

DMYTRO VOVK

Dmytro Vovk is a visiting professor at the Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law and New York Law School where he teaches international human rights, law and religion, and American constitutional law . He is also an affiliated researcher of the Cardozo Institute of Holocaust and Human Rights and the Centre for Public, International and Comparative Law at University of Queensland. He was a Kenan-Fulbright fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars and a visiting researcher at Brigham Young University's J. Reuben Clark Law School. Vovk has delivered guest classes, lectures and talks at [University of Oxford](#), [Northwestern University](#), [the Pennsylvania State University](#), the [Boston College](#), [University of Alberta](#), University of Padua, University of Warsaw, University of Groningen, [Central European University](#), Ukrainian Catholic University, U.S. State Department Foreign Service Institute, and the [Ho Chi Minh National Academy of Politics](#).

Vovk has been a rule of law, constitutional law, and religious freedom expert for several international institutions, including the UN Population Fund, the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief, UN Independent Expert on SOGI issues, the OSCE, several EU projects, the USAID, and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit. He also [testified](#) before and briefed the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, the U.S. State Department, members of the UK Parliament, and the UK Foreign Office. As an international religious freedom expert, he has been involved in trainings; interfaith dialogue programs; and meetings for state officials, civil society, and religious leaders in Vietnam, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, the Balkan countries, and Ukraine.

Vovk has advised the Ukrainian Government and the country's State Agency for Ethnic Policies and Freedom of Conscience and submitted amicus briefs to the Constitutional Court of Ukraine. He has also contributed to the [joint opinion](#) of the OSCE/ODIHR and Venice Commission on Uzbekistan's draft law on freedom of conscience and religious organizations. During 2019-25, Vovk has been a [member](#) of the OSCE/ODIHR Expert Panel on Freedom of Religion or Belief, where he coordinated the working group on freedom of religion or belief and gender and contributed to drafting [of several ODIHR documents](#).

He has published and has been interviewed on law and religion, human rights, and comparative constitutional law in English, German, French, Greek, Romanian, Estonian, Danish, Russian,

Slovak, and Ukrainian. He has guest-edited issues for the *Oxford Journal of Church and State*, the *Law, Religion and State Journal*, the *Review of Faith & International Affairs*, the *BYU Law Review*, and others. He also edits the ICLRS blog [Talk About: Law and Religion](#). Currently Dmytro is writing a book on religious freedom and national security issues.

Current professional affiliations:

Visiting Associate Professor

Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law,
Yeshiva University
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Distinguished Fellow and Visiting Professor

New York Law School
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Director

Center for Rule of Law and Religion Studies,
Yaroslav the Wise National Law University
Kharkiv, Ukraine
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Affiliated Researcher

The Centre for Public, International and Comparative Law as University of Queensland
Cardozo Law Institute in Holocaust and Human Rights

Education

Yaroslav the Wise National Law University in Kharkiv, Ukraine: Master's (2004), PhD in Law (2008)

Teaching Experience

2022 – present: visiting associate professor at Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law. Courses: International Human Rights Law, Constitutional Law II, Rule of Law in Context Seminar, Religious Freedom and Gender Equality Seminar, coaching students for the International Law and Religion Moot Court competition.

2025 – present: visiting professor at New York School of Law. Courses: Law and Religion; Religion, Gender and the Law Seminar.

2022–23: guest lecturer, co-coordinator of the course “Rule of Law and Human Rights: Old Challenges and New Opportunities in Times of War and Uncertainty” at Central European University’s [Invisible University for Ukraine](#)

2017 – present: recurrent guest lecturer at Ukrainian Catholic University in Lviv. Courses: Law and Ethics, the Rule of Law Doctrine.

2007 – present: Assistant Professor, Associate Professor of the Department of Theory and Philosophy of Law at Yaroslav the Wise National Law University. Courses: Legal Theory, Theory of Human Rights, Comparative Jurisprudence, European Legal Values (in English), Sources of Law (for PhD-students), the Rule of Law Doctrine.

