

# Integrating Scientific and Technical Achievements into Forensic Expert Activity: Procedural Aspect

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*The Article Purpose is a comprehensive analysis of the current “Theory and Practice of Forensic Science and Criminalistics” Research Paper Collection considering the issue of integrating specific expertise into court proceedings. The importance of the role of specific expertise in ensuring the efficiency, lawfulness, and objectivity of forensic expert activity is undeniable. That is why the editor-in-chief highlighted procedural forms in which integration processes occur. In the scholarly contributions to this issue, both international and Ukrainian authors address numerous pressing issues within the forensic domain—encompassing theoretical aspects (notably, the concept of expectations in law and criminalistics, as well as challenges arising from the global digital transformation of society) and practical dimensions (such as specifics of terminal and external ballistics of damaging elements, conduct of multidisciplinary forensic psychological and linguistic examinations, significance of specific expertise in investigating criminal offenses perpetrated by professional participants in court proceedings)—while proposing ways for their resolution.*

**Keywords:** *specific expertise; forensic examination; criminalistics; criminal proceedings; integration processes; digital transformation; evidentiary basis; objective truth; pre-trial investigation; procedural status of forensic expert; multidisciplinary forensic examination; customs legislation.*

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The structural evolution of Ukraine into a constitutional state and the reform within the justice system have set higher standards for the quality of evidence collection and research. In the era of rapid scientific and technical progress, which significantly impacts the investigation of criminal and other offenses, achieving a proper level of justice is practically impossible without specific expertise. Conducting forensic examinations constitutes the fundamental basis that guarantees not only the effectiveness but also the lawfulness and impartiality of criminal proceedings. It serves as a procedural instrument that facilitates the conversion of information (previously unknown to law enforcement agencies and a court) regarding objects and phenomena obtained from forensic experts, into an evidentiary basis, thereby integrating specific expertise into the judicial domain. From a forensic perspective, this is a guarantee that procedural decisions of investigative and judicial authorities will be based on

scientifically substantiated facts, and not on subjective assumptions.

The development of forensic science and criminalistics, as well as forensic expert and criminalistics practice, is inextricably linked to social, political, and scientific transformations of society, encouraging researchers to resolve problems of integrating specific expertise into court proceedings. Accordingly, scientific papers by foreign (A. Müller-Armak, J. Viner, P. J. D. Wiles, et al.)<sup>1</sup> and Ukrainian scholars (V. Bakhin, O. Bondarenko, Yu. Hroshevyi, V. Honcharenko, V. Zhuravel, N. Klymenko, V. Konovalova, M. Sehai, V. Shepitko, M. Shepitko, M. Shcherbakovskiy<sup>2</sup>, and others) address diverse issues concerning the application of scientific and technological advancements across various proceedings, the enhancement of procedural legislation, and the revision and development of the existing and new provisions related to integration processes in criminalistics and forensic examination. Overall, trends in

