Nikola Koutna is a tenure-track Assist. Prof. at TU Wien, Austria, and leads the Computational Materials Design group. She got her PhD from TU Wien (2021) and has a postdoc experience at the Linköping University, Sweden, with which she maintains an ongoing collaboration. Her research focuses on atomistic simulation and machine-learning interatomic potentials for ceramics, developing bottom-up design guidelines for durable and sustainable engineering materials based on atomic- and nanoscale understanding of the phase stability, crystallographic defects, and mechanical response. She bridges computational and experimental workflows through close collaboration with experimental groups. Nikola has published over 50 peer-reviewed papers and secured more than €1 million in competitive grant funding.