Scholarships, Fellowships and Grants

Visiting Professorship at New York School of Law (2025–26)

Visiting Professorship at Benjamin N. Cardozo School of Law (2022–27)

Visitorship Grant at Northwestern Buffett Institute for Global Affairs (2022)

Jack Shand International Travel Grant for attending the 2022 SSSR Annual Meeting (2022)

Visiting Scholarship at BYU Law (2018–2019)

Fellowship at the ICLRS Program “Rule of Law and Religion” (July–August 2018, Christ Church, Oxford, UK)

Fulbright Scholar Grant (2016–2017). Host institution: Kennan Institute of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars

Expert Activities

2019–25: Member of the OSCE/ODIHR Panel of Experts on Freedom of Religion or Belief, coordinator of the working group on FoRB and gender

2020 – present: Member of the Expert Council of the State Agency for Ethnical policies and Freedom of Conscience

2020 – present: Member of the Academic Council of the Constitutional Court of Ukraine

2020–25: National expert, senior legal adviser for with focus on the constitutional reform and the reform of the judiciary system (the EU-funded Project “Pravo/Justice”)

Vovk also provided expert opinions, briefs, and consultations for the UNFPA, the UN Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion of Belief, the UN Independent Expert on SOGI issues, the OSCE, the Council of Europe’s Venice Commission, the Ukrainian Government, the USAID, the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom, the U.S. State Department, members of the UK Parliament, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit, and Freedom House.

Guest Editor / Peer-Reviewing / Editorial Board / Blog

Guest editor for the *Ideology and Politics Journal* (2021), *the Review of Faith & International Affairs* (2022), the *Journal of Law, Religion, and the State* (2025), *the Oxford Journal of Church and State* (2026).

Peer-reviewer of the *Oxford Journal of Church and State, Religion & Politics* (Cambridge University Press), the *Journal of Law, Religion, and the State* (Brill), the *Religion, State & Society Journal* (Routledge), the *International Journal of Discrimination and the Law* (Sage), and the *Ideology and Politics Journal*.

Member of the Editorial Board of the journal *Philosophy of Law and General Theory of Law* (since 2015)

Editor of the ICLRS blog “[Talk About: Law and Religion](#).”

Membership in Professional Associations

Association for the Study of Nationalities

International Consortium for Law and Religion Studies

Conferences co-organized

Religion-State Relations in Eurasia: External Actors and Internal Factors (University of Tartu School of Law, October 30-31, 2026)

Religion and Constitutional Identity (Christ Church, Oxford, July 15-16, 2026)

Religion-State Relations and Freedom of Religion: Exploring the Religious Identification Loop (Christ Church, Oxford, July 16-17, 2025)

The Russia-Ukraine War: Law and Religion Context (University of Tartu School of Law, February 17-18, 2025)

Polarized Constitutionalism (Christ Church, Oxford, July 24-25, 2023)

Law and Human Flourishing (Christ Church, Oxford, July 29, 2022)

Virtual Conference: Freedom of Religion or Belief and Gender Equality in Turkey (Norwegian Helsinki Committee, 23-24 May 2022)

Human Dignity from Judges' Perspectives (Christ Church, Oxford, July 24-25, 2019)

War and Peace and Religion: Religious Freedom during Russian-Ukrainian Military Conflict (Yaroslav the Wise National Law University, BYU International Center for Law and Religion Studies, Kharkiv April 12-13, 2018).

List of Publications

Books/edited volumes/collections of papers:

Dmytro Vovk, Jerry Pankhurst & Elizabeth A. Clark (eds). (2026). Special Issue “[The Russian Orthodox Church Beyond Russia: War, Geopolitics, and Inter-Religious Relations](#)” *Oxford Journal of Church and State* 68(3).