- 1 Див., напр.: Müller-Armack A. *Wirtschaftsordnung und Wirtschaftspolitik. Studien Integration*. Bern ; Stuttgart, 1976. Pp. 231–242 ; Viner J. *The Customs Union Issue*. NY, 1950. 221 p. ; Wiles P. J. D. *Communist International Economics*. Oxford, 1968. 580 p.
- 2 Див., напр.: Бахин В. П. *Криміналістика. Проблеми и мнения (1962–2002)*. Киев, 2002. 268 с. URL: <https://studfile.net/preview/5287600/> (date accessed: 20.12.2025) ; Бондаренко О. О. Об'єкт і предмет судової експертизи у кримінальному судочинстві. *Вісник Харківського національного університету імені В. Н. Каразіна. Серія «Право»*. 2013. № 1082. Вип. 16. С. 216–218. URL: [http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/VKkIPR\\_2013\\_1082\\_16\\_56](http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/VKkIPR_2013_1082_16_56) (date accessed: 20.12.2025) ; Грошевий Ю. М., Стахівський С. М. Докази і доказування у кримінальному процесі : наук.-практ. посіб. Київ, 2006. 272 с. ; Бойченко С. Б., Бояров В. І., Будко Т. В., Варфоломеева Т. В. та ін. *Експертизи у судочинстві України* : наук.-практ. посіб. / за заг. ред. В. Г. Гончаренка, І. В. Гори. Київ, 2015. 504 с. ; Клименко Н. І. *Інтеграційна функція експертології. Теорія та практика судової експертизи і криміналістики*. 2006. Вип. 6. С. 117–124 ; Коновалова В. Е. О значении и функциях экспертных версий. *Криминалистика и судебная экспертиза*. 1977. Вып. 14. С. 53–58 ; Сегай М. Я. *Методология судебной идентификации* : монография. Киев, 1970. 256 с. ; Сегай М. Я., Стринжа В. К. *Судебная экспертиза материальных следов-отображений (проблемы методологии)* : монография. Киев, 1997. 174 с. ; Шепитько В. Ю. О пределах использования специальных знаний в уголовном процессе. *Актуальні проблеми кримінального права, процесу та криміналістики* : мат-ли IV Міжнар. наук.-практ. конф., присвяч. 95-річ. з дня народж. проф. М. В. Салтевського (Одеса, 02.11.2012). Одеса, 2012. С. 499–502 ; Шепитько В. Ю. *Проблеми використання спеціальних знань крізь призму сучасного кримінального судочинства в Україні. Судова експертиза*. 2014. № 1. С. 11–18 та ін.

the advancement of forensic examination predominantly depend on the extent of scientific and technological knowledge incorporated within the discipline. Therefore, the essence of forensic expert activity is intrinsically connected to the integration of specific expertise within the proceedings and constitutes its primary form.

Another type of integration process occurring within forensic examination warrants consideration. It pertains to the systematic organization and execution of multidisciplinary forensic examinations. In this regard, we have previously proposed the introduction of a new article to the Criminal Procedure Code of Ukraine, aimed at regulating the procedure for conducting a multidisciplinary forensic examination. The content of the proposed rule is as follows: *“When the resolution of an issue necessitates specific expertise from various disciplines such as science, technology, art, or from different domains within the same field of expertise, a multidisciplinary expert examination shall be ordered, which may be assigned either to a commission of experts or to a single expert possessing the requisite interdisciplinary knowledge essential for addressing the integrative task. The commission of experts undertakes research grounded in the specific expertise of each member, as documented in the opinion, and subsequently formulates an overall conclusion. This conclusion bears the signatures of all experts.*

*If experts fail to reach an agreement on a joint expert opinion, the commission shall draw up a unified multidisciplinary expert opinion. The Synthesis of Findings Section of the opinion shall present research findings of each expert and clarify the grounds for any discrepancies within the commission members’ final evaluations, with the aim of formulating a joint conclusion; each expert is*

*required to substantiate the grounds for their disagreement with the opinions of other commission members. In the conclusion on an issue requiring a joint decision, the commission members shall inform of the impossibility of resolving thereof. Furthermore, experts shall formulate separate interim conclusions based on the results of their research”*<sup>3</sup>. In light of these considerations, we deem it possible to resolve challenging issues encountered in the field of multidisciplinary forensic examinations in Ukraine.

In this edition of the *Theory and Practice of Forensic Science and Criminalistics* Research Paper Collection, authors explore diverse areas of forensic activity, highlighting the analysis of mechanisms for incorporating specific expertise as a principal factor in ensuring objective truth. Particular emphasis is placed on the incorporation of scientific methods into forensic expert practice, which facilitates adherence to the principles of the rule of law and guarantees increased effectiveness in crime prevention. The authors underscore the importance of the role of a forensic expert as an independent participant in the process, the use of novel methods as a means of eliminating errors, the significance of specific expertise for the protection of human rights and the prevention of groundless accusations, the need to reform Ukrainian legislation governing forensic expert activity, etc.

