



Newsletter of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies of UCU

The IES brought together Christians of various denominations in a common prayer

This year, on the initiative of the Institute on January 24, Christians of different denominations gathered for common prayer. The prayer is intended to unite Catholics, Orthodox, Protestants, Armenians in common prayer and in interconfessional dialogue. The event is traditional, and the next one is scheduled for January 2020.



DLMES: one more graduate from Nigeria

On the Institute's initiative, the English-speaking Distance Learning Master's Program in Ecumenical Studies (DLMPEs), attended by students of all ages and from different parts of the world, has been successfully operating for 11 years in a row. It is a pleasure to announce that on February 28, the official defense of the Master thesis of the Program's student Fr. Olisamek Oranebo from Nigeria took place. The theme of the dissertation was – «Implications of the Evangelical text of Luke 10:1-12 for the peacebuilding in Nigeria». The thesis examines the relevance of the dialogue of Christians in Nigeria, as well as the importance of their cooperation with other religious communities on the basis of joint meetings, spreading the atmosphere of acceptance and nonviolence.



Read more on the site: www.iesdistance.org.ua

Fr. Roman Fihás defended his Doctorate

We are pleased to announce that the Coordinator of the Distance Learning Master's Program in Ecumenical Sciences (English version) of the Institute, Father Roman Fihás defended his doctoral thesis, entitled: "The Vision of the Eschatological Reality as the Epiphany of the Kingdom of God in the Liturgical Celebration according to Alexander Schmemmann". The defense took place on April 11 at the Pontifical Oriental Institute (Rome, Italy).



Two students successfully defended their Master theses

Two students of the Ukrainian-speaking Distance Master's Program – Iryna Burnashova and Ruslana Sokhan – have been conferred with the Degree of Master in Ecumenical Studies.



In their dissertations, the students emphasized the importance of Bible learnings groups and the significance of the ecumenical approach in teaching Christian ethics lessons in schools. The defense took place on April 22.

Read more on the site: www.ecumenicalstudies.org.ua
and on [f](https://www.facebook.com/ies) Institute of Ecumenical Studies

Objectives of the IES:

- to provide a high-quality higher education, combining the best achievements of theology and spirituality with modern humanities
- to promote the study of ecumenism in various spheres with the help of conferences, seminars, forums, publications
- to offer ways of reconciliation, spiritual interconfessional alternatives and ways of new evangelization, in the context of the crisis of modern ideologies
- to support practical initiatives in Ukraine and abroad, uniting Christians and people of good will to participate in the formation of pluralistic societies in Europe.



Support the Institute

Friends, we work on each project for you with great inspiration and joy. Your financial support will be very helpful in our work.

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Ecumenical Social Week: Expanding Horizons

Within the XII Ecumenical Social Week (ESW) "Responsibility vs Populism", a series of open lectures and workshops took place. In particular:



● **March 5** – workshop of the psychologist, hypnotherapist **Yurii Starovoitv** "Manipulation: Recognition and Avoidance"

● **March 19** – open lecture of a political analyst and expert in the field of branding and crisis communications **Taras Semeniuk** "Populism as a detonator. What to expect in the near future"

● **March 20** – open lecture of the military chaplain and political scientist **Fr. Andrii Zelinskyi** "On the 'third dimension', or How not to become hostage to the flat reality"

● **April 4** – open lecture "Cinema as a reflection of the world" of the Ukrainian actor and director **Akhtem Seitblaiev**



● **April 12** – open lecture "Shall Ukraine be rich?" by **Mykhailo Kukhar**, economist and Professor of macroeconomics at the leading business school of the International Management Institute (IMI-Kyiv).

In total, about 800 people took part in all events

More information on [Facebook](#) Ecumenical Social Week and on the pages of the Internet publication 'Spirituality'.

Why populism is rising in Ukraine and how to fight it?

Key thoughts of an open discussion in the capital



The ecumenical social week is gaining momentum. For the third time this year, Forum's events took place at the T. Shevchenko Kyiv National University. The first day, May 21, began with an open panel discussion on "Responsibility vs Populism", which was attended by leading public figures, political analysts, economists, journalists, academics and clergy, in particular, **Yevhen Hlibovytskyi**, Founder of the pro.mova, Member of the Nestor group; **Taras Berezovets**, Ukrainian political technologist, Director of the company of personal and strategic consulting "Berta Communications"; **Mykhailo Kukhar**, economist, co-founder of the Independent Macroeconomic Analysis and Forecasting Group – Ukraine Economic Outlook; Volodymyr Buhrov, Vice-rector on Scientific and

Pedagogical Work at the T. Shevchenko Kyiv National University; **Fr. Wojciech Surovka**, Director of the Institute of Religious Sciences of St. Thomas Aquinas.

! The event was moderated by Professor **Halyna Zelenko**, Doctor of political sciences, Head of the Department of theoretical and applied problems of political science of the I. Kuras Institute of Political and Ethnonational Studies at the National Academy of Sciences; and **Taras Semeniuk**, political analyst and expert in branding and crisis communications.

The key problem discussed was the rise of populism in Ukraine and the challenge to the responsibility it poses.

The discussion pointed out that the financial status of Ukrainians and their desire for enrichment directly affect the responsibility for life in their country.

