

# PICAIS ALUMNI TALKS



29 OCTOBER 2026



15:00 – 17:00 CET



ONLINE (ZOOM)

**PUBLIC EVENT\***

Join our distinguished PICAIS alumni for a live webinar where they share insights, stories, and inspiration from their past research projects.



**Dr. Tariq Daradkeh**  
(Yarmouk University, Jordan)

*Human Digital Twins: Digital transformation using generative agentic AI for students class*



**Prof. Dr. Lorely French**  
(Pacific University, USA)

*Dreams, Hopes, and Utopias in Literature, Writings, Film, and Art by Roma and Sinti in Europe*



**Dr. Olena Melnykova-Kurhanova**  
(Mariupol State University, Ukraine)

*The key features of counter-propaganda in the frontline territory of Ukraine*

**\*Registration via email ([picaiss-office@uni-passau.de](mailto:picaiss-office@uni-passau.de)) required to receive the Zoom link**



## **Dr. Tariq Daradkeh (Yarmouk University, Jordan)**

PICAIS Research Project:  
*AI Enabled Digital Twins for IoT Management and Digitalisation*

Research period: Jun 22 – Sept 27, 2026

### **Abstract**

## **Human Digital Twins: Digital transformation using generative agentic AI for students class**

Human actions and behavior digital modeling can be used to serve multiple purposes, including improving quality of life and supporting applications such as city management, marketing, and industrial optimization. Using digital twins powered by Agentic and Generative AI, particularly through Large Language Models (LLMs), makes such modeling feasible.

The contribution of this work is to model human behavior in a classroom setting, where measuring students' performance through evaluation of course learning outcome (CLO) achievement is crucial. This approach allows instructors to identify weak points and target specific learning aspects to enhance student learning quality.

One challenge is that course exit surveys are often incomplete: not all students participate, some select random responses, and others may not provide their true opinions. In this work, we leverage a Human Digital Twin model using Agentic and Generative AI to predict group-level student survey responses. This prediction closely maps actual student performance and helps identify weaknesses in learning outcomes, enabling targeted improvements.



**Prof. Dr. Lorely French  
(Pacific University, USA)**

PICAIS Research Project:

*Dreams, Hopes, and Utopias in Literature, Writings, Film,  
and Art by Roma and Sinti in Europe*

Research period: Oct 1, 2025 – March 31, 2026

**Abstract**

With over 10 million people in Europe, Roma and Sinti constitute Europe's largest ethnic minority. Yet the widespread perception of predominantly oral cultures has contributed to the stereotype that Romani communities have produced few written or visual works of artistic significance.

This talk presents a PICAIS-supported project as an example of how research and public engagement can challenge this stereotype. A series of events in March 2026 brought together researchers, artists, and Roma and Sinti organizations to explore and showcase Romani literature, art, and film. The programme included an exhibition and workshop on the work of Austrian Romni artist and writer Ceija Stojka, an international scholarly colloquium, and a performance by French Romani musician and author Miguel Haler and his family.

Particular attention will be given to the opportunities and challenges of combining academic research, artistic perspectives, and public engagement.

The talk will also reflect on the role of the PICAIS fellowship in supporting the research and organization of the events and their contribution to greater awareness of Romani cultural diversity and anti-Roma discrimination.



## **Dr. Olena Melnykova-Kurhanova (Mariupol State University, Ukraine)**

PICAIS Research Project:

*Public Communication in a City under Attack: Russia's  
Informational Influence on the Citizens of Mariupol*

Research period: Oct 1, 2022 – March 31, 2023;  
Oct 1, 2023 – March 31, 2024

### **Abstract**

## **The key features of counter-propaganda in the frontline territory of Ukraine**

The talk examines the key features of counter-propaganda in Ukraine's frontline territories, focusing on how Ukrainian journalists respond to Russian propaganda and disinformation under conditions of shelling, power outages, signal disruption, and limited communication.

Drawing on qualitative interviews with journalists working in frontline areas and an analysis of media and social media materials, the study explores how journalistic practices have changed since Russia's full-scale invasion.

The findings show how journalists established Telegram channels and local news networks, produced and distributed print media under difficult conditions, and developed alternative means of communication and power supply. These adaptations highlight the changing professional role of journalists, who have become both key actors in countering disinformation and targets of Russian warfare.