

# Valeriya Zherebtsova

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## EDUCATION

### Columbia University, Columbia College

Bachelor of Arts: Cognitive Science (Neuroeconomics), Applied Mathematics, **GPA: 4.07 / 4.0**  
SAT: 1560 / 1600 (800 M, 760 R & W) – 99th Percentile, **TOEFL: 110 / 120**

Expected Graduation: May 2027

New York, NY

**Honors:** Dean's List all eligible semesters, Laidlaw Scholar

**Relevant Coursework:** Game Theory, Inside the Situation Room (taught by Hillary Clinton), Thinking & Decision Making, Statistics, Probability & Decision Theory, Analysis & Optimization, Introduction to Cognitive Science & Neuroscience, Economics, Physics

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE & PROJECTS

### Nuclear Age Peace Foundation (NAPF)

March 2025 – August 2025

*Intern* New York, NY

- Served as a youth delegate at the *Third Meeting of States Parties to the TPNW and 2025 NPT PrepCom* at the United Nations
- Coordinated side events, documented the meetings, and authored reports on key discussions for *NPT News in Review*
- Participated as a panelist speaker at *Choose Hope Symposium* (Hiroshima), organized Sadako Peace Day & delivered remarks
- Partnered with Santa Barbara City Council to draft and advocate for a city resolution supporting nuclear disarmament

### Harmens Group

May 2025 – July 2025

*Business Strategy Intern*

Moscow, Russia

- Conducted market research and competitor analysis in the Russian packaging industry (plastic bags segment)
- Interviewed industry professionals to gather actionable insights on trends and challenges in the recycled polymers market
- Completed professional training in recycled polymers with a focus on recycling technologies and industry-specific legislation

### Online Calculus course development

March 2022 – Present

*Independent project, Adviser: Michael Justin Lee*

Remote

- Developed the program of the Calculus course and created 15 video lectures on various topics
- Recorded, edited, and posted the lectures on YouTube, where they received 4000+ views in total
- Provided support and answered questions that students had after watching the lectures

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

### Columbia University Physics Department, K=1 project

April 2024 – March 2025

*Researcher, Laidlaw Scholar, Mentor: Dr. Emlyn Willard Hughes*

New York, NY

- Analyzed governmental reports and research papers about the impact of nuclear weapon testing in the Pacific Islands
- Engaged in negotiations on nuclear disarmament with officials from Kazakhstan's UN Mission and Kiribati's U.S. Embassy
- Operated the drone and created 3D landscape models to measure land elevation
- Presented the research at the Undergraduate Research Symposium and the North American Conference

## LEADERSHIP & EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

### Reverse The Trend

September 2025 – Present

*Member & Co-founder*

- *National Outreach:* engage with U.S. Congressional representatives to advocate for legislative action on nuclear legacy issues
- *Fundraising:* design and implement fundraising strategies, manage donor relations, organize benefit events
- *Events Planning & Coordination:* increase academic and youth engagement, form relationships with clubs and chapters, and deepen political education on disarmament and justice

### Columbia AI Alignment Club

September 2025 – Present

*Policy and Governance Fellow*

- Participated in a weekly seminar on foundational policy and governance issues posed by the development of advanced AI systems

### Columbia University

September 2025 – Present

*Teaching Assistant*

- Hold weekly office hours, grade assignments, and answer student and instructor inquiries

## SKILLS AND INTERESTS

### Student clubs

Reverse The Trend Chapter (co-founder), Columbia Republicans (member), BridgeUSA (member)

### Technical

Python, C++, Java, VSDC Video Editor, Microsoft Excel, PowerPoint, Word, Grata (deal sourcing), Mapping Software (DroneDeploy, DJI GO 4), LaTeX

### Languages

Russian (native), English (fluent), French (basic)

### Interests

Behavioral Economics, Nuclear Disarmament, Crisis Decision-Making