

Exchange Talks

Plenary Session 1 *Role of International Education for Ukrainians and Ukraine*

Yana Chapailo, Fulbright International Student Program alumna, recently graduated from the University of Maryland College Park, obtaining a Master's Degree in International Education Policy (2021-2023).



Yana has previous experience in international development: in 2015-2021, she worked as a Program Coordinator on the American Councils for International Education's programming to support higher education reform in Ukraine. Yana also has an MA in Literature and BA in Philology from the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy.

Her interests include international development, global challenges in education and public policy, women's rights, and inclusion. Currently, Yana Chapailo works as Capacity Development Officer at Pact World (Ukraine Office) on USAID Public Health System Recovery & Resilience Program.

Anne Chermak Dillen is Co-Director, Dillen Associates, LLC, specializing in strategic communications, public relations, and marketing consulting.

Anne has a 34-year career as a Foreign Service Officer with the U.S. State Department and U.S. Information Agency, serving six presidents and attaining the rank of Minister Counselor, the civilian equivalent of a two-star general.



Post-Foreign Service, Anne has focused her efforts on Ukraine's democratic development by organizing women's leadership projects and supporting Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU). She is the Founder and Chair of San Francisco Friends of UCU. She serves on the Board of Directors of the Ukrainian Catholic University Foundation, a registered non-profit fundraising organization in the U.S.

In 2018, Anne created and taught a Global Issues in Public Diplomacy and Public Affairs course in UCU's Masters Program in Media Communications. She was a 2021-2022 Fulbright Scholar in Ukraine, lecturing on public diplomacy and strategic communications at Ukraine's Diplomatic Academy in Kyiv.

Aaron M. Kennet is a researcher, translator, teacher, and immigration advocate with a focus on Eurasia. Aaron currently works at Connexi, a Chemonics International company, where he supports the business development of Global Health, Supply Chain, and Logistics programs for both public and private sector donors. Aaron previously worked at DAI Global, where he supported proposal development, writing, and management for Economic Growth opportunities for USAID, and provided cross-cutting technical support to DAI's Ukraine portfolio including in decentralization, resilience, and cybersecurity. Aaron has extensive working experience in Georgia, Ukraine, the Russian Federation, Israel, Kazakhstan, and Peru. He is a proud Fulbright Ukraine alum, and is proud to regularly represent Sumy!



Darya Levchenko is a festival programmer, film researcher, cultural manager, and translator. She is the program coordinator of Docudays UA International Human Rights Documentary Film Festival in Kyiv, Ukraine. She is also curating a 2023 New Talents program for the PÖFF Shorts section of Estonia's Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival. Darya works on several book translation projects in parallel and coordinates cultural diplomacy, humanitarian aid, and international cooperation projects in Ukraine. Her main concern now is preserving Ukraine's creative economy during the full-scale Russian invasion and facilitating her country's participation in international film distribution.



Liz Shchepetylnykova is a PhD Candidate at the Faculty of Education, The University of Hong Kong. Her research focuses on the transformations in the academic profession, including the impact of globalization, internationalization, and de-Sovietization on research practices, scholarly identities, and agency in Ukraine. Ielyzaveta served as a launch manager at the Alliance of Ukrainian Universities enabling partnerships between higher education institutions in Ukraine and the United States. Previously, she was a Fulbright scholar at the George Washington University, USA, researching issues in international higher education.



Plenary Session 2 *The Year of Ambassadorship for Ukraine and What is Next*



Olena Bidovanets, MD, MPH (in Global Health at the University of Washington, Seattle, WA), Fulbright Scholar (2021-2023), currently interns at the Boulder Crest Foundation as part of the MUSKIE program.



Diana Butsko is a Ukrainian journalist and political scientist. She was Fulbright Graduate Student Program alumna (2020-2022). In 2022, she got Master of Political Science Degree at the Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

Diana has worked for prominent Ukrainian media: The Day, Hromadske Radio, LB.ua. Now she works for Hromadske, reporting from the frontline and releasing video stories about the war against Ukraine.



Nataliia Kalmykova, CEO of the Ukrainian Veterans Foundation of the Ministry of Veterans Affairs of Ukraine. She was a Fulbright Research and development program participant in 2023 at University at Buffalo NY.

Nataliia has previously worked as a gender adviser to the Land Forces Commander and Deputy director of ICF Come Back Alive.



Olena Sadovnik is a Communications Specialist. She completed MA studies in Communications at St Rose College in Albany, NY, Fulbright Alumna 2014. Upon her return to Ukraine, she joined Danish Demining Group in Severodonetsk, Luhansk region, where she helped launch the first Mine Risk Education campaign in Ukraine in a framework of UNICEF project. Afterwards Olena helped independent media with fundraising and international projects.

Currently Olena works as a Career Practitioner at the Centre for Newcomers in Calgary, Alberta province, Canada, helping Ukrainian refugees finding their first job.



Mariia Tkach is a GDAS Cohort I Alumna. Currently, Mariia is a senior Business Economics major student at the College of Wooster. She is from the northern Ukrainian town of Horodnia, located in the Chernihiv region. She is a cultural Ambassador and a finalist of the Future Leaders Exchange Program (FLEX). In 2022, Mariia became a recipient of Global Democracy Ambassador Scholarship. Currently, she is taking the lead in a project alongside an American dairy farmer. In her role, she not only manages the project's activities but also plays a significant part in overseeing and organizing the funds that are integral to supporting both Ukrainian individuals residing in the US and those within Ukraine itself. The ultimate aim of her project is to lay the foundation for a non-profit organization that will extend its assistance for Ukraine.



Anastasiia Mishanchuk is a GDAS Cohort II Alumna. She did her scholarship at Michigan State University. Now Anastasiia is the Head of PR-department of the Youth Council under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, and works as SMM-manager at the youth network "aWARE Zone".



Anastasiia Starchenko is a GDAS Cohort II Alumna. She did her GDAS program at the University of Maine. Anastasiia is a fourth-year journalism student at the Educational and Scientific Institute of Journalism of Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv.

She comes from Volnovakha, Donetsk region. Anastasiia is a volunteer for International Assistance Headquarters for Ukrainians and the cultural, and historical project R.I.D. She also presented her hometown in the Ukrainian Parliament.

Anastasiia is fond of writing, crafts, and design. Her goal is to contribute to the development of Ukraine's media system and spread knowledge about media literacy.