Dmytro Vovk & Elizabeth Clark (ed.). (2025). Special Issue “[The Russia-Ukraine War Through the Law and Religion Lens](#),” *Journal of Law, Religion and State* 13(2-3).

Brett G. Scharffs, Andrea Pin & Dmytro Vovk (eds.). (2024). *Human Dignity, Judicial Reasoning and the Law: Comparative Perspectives on a Key Constitutional Concept* (Routledge).

Elizabeth A. Clark & Dmytro Vovk. (eds.). (2022). Special issue “[Freedom of Religion or Belief and Gender Equality across the OSCE Region](#),” *Review of Faith and International Affairs* 20(3).

Mikhail Antonov & Dmytro Vovk (eds.). (2021). Special issue “Soviet and Post-Soviet Law: Failed Transition from Socialist Legality to Rule of Law,” *Ideology and Politics* 2(18).

Brett G. Scharffs, Andrea Pin & Dmytro Vovk (eds.). (2020). Special issue “Human Dignity And Human Rights—Christian Perspectives And Practices: A Focus On Constitutional And International Law,” *BYU Law Review* 46(5).

Elizabeth A. Clark & Dmytro Vovk (eds.). (2019). *Religion during Russian-Ukrainian Conflict*, Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429288463>

Review 1: Teuvo Laitila. (2021). Religion during the Russian-Ukrainian Conflict, *Journal of Contemporary Religion*, 36(3), <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/13537903.2021.1923954>

Review 2: Maria Pechowska. (2022) Elizabeth Clark and Dmytro Vovk (red.). Religion during Russian-Ukrainian Conflict, *Polski Przegląd Dyplomatyczny*, 1.

Review 3: Tetiana Kalenychenko. (2020). Religion, politics and law in the framework of the Russian-Ukrainian Conflict, *Essays on Religious Studies*, 10.

Dmytro Vovk, Olexandr Yevseev (eds.). (2018). *Law, Religion, Cinema*, Kharkiv: Jurayt, (Ukrainian/Russian).

Dmytro Vovk. (2009). *Law and Religion: Theory of Interrelations*, Kharkiv: Pravo (Ukrainian).

Main papers:

Dmytro Vovk & Elizabeth A. Clark (2026). “From ‘Whatever Church’ to Exorcising ‘Moscow Devils’: Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s Approach to Religion–State Relations Amidst the War with Russia.” *Oxford Journal of Church and State* 68(3), <https://doi.org/10.1093/jcs/esag045>

Mikhail Minakov & Dmytro Vovk (2025). Ukraine, In Luis Roberto Barroso & Richard Albert (eds.), [*The 2024 International Review of Constitutional Reform*](#).

Dmytro Vovk. (2025). Between National Security and Spiritual Liberation: The Ukrainian State Policies Towards the Ukrainian Orthodox Church, *Canadian Slavonic Papers* 67(1-2), <https://doi.org/10.1080/00085006.2025.2494937>

Andrea Pin & Dmytro Vovk. (2025). Vertical Polarization: The Collapse of the Multilayered Constitutional Framework in Europe, *Law and Ethics of Human Rights* 19(1), pp. 89-116, <https://doi.org/10.1515/lehr-2025-2001>.

Dmytro Vovk. (2024). The Russia-Ukraine War, the Orthodox Church, and Religious Freedom, *Religion, State and Society* 52(2–3), <https://doi.org/10.1080/09637494.2024.2389494>.

Mikhail Minakov & Dmytro Vovk. (2024). Ukraine, In Luis Roberto Barroso & Richard Albert (eds.), [*The 2023 International Review of Constitutional Reform*](#).