The 41st issue of the *Theory and Practice of Forensic Science and Criminalistics* Research Paper Collection outlines state-of-the-art methodological approaches to conducting expert examinations in various fields: from economic studies in customs matters to multidisciplinary psychological and linguistic examinations amidst the ongoing armed aggression. Of particular interest

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3 Сімакова-Єфремян Е. Б. Комплексні судово-експертні дослідження: теорія та практика : монографія. Харків, 2016. С. 248.

are the issues of countering investigation and applying specific expertise in cases involving economic crimes and crimes committed by professional members in court proceedings. The edition comprises research by distinguished Ukrainian and international scholars, thereby demonstrating the interdisciplinary character of contemporary forensic examination and its significance for the protection of human rights and reinforcement of the rule of law.

The *Theory and Practice of Forensic Science and Criminalistics* Research Paper Collection is indexed in Google Scholar and international online databases: *Academic Scientific Journals Indexing*, *Bielefeld Academic Search Engine (BASE)*, *ERIH PLUS*, *Europub*, *Index Copernicus International (ICV 2021: 100)*, *RefSeek*, *ResearchBib*, *WorldCat*, as well as in the Register of Scientific Publications of Ukraine and DOI Foundation. The Research Paper Collection's electronic versions are posted on the Internet on sites such as the V. I. Vernadsky National Library of Ukraine, libraries of forensic institutions under the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine, institutions of higher education under the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, etc.

The research papers in this edition are traditionally divided into two groups: *Research Papers and Case Notes*.

The *Research Papers* Section is introduced by the *Expectations in Law and Criminalistics: Issue Formulation* research paper by **Yurii Chechil**, Doctor of Philosophy in Law, **Victoriia Bila**, Doctor of Legal Sciences, Docent, and **Stanislav Sheptukhovskiy**, Candidate of Legal Sciences, all from Ukraine, which analyses the phenomenon of social expectations as a component of the legal norm and a factor determining the real status and behaviour of a forensic expert. In the given context, forensic science appears not only as a procedural in-

stitution, but as a socio-cultural phenomenon. The article opens up the prospect of further research into the role of culture in formation of legal norms and the need for public communication to reduce the gap between expectations and the real possibilities of forensic expert activity.

The section continues with *The Evolution of Forensic Expert Activity in the Context of Global Societal Digital Transformation* scientific paper by **Nataliia Tkachenko** (Ukraine), Candidate of Legal Sciences, Honoured Lawyer of Ukraine. The researcher elucidates transformations in the content, forms, and methodologies of conducting forensic expert activities amid rapid scientific and technological advancements. Artificial intelligence, digital footprints, large datasets, cloud technology, novel communication modalities, and tools for information manipulation have established a new technological framework wherein traditional approaches to conducting expert examinations have become inadequate in terms of reliability and effectiveness. Under these conditions, forensic activities encounter qualitatively new challenges that necessitate the revision of methods, enhancement of technical support, development of contemporary methodologies, and adoption of innovative technologies.

The section proceeds to analyse the *Principle of Tax Rate Equilibrium and its Application in the Tax System of the Republic of Armenia* research paper by **Karen Mamikonyan** and **Armen Safaryan** (Armenia). The article presents a methodological approach to assessing tax efficiency by analysing comparative data on the burden of a unified tax rate and applying the principle of tax rate equilibrium. The application of the "50% Balance" principle is considered a key aspect of this research, which is fundamentally based on Arthur Lafer's concept of the relationship

between progressive taxation and government tax revenue, commonly known as the “Lafer Curve”.

The *Methodological Aspects of Complex Forensic Psychological and Linguistic Examination Realities of Armed Aggression of Russian Federation Against Ukraine* article by **Yuliia Brailko**, Candidate of Philological Sciences, Docent, **Tetiana Yehorova**, **Nataliia Kysla** (Ukraine), Candidate of Philological Sciences, and **Patvakan Voskanian** (Armenia), PhD in Chemistry, highlights an approach covered in Methodological Recommendations developed by the NSC «Hon. Prof. M. S. Bokarius FSI» that defines the principles and general procedure for conducting multidisciplinary psychological and linguistic examinations/expert studies and will significantly increase effectiveness of the work of experts and degree of evidence of their conclusions while pre-trial investigation and judicial consideration of criminal offenses to harm the information security of the State.

