

Valeriya Zherebtsova

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EDUCATION

Columbia University, Columbia College

Expected Graduation: May 2027

Bachelor of Arts: Cognitive Science (Neuroeconomics), Applied Mathematics, **GPA: 4.07 / 4.0**

New York, NY

SAT: 1560 / 1600 (800 M, 760 R & W) – 99th Percentile, **TOEFL:** 110 / 120

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