Tamara Horbachevska, Olena Uvarova & Dmytro Vovk. (2024). Freedom of Religion and Non-discrimination Based on Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation in Ukraine: Corporate Policy Commitments in Situations of Conflicting Social Expectations, *Human Rights Review* 25(2), doi: 10.1007/s12142-024-00720-z

Dmytro Vovk. (2023). The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Soviet Political Religion, and Soviet Law, *The Review of Faith & International Affairs* 21(4), 79–86, doi: [10.1080/15570274.2023.2272444](https://doi.org/10.1080/15570274.2023.2272444)

Dmytro Vovk. (2022). Soviet Law and Political Religion, In B. Porat & D. Flatto (eds.), *Law as Religion, Religion as Law*, 225–247, Cambridge University Press. doi:10.1017/9781108760997.010

Dmytro Vovk. (2022). Forced Displacement, Religious Freedom and the Russia-Ukraine Conflict, In Victoria Hudson & Lucian N. Leustean (eds.), *Religion and Forced Displacement in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia*. Amsterdam University Press.

Dmytro Vovk & Iurii Barabash. (2021). “Judges have a political sense.” The Constitutional Court of Ukraine’s jurisprudence in politically sensitive cases, *Ideology and Politics* 18(2), 313–35. <https://doi.org/10.36169/2227-6068.2021.02.00014> (Russian)

Brett Scharffs, Andrea Pin & Dmytro Vovk. (2021). Christianity, Human Rights, and Dignity: Squaring the Triangle, *BYU Law Review*, 46(5), 1149–1154, Available at: <https://digitalcommons.law.byu.edu/lawreview/vol46/iss5/5>

Elizabeth A. Clark & Dmytro Vovk. (2020). Legal Reform in Uzbekistan: Prospects for Freedom of Religion or Belief and Covenantal Pluralism. *The Review of Faith & International Affairs*, 18(4). <https://doi.org/10.1080/15570274.2020.1834976>

Dmytro Vovk. (2020). *Religion and Forced Displacement in Ukraine*, in: Lucian N. Leustean (ed.), *Religion and Forced Displacement in the Eastern Orthodox World*, London: Foreign Policy Centre and Aston Centre for Europe.

Elizabeth A. Clark & Dmytro Vovk. (2020). Introduction. *Religion during the Russian-Ukrainian conflict*. Routledge, 1–11. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429288463-1>

Dmytro Vovk. (2020). Dynamics of church-state relations in Ukraine and the military conflict with Russia: Political and legal aspects. *Religion during the Russian-Ukrainian conflict*. Routledge. <http://doi.org/10.4324/9780429288463-3>

Dmytro Vovk. (2017). Ukrainian Churches and European Integration Policy: Human Rights Context, in: Piotr Szymaniec (ed.), *Dimensions of Religious Freedom in Contemporary Europe*, Wałbrzych: Wydawnictwo im. Angelusa Silesiusa, 482–492.

Dmytro Vovk. (2015). Balancing Religious Freedom in the Context of Secularity: Analysis of Court Practice in Ukraine, in: Piotr Szymaniec (ed.), *The Principle of Proportionality and the Protection of the Fundamental Rights in the European States*, Wałbrzych: Wydawnictwo im. Angelusa Silesiusa, 468–496.

Selected interviews, talks, blog and vlog posts, podcasts:

Dmytro is a co-host of the [FoRB Podcast](#)

[Cirkevná situácia na Ukrajine](#) [Tanec ku zákazu](#) (Svet kresťanstva, in Slovak)

[Ο Πρόεδρος και η στάση του προς την Θρησκεία Η Εξέλιξη της Πολιτικής του Βολοντίμιρ Ζελένσκι για τις Σχέσεις Εκκλησίας και Κράτους εν μέσω του Πολέμου με τη Ρωσία](#) (Public Orthodoxy, in Greek).

