The Role of University Senior Leaders in Students' Formation as Active Citizens and Ethical Leaders: Lessons from Ukraine

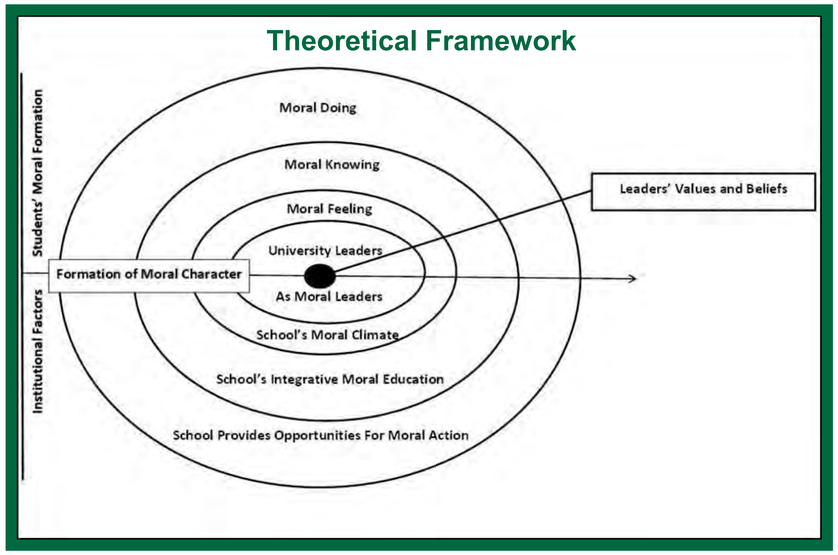
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Research Questions

How do Ukrainian Catholic University (UCU) leaders:

- Describe the values and beliefs that guide their leadership of the university, and how do these values and beliefs align with the university's policies and practices?
- Understand UCU's institutional role in the context of post-Soviet Ukraine, and how do these views align with the university's policies and practices?
- View their leadership role in students' moral and civic formation?
- View UCU's institutional role in the moral and civic formation of undergraduates, and how do these views align with the university's policies and practices?

Theoretical Framework



UCU Leaders' Values and Beliefs

- Upholding human dignity through institutional policies promotes integrity and justice.
- Christian anthropology as the foundation for UCU leaders' philosophy of education and leadership.
- Centrality of values and principles of Catholic Social Teaching (CST).
- Intentionality of UCU leaders in applying CST principles.

UCU Mission of Social Transformation in Ukraine

- Universities have a critical nation-building role aimed to
  - ✧ end corruption, distrust, and lack of solidarity, and
  - ✧ transform Ukraine into a true democracy.
- Education of moral and active citizens is an answer to Ukraine's challenges.
- UCU leaders aim to promote moral formation through an institutional culture and moral climate that support moral development.

UCU Leaders' View of their Role in Students' Moral and Civic Formation

- Most important for students' moral formation is to model
  - ✧ valuing the dignity of the human person,
  - ✧ service to others,
  - ✧ self-sacrifice for the common good, and
  - ✧ solidarity, inclusiveness, and community.
- Serving as moral exemplars is the way for UCU to fulfill its mission.
- The rector's personal example is important.
- Students perceive UCU leaders as positive role models.
- UCU leaders also seek for the institution itself to be a model and example for students' moral and civic formation.



UCU's Institutional Role in Students' Civic and Moral Formation

- UCU leaders believe that university education must be integrative.
- UCU aims to promote moral formation by supporting moral knowing and moral reasoning.
- UCU's institutional policies and practices intend to foster the development of moral character and engaged citizenship by promoting moral knowing and a life of moral action.

Conclusion

University-based civic and ethical formation, if incorporated into an institution's mission and culture, could successfully facilitate the formation of ethical and civically responsible democratic citizens.

UCU Students and Faculty in the Revolution of Dignity



Євромайдан Львів @euromaidanlviv · Nov 21
#Львів 21.11.2013 Перші Люди які вийшли на заклик підтримати #Євромайдан

Implications for University-based Education for Globally Engaged Citizenship

- Supports previous research conclusions that moral and character education should go hand in hand with education for active citizenship.
- Identifies elements of a comprehensive organizational and educational framework for the university-based formation of students as ethical and active citizens:
  - **Integrative education**
  - **Experiential and service learning pedagogy**
  - **Mission-driven leadership**
  - **Positive institutional moral climate**
  - **Modeling by university leaders, faculty, and staff**
- Emphasizes the role of leadership in establishing positive moral climate

