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## **LEGAL CULTURE IN UKRAINE: CONCEPTS, ITS STATUS AND PROSPECTS**

This research article based on legal culture focuses attention on the myriad ways in which law exists within society generally, the study of legal consciousness traces the ways in which law is experienced and interpreted by specific individuals as they engage, avoid or resist the law and legal meanings. This empirical attention to popular understandings of law reformulates some of the theoretical debates in the study of legal culture.

Many comparatists are using the concepts of “legal culture” and “legal tradition” as synonyms. However, Patrick Glenn has claimed that “legal culture” should be used as an epistemological tool in comparative study of law. According to him, the epistemological main func-

tion of “legal culture” has been to exist as a means of differentiation and to provide a conceptual tool that can be used to describe differences between things that are labelled as “culture.” Glenn has claimed that when we speak of ‘culture’ we speak of a country as a homogenous legal fiction. According to this view, the concept of “legal culture” is a conflictual concept whereas the concept of “legal tradition” is epistemologically more tolerant. Glenn’s criticism of “legal culture” is analysed critically in this article. The author claims that there is, in fact, no important difference between these concepts in epistemological sense. This article doubts that mere conceptual usage of “legal culture” would contain automatically an epistemology of conflict.