

INTERNATIONAL OPEN SEMINAR

THE GEOPOLITICS OF AUTOCEPHALY IN UKRAINE

CONTESTED IDENTITIES, CHURCH-STATE CLEAVAGES
AND THE INDEPENDENT ORTHODOX CHURCH

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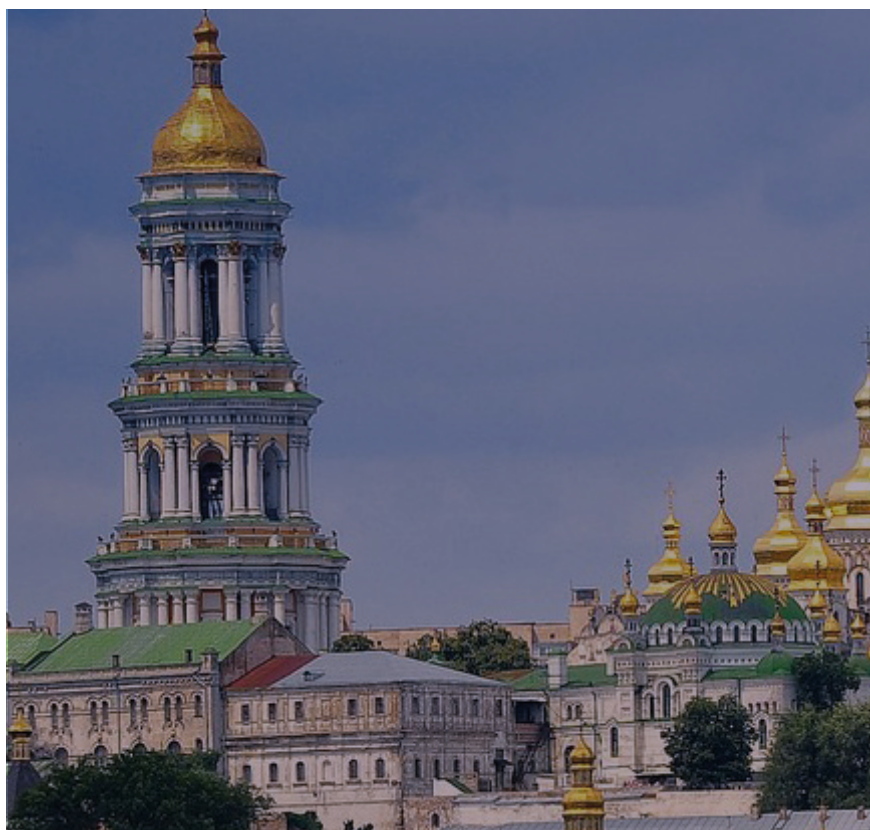
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FACULTY OF "ARTES LIBERALES", NOWY ŚWIAT 69, CONFERENCE HALL



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In April 2018, President of Ukraine Poroshenko requested the Ecumenical (Constantinople) Patriarch Bartholomew to grant autocephaly (full independence) to the Orthodox Church in Ukraine. His request was supported by the representatives of non-canonical Churches -- Kiev Patriarchate (KP, headed by Patriarch Filaret Denisenko) and the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church (UAOC, headed by metropolitan Makariy Maletich). In response to this request, Bartholomew began the process of granting autocephaly, with the reinstating, in October 2018, of the heads of KP and UAOC in their ecclesiastical ranks and the opening of Stavropegiion in Kiev. The Ukrainian Orthodox Church (headed by metropolitan Onufriy Berezovskiy) opposed the actions of Bartholomew, while the Synod of the Moscow Patriarchate decided to break Eucharistic communion with Constantinople. This course of events has indicated prospective changes in the religious-political landscape in Ukraine and may influence the potential conflict of identities. In order to get more insights into the story, we shall discuss how the idea of autocephaly was developing in Ukraine since the late 1980s, what role has been played in this by the Orthodox Churches, politicians and authorities, why the Ukrainian Orthodox Church opposes autocephaly, and what outcomes will be brought about by the actions of Ecumenical Patriarchate.



SPEAKERS

DR SERGEI MUDROV is a Global Dialogues Fellow, Foundation “*Institute Artes Liberales*”, University of Warsaw. Dr Mudrov holds PhD from the University of Salford (UK). His area of expertise includes Religion in European integration, Church–State relations and the Orthodox Church.

PROF NIKOLAY ZAKHAROV works at Södertörn University (Stockholm, Sweden). His area of expertise includes race and racialization, sociology of religion and religion in post–Soviet states. He is currently Principal Investigator for two research projects, one of which is on the “Religion in post–Soviet nation–building”.

PROF SERGII BORTNYK holds PhD from the Heidelberg University (Germany) and is currently Professor at Kiev Theological Academy (Ukraine). His area of expertise includes Dogmatic Theology, relationships between Orthodox and non–Orthodox Churches and Church–State relations.