Bestseller "Josyph Slipyi. Memoirs" and film "Indestructible shepherd" presented in Kyiv

On May 21 the presentation of the book "Josyph Slipyi. Memoirs" and the screening of the film "The Indestructible Shepherd" took place at the T. Shevchenko Kyiv National University.

The event took place within the framework of the 12th Ecumenical Social Week.

As noted by Josyph Slipyi's Secretary Father Iwan Dacko, Ph.D., to present such a bestseller is a joy. The life of Josyph Slipyi serves as the background, on which an entire era appears before the eyes. It describes the life of the Church and the complex religious and social processes of that time. This is the third Ukrainian edition, intended for scholars, researchers in Church history and a wide range of readers.



The Documentary short film "The Indestructible Shepherd" is not so much about the biography of Josyph Slipyi as about his courage and great deeds, through which one can see and understand all the greatness of the Patriarch. The film highlights the key citations of the Head of the Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church, including the call made in his Testament, for the unity of the Church and the granting of Patriarchate. It lasts almost 14 minutes, but during this time you can see all 92 years of life and the indefatigable pastoral ministry of Josyph Slipyi, as a free man and in captivity, his invaluable contribution to the development of the UGC, the strength, and invincibility of faith.

The film was released thanks to the assistance of **Mykhailo Kukhar**, economist, Head of the Research Group – Ukraine Economic Outlook.



Watch on:

www.youtube.com/watch?v=H6PyYvL6Q0E&feature=youtu.be

Ukrainian Christian Academic Society discussed the fate of the Kyivan Church in Kyiv



The main ideas expressed at the seminar "The idea of the Kyivan Church: vision and reception":

- "One of the main characteristics of the Kyivan Church is communion, which is, at the same time, the goal and ideal that the UGCC seeks today". The fullness of Orthodoxy implies the fullness of Catholicism and vice versa. The Kyivan Church grew up in an ecumenical tradition, being in communion with Constantinople and Rome. This communion never disappeared, although it was forgotten", - **President of the IES UCU, Fr. Iwan Dacko**;
- "Misunderstanding and conflict within the Ukrainian Church arise as a result of a lack of reception. Only unity and dialogue will make it possible to develop the Kyivan Church", - **Rector of the Open Orthodox University of St. Sophia the Wisdom, Fr. George Kovalenko**;
- «Today's Kyivan Church "is an ideological trend, which would be desirable for different church communities or even certain church figures", - **Metropolitan Pereiaslav-Khmelnytskyi and Vyshnevskiy OCU, Oleksandr (Drabynko)**;
- "The Kyivan Church is unity in the liturgical rite despite the split in the Eucharist, which, unfortunately, we have today", - **Lecturer at the Kyiv Orthodox Theological Academy, Fr. Andrii Dudchenko**;
- «The boat of the Kyivan Church will reach its goal only if it manages to pass all the dangers of the imitation of the "Russian world", on the one hand, and the ideological complaisance to the state, on the other hand", - **Doctoral student of the Oxford University, Pavlo Smytsnyuk**.



The seminar took place on May 22 at the Metropolitan's House in the Sofia Kyivska National Reserve.

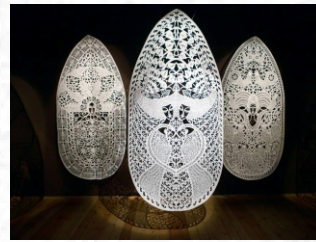
For more information on the seminar, see online publication 'Spirituality', the website of the Institute of Ecumenical Studies of UCU

www.ecumenicalstudies.org.ua

and on : Institute of Ecumenical Studies

Charity master class and auction of paper cuttings

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Within the framework of the 12th Ecumenical Social Week, on September 6, 2019, a charity event - a master class in paper cutting "Faith in life" will take place. (Lviv House of Scientists,

The purpose of the charity event is to bring together well-known Ukrainian women in order to help premature babies. During the master class, a talented artist Daria Alioshkina together with the participants will cut off the "tree" as a symbol of life. Ready paper cuttings will be displayed within three weeks in the hall of the Sheptytskyi Center. On October 4th at 17:00, the organizers will hold an auction of paper cutting with the participation of the artists. The collected funds will be transferred to the treatment of infants in the Lviv Regional Charitable Fund "Nemovlia" at the Lviv Regional Clinical Hospital. You are welcome to participate!

All-Ukrainian Public Forum 12th Ecumenical Social Week (ESW) "Responsibility vs Populism" October 2-4, 2019

The All-Ukrainian Public Forum seeks to unite the resources of the community, authorities, social organizations, churches, mass media, and educators around solving current problems of society, based on universal values and the Church's social doctrine, stimulating ecumenical dialogue in the social sphere.

This year's ESW will be held traditionally in Lviv. The program includes interesting events, in particular:

- **October 2** – solemn opening with the participation of organizers and co-organizers, **an open discussion "Responsibility vs Populism"**
- **October 3** – panel discussion "Causes and consequences of populism"
- **October 3** – seminar of the Ukrainian Christian Academic Society (UCAS) "**Models of Unity of the Kyivan Church: On the Way to Restoration of Communion**"
- **October 4** – panel discussion "A sense of personal responsibility" (Formation of Young Leaders in Ukrainian Society)



Follow us on our websites:

<http://www.ecumenicalstudies.org.ua/>,

<http://esweek.org.ua/ua/>

and on Ecumenical Social Week