[The President and \(Not His\) Religion: Evolution of Volodymyr Zelenskyi's Religion-State Policies amidst the War with Russia](#) (Public Orthodoxy)

[UKRAINE: Law banning the Ukrainian Orthodox Church is about to enter force](#) (Forum18)

[UKRAINE: How should government deal with conscientious objectors in wartime?](#) (Forum18)

[Religious Freedom in Ukraine: Can we move on from misleading election narratives?](#) (Canopy Forum, with Elizabeth A. Clark)

[Ucraina. Implicații și controverse ale legii ce interzice organizațiile religioase asociate Moscovei](#) (Sinopsis.info.ro, in Romanian)

[Avis d'expert: Aspects constitutionnels et juridiques de la loi sur l'interdiction de l'Église orthodoxe ukrainienne](#) (Orthodoxie.com, French)

[Ein Gesetz mit vielen rechtlichen Kritikpunkten](#). Interview mit Dmytro Vovk (Noek.info, in German)

[Ukraine: Real threats, but freedom of religion or belief concerns](#) (Forum18)

[Ukraine's church-state relations may be changed significantly: interview with Dmytro Vovk](#) (CIUS Blog)

[Ukraine: Latest draft law targets Ukrainian Orthodox Church for Russian links](#)

(Forum18)

[Is Homocolonialism a Sound Argument to Advance Human Rights for LGBTQ+ People](#)

(Talk About: Law and Religion)

[The Challenge of Building the Rule of Law in Oligarchic Economies](#) (The Rule of Law and Corporate Actors Podcast)

Religion nicht politisieren: Rechtsexperte Dmytro Wowk zur Religionsfreiheit in der Ukraine (Ökumenische Information, 7 March 2023, in German)

[Spiritual Decolonization, National Security, and Religious Freedom: Squaring a Triangle in the Case of the Ukrainian Orthodox Church](#) (Talk About: Law and Religion, with Andriy Fert)

[UKRAINE: Draft law better than others, freedom of religion or belief concerns remain](#) (Forum 18)

[UKRAINE: Kyiv Pechersk Lavra conflict, draft law, impact on freedom of religion or belief](#) (Forum18)

[Religionsforsker: Religionsfrihed står ikke i vejen for lgbt-rettigheder](#) (Kristeligt Dagblad, with Marie Juul Petersen, in Danish)

[‘A promise of human freedom’: Synergies between the right to freedom of religion or belief and LGBTQI+ rights](#) (Openglobalrights, with Marie Juul Petersen)

[The war and freedom of conscience](#) (Kharkiv Human Rights Group’s website, Ukrainian)

[Ukraine: the future of religious and ethnic diversity](#) (Blavatnik School of Government)

[Ukraina õigusteadlane: oleme õigusriiki ehitades palju keerulisemas olukorras kui Balti riigid 1990-ndatel](#) (Eesti Päevaleht, Estonian)

[Religious arguments and political goals behind the Russian-Ukrainian war](#) (Canopy Forum)

[Freedom of religion or belief builds security](#) (OSCE/ODIHR)

[How does religion enter the Russian-Ukraine invasion?](#) (Rome Reports)

[A Crisis of Legitimacy: Lessons from the U.S. and Ukraine on Inequality, Polarization and Crumbling Institutions](#) (with Paul Gowder, Northwestern Buffett Institute for Global Affairs)

[Religion and the Russian-Ukrainian conflict](#) (Talk About: Law and Religion Blog)

[Religion, gender, and law](#) (“Dialogues PRO” project, in Ukrainian)

[Ukrainian law resembles a typical European legal system, but only at first sight](#) (Kharkiv Human Rights Group's website, in Ukrainian)

[La religion est une arme et une victime du conflit en Ukraine](#) (IVERIS, in French)

Interviews conducted by Dmytro Vovk:

[Jonathan Fox](#) on measuring religious freedom globally

[Frank Ravitch](#) on the anti-establishment drift of the current U.S. Supreme Court

[Brett Scharffs and Elizabeth Clark](#) on the mission of the BYU International Center for Law and Religion Studies

[Thomas Massaro](#) on the legacy of Pope Francis

[Andrea Schneider](#) on religion, gender, and mediation in Jewish communities

[Ori Aronson](#) on religion and the constitutional crisis in Israel

[Nazila Ghanea](#) on freedom of religion or belief and gender equality as non-clashing rights

