

# “Human Dignity“ – The Socio-Ethical Challenge of the “Revolution of Dignity”

**International Conference at the Kyivan Sophia National Historical and Cultural Reserve, organised by**

- ▶ Centre for East European and International Studies (ZOiS)
- ▶ National University “Kyiv-Mohyla Academy” (NaUKMA)
- ▶ Konrad Adenauer Foundation Ukraine
- ▶ Open Orthodox University of Saint Sophia the Wisdom

▶ Human dignity became one of the key topics of the protests in Ukraine in 2013-2014 – the so-called “Euromaidan”. Since then, society and politics in Ukraine underwent remarkable changes, including a war in Eastern Ukraine, the annexation of Crimea by Russia, about a Million internal displaced persons, the appearance of the new autocephalous Orthodox Church and the formation of a new political elite. The issue of human dignity remained a measure for political and social activities during these five years after the Maidan, contesting notions of dignity shaped by the Soviet past and by a secular and liberal Western Europe.

The Christian churches claim to have a unique understanding of human dignity, which shall shape societies and cultures growing on Christian roots. Yet, human dignity is also a contested issue within the churches and in the ecumenical relations – in Ukraine as well as in other societies. The conference aims to explore this current discourse on human dignity within Christian theology and its implications for particular challenges in the socio-ethical sphere, such as peace, education, economics, culture, media and church structures.

## Programme

**31 October 2019**

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**9.30 am**

### **Welcome**

Andriy Meleshevych (President NaUKMA, Ukraine)

Constantin Sigov (Director European Humanities Research Center of NaUKMA, Kyiv, Ukraine)

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**10.00–12.00 am**

**Challenges for the Christian understanding of “human dignity” in the 21st century.  
Perspectives from Ukraine, USA, Germany**

Myroslav Marynovych (Ukraine): **Human dignity in Ukraine: Between the gravity to customary and the passion to desirable**

Nathaniel Wood (USA): **Christian understandings of human dignity and the contest over human rights.**

Regina Elsner (Germany): **Hotspots of the human dignity discourse in the German Catholic Church.**

Chair: Constantin Sigov

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**12.00–1.00 pm**      Lunch break

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**1.00–3.00 pm**

**“One” Christian understanding of human dignity? Discussions within and between the churches.**

Volodymyr Bureha (Ukraine): **The teaching about human dignity and human rights in current documents of the Orthodox Church.**

Ingeborg Gabriel (Austria): **Different dignities? How a misunderstanding (partly) shapes ecclesial politics.**

Pavlo Smytsnyuk (Ukraine): **Yannaras’ critique of human rights: Between a reactionary rejection of modernity and a prophetic vision for the true political life.**

Chair: Regina Elsner

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**3.30–5.00 pm**

**“Human dignity” and war and reconciliation**

Lidia Lozova and Tetiana Kalenychenko (Ukraine): **Reconstruction of human dignity in peacebuilding processes**

Heinz-Gerhard Justenhoven (Germany): **Human dignity and war – a contradiction?**

Chair: Bohdan Ohultschanski (Ukraine)

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**5.15–6.45 pm**

**“Human dignity” and education**

Judith Könemann (Germany): **Human dignity and religious education – a German perspective**

Bohdan Ohultschanski (Ukraine): **Human dignity and religious education – a Ukrainian perspective**

Chair: Alla Aristova (NaUKMA, Ukraine)

**1 November 2019**

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**9.30–11.00 am**

**“Human dignity” and media**

Claudia Paganini (Austria): **Transparency, fairness, respect, responsibility and competence. How human dignity can be realized by interacting in the Web 2.0**

Alya Shandra (Ukraine): **Human dignity and media in Ukraine**

Chair: Olena Bohdan (NaUKMA, Ukraine)

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**11.30–1.00 pm**

**“Human dignity” and questions of labor and culture**

Paul Dembinskij (Switzerland): **Human dignity and the future of human work after “Laudato Si”**

Vjacheslav Gorshkov (Ukraine): **"Shchedryk" as the strength of the weak in the struggle for national dignity. Lessons from the history of the Ukrainian National Republic.**

Chair: Anatolij Ahutin (Ukraine)

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**1.00–2.30 pm**      Lunch break

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**2.30–4.00 pm**

**“Human dignity” and church structure**

Andriy Dudchenko (Ukraine): **Difficulties and hopes of the Church in Ukraine in the context of the subject of the human dignity**

Mykhailo Dymyd (Ukraine): **Human Dignity in the Church: Theory and Praxis**

Chair: Constantin Sigov

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**4.30–6.00 pm**

**Closing discussion – Perspectives for Ukraine**

Georgij Kovalenko (Ukraine)

Oxana Dovgopolova (Ukraine)

Viktor Tregubov (Ukraine)

Chair: Regina Elsner