In the *Experimental Researches on Specifics of Terminal and External Ballistics of Damaging Elements of Cylindrical Shape with Diameter of 5.0 Mm* research paper, **Igor Lurin**, Doctor of Medical Sciences, Professor, Vice President NAMS of Ukraine, Academician NAMS of Ukraine, **Oleksiy Larin**, Doctor of Technical Sciences, Professor, Corresponding Member of NASU, **Eduard Khoroshun**, Hero of Ukraine, Candidate of Medical Sciences, **Volodymyr Nehoduyko**, Doctor of Medical Sciences, Docent, **Oleksandr Kolomiitsev** and **Serhii Larkov**, Candidate of Technical Sciences, **Oleh Kokorin**, **Dmytro Klymchuk**, **Vitalii Tyshchenko**, **Vitalii Shcherbak**, Candidate of Medical Sciences, Docent, and **Viktor Sapielkin**, Candidate of Medical Sciences, Docent, Physician Emeritus of Ukraine, all from Ukraine, investigate specifics of damage formation mechanism in a vis-

coelastic medium that arose as a result of high-speed impact-contact interaction with ready-made cylindrical striking elements. It made it possible to conduct full-scale experiments in a fairly wide range of contact velocities, and it was determined that after hitting the specified ready-made striking elements in the thickness of the biological tissue simulator behave stably and form conical cavities. They cause the greatest damage in the area of the first quarter (third) of the damage channel. The results of performed researches make possible to predict the severity of shrapnel wounds inflicted on a person and to solve a number of situational tasks related to the investigation of criminal crimes and terrorist acts, while which commission of fragmentation munitions or improvised explosive devices were used.

The *Case Notes* Section begins with the scientific paper: *Using Specific Expertise During the Investigation of Criminal Offences Committed by Professional Participants in Court Proceedings* by **Yevhen Sup** (Ukraine), Candidate of Legal Sciences, which emphasizes that an effective investigation of criminal offenses committed by professional participants in court proceedings is impossible without extensive and well-founded use of specific expertise, thereby acting as a structural component of efficient, legal and objective criminal proceedings.

The *Specific Economic Expertise in Investigation of Economic Criminal Offenses* research by **Vitalii Usatii** (Ukraine), Candidate of Legal Sciences, highlights that special economic knowledge is a system-forming component of evidence in criminal proceedings of an economic nature. Its rational and scientifically substantiated application ensures the effectiveness of criminal prosecution, improves the quality of judicial control, and

contributes to the restoration of violated rights of the state and economic entities.

The *Counteraction to Investigation and Abuse of Procedural Rights: Forensic Correlation and Limits of Conceptual Delimitation* article by **Oleksandr Tarkan** (Ukraine), Candidate of Legal Sciences, demonstrates that forensic science has grounds for including the category of “abuse of procedural rights” in the system of forensic science doctrine of counteraction to the investigation, since this phenomenon has its own mechanism, regularities of detection and is subject to tactical overcoming. Its study creates conditions for the formation of effective procedural and forensic measures to neutralize the manipulative activities of the participants in the proceedings. It is concluded that the integration of theoretical and applied aspects of the analysis of abuses within the framework of the forensic concept of counteraction makes it possible to create a holistic model of counteractive behaviour, clarify the boundaries of procedural integrity, identify typical mechanisms of destructive influence on evidentiary information, and develop substantiated tactical recommendations for investigators, prosecutors and the court.

The *Legal Support for Customs and Forensic Examinations (Expert Studies) in Foreign Economic Activities and Customs Formalities under EU and Ukraine’s Customs Legislation* article by **Iryna Korostashova** (Ukraine), Candidate of Legal Sciences, Docent, evaluates the adequacy of legal support for customs and forensic examinations (expert studies) under EU and Ukraine’s Customs Legislation, and analyses legal relations in the context of foreign economic activities. The study defines the *customs examination* concept and the range of subjects authorized to conduct this study, as well as the scope within which expert activity subjects operate un-

der EU and Ukraine’s Customs Legislation. A comparative analysis was carried out to examine the status of experts affiliated with the State Customs Service and the Ministry of Justice of Ukraine. Legal safeguards for the independence and accuracy of expert opinions were considered. The author highlights the importance of international standards that forensic and customs experts follow during their work.

