025

University of Białystok, Poland, specialization in Digital Media and Communication

2023–2025

Thesis: Culture of Collaboration and Co-Creative Practices on the Example of Mixed-Initiative Co-Creative AI Drawing Technology

Analyzed human-AI creative collaboration (partnership) through art therapy (process over outcome) and HCI frameworks, quantifying cognitive states during interaction with AI systems to examine usage patterns and occurring processes during development of shared creative product in non-high stakes domains

MA in International Relations **(Cum Laude)**

2025

University of Białystok, Poland, specialization in International Analytics

2023–2025

Thesis: AI and Cybersecurity Policymaking: Challenges and Perspectives for Poland and Estonia within the EU Digital Transformation Strategy

Comparative policy analysis of national AI strategies within supranational governance frameworks. Examining of AI standards development and innovation governance

BA in Philosophy & Ethics **(Final Grade: Excellent)**

2023

University of Białystok, Poland

2020–2023

Thesis: AI Ethics: Chosen Challenges for Contemporary Societies and Technological Policymaking

Early work on AI ethics frameworks (2023, pre-ChatGPT mainstream adoption) with focus on accountability, bias identification and classification, and behavioral forecasting. Philosophy and sociology of technology

BA in Crossmedia for Film & Television **(Cum Laude)**

2022

Tallinn University, Baltic Film & Media School

2019–2022

Thesis: Transmedia Storytelling: Structure, Audiences and Social Change

Focus: audience engagement, gamification, multimodal content design

Professional Experience

Rector's Representative for Internationalization

Oct 2025–Present

University of Białystok

Białystok, Poland

- Support functioning of Rector's Commission for Internationalization; represent university at international events and partnerships. Bridge institutional strategy with international stakeholder
- Lead Polonia USA Summer Camp project to attract US Polonia students to Poland for cultural reconnection and study opportunities

Lecturer, Department of International Relations

Oct 2025–Present

University of Białystok

Białystok, Poland

- Teach BA and MA courses on international relations, technology governance, and policy analysis; Including designing and teaching a course "**Emergent Disruptive Technologies in International Relations**" (MA level, taught in English)
- Develop curriculum translating complex AI/ML concepts for non-technical IR students; create evaluation frameworks for student understanding of technology policy

AI Ethics Researcher & Technical Copywriter

Stratyfy Inc. (New York, USA)

Oct 2023–Dec 2025

Remote, Part-time

- Ghostwriter and researcher for technical analyses on AI ethics, algorithmic accountability, and emerging technologies for executive and business audiences in fintech industry
- Translated complex technical and regulatory concepts into accessible content for business stakeholders in research and marketing materials as well as (technical) internal documentation
- Co-developed evaluation frameworks for assessing AI system impacts, explainability challenges, and operational risks in financial services

Guest Lecturer, AI Ethics in Synthetic Media Production

AI Atelier x Industry & Danish Film School

Jan–Feb 2025

Tallinn & Copenhagen, Remote

- Designed and delivered lectures on AI ethics in synthetic media (voice cloning, deepfakes) for industry professionals
- Presented actionable evaluation frameworks and ethical checklists for industry application
- Facilitated discussions on responsible implementation in media production workflows and initiated test project developmets

Research & Publications Highlights

Academic Publications

- **Slavina, Z.** (2025). "AI as a Political Artefact: Technological Mediation in Constructivist International Relations." *Studies in Logic, Grammar and Rhetorics*. Białystok, Poland.
- **Slavina, Z.** (2025). "Toward Ethical AI: Addressing Bias, Privacy, and Accountability in Data-Driven Systems." *Świat Idei i Polityki (World of Ideas and Politics)*. Bydgoszcz, Poland.

Technical Writing

- **Slavina, Z.** (2024). "The Illusion of Explanation: Empowering Human-in-the-Loop." Stratyfy Inc.
- **Slavina, Z.** (2024). "Leveraging Knowledge Synergy for Enhanced Decision-Making in Finance." Stratyfy Inc.
- **Cummings, M., & Slavina, Z.** (2024). "Generative AI Operational Risks." *Pipeline Publishing*.

Ongoing Research Projects

- **Quantification of Human-AI Co-Creativity:** Analyzing and advancing frameworks for quantifying mixed-initiative co-creativity in human-AI collaborations with transferable frameworks
- **Closing the AI Capabilities Overhang Gap:** Examines underutilization of AI capabilities by identifying cognitive, design, and organizational barriers; developing interventions across personal and institutional contexts

Skills

Research & Analytical Methods: Observational research, behavioral pattern analysis, qualitative & empirical methods, evaluation framework design, interdisciplinary synthesis, policy analysis, comparative governance analysis

Technical & Domain:

Technical: Python (developing), Claude API, HTML/CSS and web development, data analysis fundamentals, L^AT_EX, basic statistics, Claude Code & Cursor (*recently acquired*), Adobe Photoshop/Illustrator

Domain: AI ethics & governance, Emergent Disruptive Technologies, HCI/Human-AI Interaction, sociology of technology, algorithmic accountability, explainability (XAI), AI and cybersecurity policy, EU digital regulation

Communication: Technical writing for diverse audiences, translating ML/AI concepts for non-technical stakeholders, curriculum design, public speaking, stakeholder engagement

Languages: English (fluent), Polish (fluent), Russian (fluent), Estonian (intermediate), Italian (basic), Ukrainian & Belarusian (fluent passive understanding—reading/listening, developing speaking)

Selected Presentations & Leadership

Asilomar Microcomputer Workshop Conference

2023, 2024, 2025

Invited participant and speaker on AI ethics and policymaking (2023), challenges of RL in international conflict escalation (2024), and AI MICI in Human-AI collaboration (2025). 2024: scholarship recipient for in-person attendance

Female Leaders in Parliament Program (Liderki w Senacie)

2025

Prepared briefing report on AI accountability and human rights for Polish Ministry of Justice; participated in Senate roundtables and ministerial briefings

References available upon request

Portfolio and projects: zoyaslavina.com