

**Outline of the research theme  
of the Sociology Department, Faculty of Sociology and Law,  
Igor Sikorsky Kyiv Polytechnic Institute**

**Title of the research theme:**

**“Societal development, modernization and modernity in a global world”**

**Academic coordinator of the Department’s research project is Professor**

**Pavlo Kutuev**

Our contemporaries, scholars with an incredible breadth of knowledge and visionaries like KPI rector Mykhailo Zgurovsky, NYU professor Georgia Derluguian, Nobel prize laureate in economics Paul Krugman, have been convincingly arguing that history of human societies over last century has been an unprecedented transformation of all spheres of societal life. These transformations have been unparalleled in terms of their complexity, scale and intensity.

Our professional vocation as sociologists compels us to scrutinize the nature, tendencies, directions and implications of these transformations.

Leading representatives of contemporary sociological community have reached the consensus as far as the major task of the social science is concerned. Sociology ought to focus on the origins, current state and dynamics of the modern society in the context of social changes on a global, national, regional and local levels.

Nowadays sociologists realize that no society can serve as an embodiment of an ideal type of modernity. Thus, modernization is a topical issue — both theoretical and practical — for majority of societies within contemporary global community.

There is well-established practice when departments of leading universities choose their research problematique based on exiting research interests and publications of the university faculty. KPI rector Professor Mykhaylo Zgurovsky is renowned scholar doing cutting edge research on modeling of the sustainable development. At the same time faculty of Sociology Department have published numerous books, articles and textbooks on issues of modernity, modernization and societal development.

All these considerations buttress the choice of the research theme focusing on overlapping issues of modernity, modernization and societal development. These are

fundamental questions which will draw scholars' research attention for years to come. Thus it's a strategically important project.

This research has already been supported by Ukrainian and global sociological communities.

This theme can and should be studied by social and political science, thus allowing for theory building and empirically oriented research.

Studying real modernization processes at different levels of world-system fits research interests of leading world sociological research centers.

All this being said provides additional impetus to studying modernization processes in Ukraine and the world. We have been focusing on political and administrative dimensions of modernization, dynamics of values and ideologies in modern society, development of civil society and how to embed democratic practices. We have also been dealing with modernization and democratization of higher education in Ukraine and its integration into European Higher Education Area.

We have already accomplished the following within the framework of this project:

1. We've published a book length study of the evolution of scientific research programs dealing with modernity and modernization;
2. We've published the textbook on sociology of modernity and modernization;
3. We've published the textbook on conflict studies;
4. Research conducted within this project has become a basis for our new study program "Conflict resolution and mediation". We've developed and introduced a wide range of new courses dealing with conflicts arising in modern society and during modernization. We've also been working to identify most efficient approaches to resolution and mediation of these conflicts.