

“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 founding of a new 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

9.30 am

Welcome

Andriy Meleshevyh (President NaUKMA)

Constantin Sigov (Director European Humanities Research Center, Kyiv)

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

12.00–1.00 pm

Lunch break

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

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)

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 (Ukraine)

1 November 2019

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 (Ukraine)

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 nation-al dignity. Lessons from the history of the Ukrainian National Republic.**

Chair: Anatolij Ahutin (Ukraine)

1.00–2.30 pm Lunch break

2.30–4.00 pm

“Human dignity” and church structure

Cyril Hovorun (USA): **Dignity in people’s real life in the Church**

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Chair: Constantin Sigov

4.30–6.00 pm

Closing discussion – Perspectives for Ukraine

Georgij Kovalenko (Ukraine)

Oxana Dovgopolova (Ukraine)

Viktor Tregubov (Ukraine)

Chair: Regina Elsner