The Russian Orthodox Church and/in/after the war: Interview with [Jerry Pankhurst and Alar Kilp](#)

[András Sajó](#) on Religious Freedom, Constitutionalism, and Democracy in the Jurisprudence of the Strasbourg Court

[Brett Scharffs](#) on teaching law and religion globally

[Catherine Wanner](#) on religion in post-Soviet countries

[Knox Thames](#) on the U.S. efforts to advance religious freedom globally

Translations:

Book:

Paul Gowder. *Verhovenstvo prava u real'nomu sviti* [Rule of Law in the Real World]. Kharkiv: Pravo, 2018 (originally published by Cambridge University Press, 2016).

Papers, speeches, court decisions:

Jurgen Habermas. Zarady Boga zvilnit' nas vid pravlinnya filosofov: interv'iu [For God's Sake, Spare Us Governing Philosophers!: Interview] (for educational purposes, 2018).

Michael Sandel. Praviy pipulizm zrostaе, todi yak progresystska polityka zanepadaе. Chy ne zapizno ryatuvaty demokratiu? [Right-wing populism is rising as progressive politics fails – is it too late to save democracy?] (for educational purposes, 2018).

Barack Obama. Vira i polityka [Faith and Politics] (for educational purposes, 2018).

Judith Butler. Obmezenn'ya svobody slova? [Limits on Free Speech] (for educational purposes, 2018).

Carl Schmitt. Vopros legal'nosti [The Question of Legality] (for educational purposes, 2017).

The Russian Supreme Court's Decision on Ban on Jehovah's Witnesses, available at: <http://www.sova-center.ru/en/religion/conference-papers/2017/09/d37921/> (in English); excerpt from this translation is published in: W. Cole Durham, Jr. and Brett G. Scharffs' *Law and Religion: National, International and Comparative Perspective* (Walters Kluwer, 2018).

Judgment of the EU Court of Justice Asma Bougnaoui, ADDH versus Micropole, SA, 14 March 2017. 3 Pravo i religiya (2017).

Neil MacCormick. O prave i spravedlivosti in his: *Institutions of Law: An Essay in Legal Theory*, CUP, 2007, 264-270 (for educational purposes, 2016).

Ronald Dworkin. *Religioznaya svoboda* [Religious Freedom] 5 *Pravovedenie* (2015).

Lorenzo Zucca. *Pravo protiv religii* [Law v. Religion] 5 *Pravovedenie* (2015).

Martin Krygier. Chomu verhovenstvo prava ie nadto vazhlyvym schob lyshyty iogo iurystam [Why the Rule of Law is Too Important to Be Left to Lawyers] 1-2 *Filosofiya prava i zagal'na teoriya prava* (2014).

Pauline Westerman. Regulyatorni pravyla i verhovenstvo prava [Regulation and Rule of Law] 1-2 *Filosofiya prava i zagal'na teoriya prava* (2014) (with Olena Uvarova).

Norbert Horn. Prava liudyny: filosofs'ke obgruntuvannya i iurydychnyi vymir [Human Rights: Philosophical Foundations and Legal Dimensions], 2 *Filosofiya prava i zagal'na teoriya prava* (2013).

Adam Czarnota. Pro yaskravyi vypadok nevyznachennosti, abo Pravosuddya perehidnogo periodu i verhovenstvo prava [On the Beauty of Confusions or Transitional Justice, and Rule of Law] 2 *Filosofiya prava i zagal'na teoriya prava* (2013).

Kaarlo Tuori. Spil'ne u sutnosti verhovenstva prava i pravovoi derzhavy [The Common Core of the Rule of Law and Rechtsstaat] 1 *Filosofiya prava i zagal'na teoriya prava* (2013).

Horacio Spector. Nezastosovnist' ideal'noi morali u mizhnorodnomu pravi [Irrelevance of Ideal Morality on International Law] *I Filosofiya prava i zagal'na teoriya prava* (2013).