The section continues with the *Involvement of Specialists in Smuggling Investigation* scientific paper by **Yurii Kovalov** and **Andrii Fedotenko**, Candidates of Legal Sciences, both from Ukraine. The research has demonstrated that the efficiency of a pre-trial investigation of criminal offenses involving smuggling is directly linked to the systematic and professionally organized involvement of specialists from diverse fields. It was demonstrated that only with the help of expert opinions could proper identification of objects be ensured, including the detection of concealment methods, formulation of investigative versions, and initiation of subsequent expert research. Prospects for improving the involvement of specialists in the investigation of smuggling are due to the development of unified methodological guidelines, strengthening of interagency cooperation, modernization of material and technical resources and systematic skill-upgrading of specialists, which will jointly promote the completeness, accuracy and evidentiary strength of collected information in this category of criminal offenses.

The *Case Notes* Section ends with the *Current Trends and Prospects for Integrating Specific Psychology Expertise into Multidisciplinary Forensic Examinations* article by **Oleksandr Yevsiukov** (Ukraine), Candidate of Pedagogical Sciences, Docent, which presents an analysis of scientific literature, legal regulations, and expert practic-

es, and also delves into current trends and future prospects for the integration of specific expertise in forensic psychology into multidisciplinary forensic examinations.

The final pages of the 41st issue are dedicated to the *Scientific News* Traditional Section, which informs readers about scientific developments in forensic practice during the preceding three months. The Editorial Board offers its warmest congratulations to **Valeriy Shepitko**, co-chief editor of the Collection, Doctor of Science Law, Professor, on the occasion of his 65th birthday and the 40th anniversary of his scientific, pedagogical, and public service activities.

The Editorial Board extends its warmest gratitude to all authors for insightful manuscripts submitted to be published in the *Theory and Practice of Forensic Science and Criminalistics* Research Paper Collection. Owing to your diligent efforts and excellent content preparation, our edition continues to serve as a hub for exchanging knowledge and professional experience. Your commitment to science is commendable!

We welcome new collaborations and invite colleagues to contribute to the development of forthcoming issues. If you believe that your research or analytical reviews are highly engaging, please submit them to the Editorial Board for further consideration. Only through collaborative efforts can we enhance the efficiency of research in Ukraine on the global stage.

Together to the victory!  
Glory to Ukraine!

**Інтеграція  
науково-технічних досягнень  
у судово-експертну діяльність:  
процесуальний аспект**

*Елла Сімакова-Єфремян*

*Мета статті — за розглядом питання інтеграції спеціальних знань у судочин-*

*ство зробити огляд поточного збірника наукових праць «Теорія та практика судової експертизи і криміналістики». Актуальність питання щодо ролі спеціальних знань як фундаментального складника ефективності, законності й об'єктивності судово-експертної діяльності є безумовною, саме тому головна редакторка акцентувала увагу на тих процесуальних формах, у яких відбуваються інтеграційні процеси. У наукових працях цього випуску іноземні й українські автори порушують багато нагальних проблем судово-експертної галузі — як теоретичних (зокрема, концепцію експектацій у праві та криміналістиці, і виклики, зумовлені глобальною цифровою трансформацією суспільства, тощо), так і практичних (наприклад, особливості термінальної та зовнішньої балістики уражаючих елементів і проведення комплексних судових психолого-лінгвістичних експертиз, значення спеціальних знань для розслідування кримінальних правопорушень, учинених професійними учасниками судочинства, і господарських кримінальних правопорушень та ін.) — і пропонують способи їх розв'язання.*

**Ключові слова:** спеціальні знання; судово-експертиза; криміналістика; кримінальне провадження; інтеграційні процеси; цифрова трансформація; доказова база; об'єктивна істина; досудове розслідування; процесуальний статус експерта; комплексна експертиза; митне законодавство.

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#### **Participants**

The author has contributed solely to intellectual discussion underlying

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### **Declaration of Competing Interest**

The author declares no conflict of interest.

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