Cover Letter

Dear Selection Committee,

With this cover letter I would like to express my keen interest in participating in the upcoming NBER Innovation Research Boot Camp (11-17 July, 2025). With over 15 years of experience at the nexus of academia and policy making, I focus on science of science, economics of innovation and science, and resilience studies, which I am eager to enhance once accepted to attend your esteemed event.

I am currently enrolled as a doctoral student at Karazin Business School (Kharkiv, Ukraine) and Monarch Business School (Switzerland). Being displaced from Ukraine because of the war, I conduct my research based at Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition (Munich, Germany) as an external student in Prof. Dietmar Harhoff's department. Previously, I received an MPhil in Business Research from Monarch Business School (Switzerland) and degrees in Management from NTUU "Kyiv Polytechnic Institute" (Ukraine), with honours. These foundations have supported me in serving in such organizations as NTUU "Kyiv Polytechnic Institute", National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine, Humboldt University Berlin, Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, UNIDO and UNECE, Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, GIZ, and projects within the 7th Framework Program, Horizon 2020 and Horizon Europe, among many others. I have also served as an expert contributor to Ukraine's Law on Innovation Development within the working group of the Cabinet of Ministers and Ukraine Recovery Conference 2022 Lugano Report development; and, as panelist and expert on Ukrainian science at such events as those organized by Scholars At Risk, ZOiS, ifoINSTITUTE, BAMF, BMBF, etc. Throughout my studies and career, I have also received a number of awards and scholarships, including such as full state scholarships for my bachelor's and master's studies in Ukraine, ACBSP Student Leadership Award, The Marketing Trust Bursaries (UK) to attend BAM Conferences, and the Erasmus Mundus MSPME Consortium Scholarship. These are listed to reflect my commitment to academic excellence and my passion for research. I actively engage with global scientific and cultural communities, including AoM, BAM, CINet, learning at Harvard Business School (scoring 100/100) and IMTA by CEEMAN, while maintaining strong ties to Ukraine and supporting the quality change there.

I am particularly drawn to this opportunity to participate in the boot camp, as it will help boost my level of expertise to pursue my ongoing efforts to bridge science, innovation, and resilience with policymaking in ways that promote regional prosperity in Ukraine. While I am eager to learn from the knowledge frontier leaders attending the lectures of Pierre Azoulay, Ina Ganguli, Kevin Bryan, Ben Jones, Heidi Williams and John Van Reenen, among other stellar scholars, I am also looking forward to share my interdisciplinary expertise and global perspective to contribute meaningfully to the discussions and objectives of the boot camp.

With this, I am attaching my essay (research agenda overview) along with the list of completed courses to support my application. And, as requested, I am happy to share that Prof. Dr. Igor Yegorov[1], who is well-versed in my academic and professional accomplishments over the span of the past 10 years, is ready to provide a recommendation letter to support my application. He can be contacted via phone: +380 68 353 21 02 or email: igor_yegorov1@ukr.net

[1] Sc.D. in Economics, Deputy Director of the Institute for Economics and Forecasting of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine and Professor at the Faculty of Economics at the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv. He is currently serving as an expert of the European Commission Enhance Innovation Strategies project, Policies and Regulation in Ukraine. As well as, he is an expert of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and the consultant (expert) of the UNESCO Institute for Statistics. Dr Yegorov is also a member of the European Association for Evolutionary Political Economy and the European Association for the Study of Science and Technology.

Thank you for considering my application. I look forward to the possibility of contributing to and learning from this esteemed gathering. In the meantime, if there is any information required from my side, please do not hesitate to contact me at anastasiia.a.lutsenko@gmail.com or anastasiia.lutsenko@ip.mpg.de. I will gladly provide.

Yours sincerely,
Anastasiia Lutsenko, M.Phil., M.Sc.
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Resilience Under Fire: Investigating Ukrainian Science in Wartime

Essay
Research Projects Overview

Wars disrupt scientific endeavors, revealing systemic governance challenges in maintaining research funding, infrastructure, and collaborative networks amidst operational discontinuities. (Waldinger, 2016; Baruffaldi and Gaessler, 2021, Ganguli and Waldinger, 2023) However, history also demonstrates that such crises often serve as catalysts for innovation, highlighting the responsibility of science systems to address immediate challenges while contributing to sustainable societal development. Scientists represent a primary source of knowledge, and as such, understanding how they face the challenges (de Rassenfosse et al., 2023), adapt and endure under the pressures of war is essential for developing ethical strategies to sustain and potentially strengthen research capabilities. My doctoral research focuses on the resilience of the Ukrainian state science system under the ongoing war and its implications for governance and policy. In particular, I explore two aspects of the war explained below:

1) Quantitative Aspect: I explore how the bombardment of critical energy infrastructure (CEIBs) impacts the productivity of Ukrainian scientists, leveraging data from the UAScience.Reload survey and official CEIB records (from the General Prosecutor Office of Ukraine). By employing a Propensity Score Matching (PSM) and Linear Probability Model in a Difference-in-Differences approach, my research aims to provide empirical insights into the disruptions faced by researchers. This analysis is crucial in identifying adaptive governance strategies that can sustain scientific productivity amid crises given the heterogeneous nature of the conditions in which the researchers are facing across different regions in Ukraine.
2) Qualitative Aspect: I explore what factors explain the resilience of the state science system of Ukraine. Here, I conduct in-depth interviews with the key system stakeholders (from diverse geographies within Ukraine, domains, age groups, job positions and types of institutions) and employ NLP (specifically, topic modelling and thematic analysis) to explore the concept of resilience in the context of the current war in Ukraine mentioned above.[2] This is designed to provide the evidence for better crisis management decisions to be made in times of adversities.

Beyond wartime resilience of state science systems, my research also extends to the integration of the Ukrainian science system within the European Union framework. The inclusion of Ukrainian researchers in EU-funded programs offers a dual opportunity: enriching the EU's research landscape while fostering regional stability and development. However, challenges such as the lack of evaluation mechanisms and proper oversight of EU funds necessitate a systematic assessment of the impact of such investments. To address this, I utilize data from the Ukrainian National Repository of Academic Texts (NRAT), Scopus, and CORDIS to conduct a staggered Difference-in-Differences analysis. This approach enables an empirical evaluation of how EU funding affects the quality of research output in Ukraine, thereby informing the policy development process for effective scientific integration.[3] And, along with this and serving the same purpose, together with colleagues from MPI for Innovation and Competition, we are working on the collected edition titled "Ukrainian Science in Times of War and Post-War Recovery: Economic and Legal Aspects" that is to be published with MPI Studies on Intellectual Property and Competition Law.

And, in developing this research agenda, the opportunity to attend the boot camp will offer me an invaluable opportunity to refine my methodological approaches and learn from stellar scholars who share an interest in science and innovation governance. Moreover, the interdisciplinary nature of the

[2] These two research topics are being developed with the support from the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine at Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition (Munich).
[3] This project is conducted within the support of the team from the European Commission.

boot camp will provide me with critical insights into the intersection of policy, ethics, and scientific productivity, enhancing the broader impact of my work back in Ukraine. Additionally, networking with leading experts will facilitate collaborations that can further my research agenda and contribute to actionable policy recommendations. Ultimately, participation in this program will not only strengthen my academic foundation but also empower me to contribute meaningfully to the discourse on resilience and scientific governance in conflict-affected regions.

List of courses	
Year	**Course**
2024	Research Integrity Course at Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition (Max Academy)
2024	BSE Summer School: Difference-in-Differences with Panel Data with Jeffrey Wooldridge
2024	Paris School of Economics: Microeconometrics and Policy Evaluation
2023	Natural Language Processing with Python (at Max Planck Institute for Innovation and Competition) with Dr. Christian Fons-Rosen
2023	Data Science: Visualization (HarvardX PH125.2x)
2023	Introduction to Data Science with Python (HarvardX CS109x)
2023	Higher Education Teaching Certificate at Harvard Derek Bok Centre For Teaching and Learning, Harvard Business School (Score 100/100)
2017-2022	GESIS Summer School Courses: 1. Causal Data Science with Directed Acyclic Graphs (DAGs) 2. Assuring Measurement Quality
2015-2024	Continuous Innovation Network Multiple Doctoral Workshops
2019	International Management Teaching Academy (by CEEMAN) with Prof. JB Kassarjian, Harvard Business School (Track: Leading Change)
2017	Quantitative Analysis with SPSS, NAS of Ukraine (Institute for Sociology)
Other Prior Courses and Training	
2005-2025	1. Mathematics, Econometrics, Economics, Management, Statistics as a part of bachelor and master programs at NTUU "KPI" in Ukraine. 2. CINet Conference: Multiple Doctoral Workshops (with ECTS credits awarded) 3. Monarch Business School: Multiple Doctoral Workshop (with ECTS credits awarded), within Doctoral Track[4], Business Research Methods (Qualitative and Quantitative Tracks). 4. British Academy of Management Writing Workshops (twice), incl. Case Study Method Training from The Case Centre 5. Continuous Innovation Network Reviewing Workshop (on peer review excellence) – currently enrolled
Current Doctoral Courses (be finished before the boot camp start date)	
Feb'25-May'25	Investment Management (Karazin Business School, Ukraine) Project and Program Management (Karazin Business School, Ukraine)

[4] My first doctoral track was interrupted by cancer treatment that I had to get in 2021.

Notes: