

“Ukrainian Lessons” Panel Discussion- Biographies

Natalie Gryvnyak is an experienced journalist and media producer in Ukraine, contributing to top international media, like The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, and others. As the founder of InFeatures Story Production, which creates multimedia content and promotes topics to international audiences related to Ukraine and Eastern Europe, she is the creator and producer of numerous multimedia projects, media trainings, documentaries, and the organizer of a network of media and communication professionals throughout Ukraine and Eastern Europe. Her initiative researched feature stories related to the region and prepared news analysis and safety consultations, working with topics related to new media, disinformation, and various formats of storytelling. She is also a member of the international community of digital specialists, Digital Communication Network, and a consultant for the Committee of Journalist Protection (CPJ). She has over 16 years of experience in communications, business management, and journalism.

Peter Pomerantsev is the award-winning author of *Nothing is True and Everything is Possible: Adventures in Modern Russia*, and *This is Not Propaganda: Adventures in the War Against Reality*. He is a Senior Fellow at Johns Hopkins University, where he directs the Arena Program, a research initiative that explores contemporary propaganda and what to do about it. He has testified on the subject of information war to the Senate, Congress, and UK Parliament, and he was a Specialist Advisor on the UK Parliamentary Committee on Disinformation.

Yuriy Yevhenovych Butusov is a Ukrainian journalist and the chief editor (and creator) of the most popular Ukrainian news and socio-political Internet portal, Censor.NET. He is also a columnist for the Dzerkalo Tyzhnia newspaper and works on the front line. Butusov reports on incisive social topics and conducts journalistic research. He has exposed many corruption cases and other crimes committed by the power elite, and he currently covers the situation in Ukraine, namely Russia’s aggression and the military activities in Donbas.

Stas Kozljuk is a reporter and photojournalist, working on the front line for Tyzhden magazine (Ukraine). He is also a member of the expert council, the Institute of Mass Information (IMI).

Vitalii Rybak is a chief analyst at Internews Ukraine and leads the organization’s countering disinformation efforts. He is working on projects funded by the European Union, USAID and International Renaissance Foundation for Internews Ukraine, and previously, he worked for The Ukrainian Week, one of the biggest and most influential weekly magazines in Ukraine. Rybak holds a Master degree in German and European Studies from the National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy and the Friedrich Schiller University of Jena.

Mykhalio Makaruk is a speaker from the InformNapalm volunteer initiative, which emerged as a response to the Russian aggression in Ukraine in March 2014. InformNapalm was started by journalist, Roman Burko (Ukraine), and military expert, Irakli Komaxidze (Georgia). Now, it unites the efforts of more than 30 volunteers from over 10 countries.