

Current State and Prospects for Incorporating Specific Psychology Expertise into Multidisciplinary Forensic Examinations

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Current state of science and technology development, as well as challenges posed by war, should be addressed by the expert community in order to ensure an adequate level of expert support to justice. These issues inspire researchers to enhance forensic expert activities, particularly those related to the use of specific expertise in forensic psychology. Multidisciplinary forensic examinations are crucial in this regard. The primary concerns of this paper are to analyse scientific papers, legal regulations, and forensic expert practice and provide, on this basis, a description of the current state and prospects for integrating specific expertise in forensic psychology into multidisciplinary forensic examinations. General, individual, and special methods were applied during the study of questions pertaining to the Article's purpose. Within the framework of modernizing Ukrainian legislation, which governs forensic expert activity, and against the backdrop of developing various branches of specific expertise, the practice of conducting forensic psychological and other types of multidisciplinary forensic examinations is being supplemented with new categories and methodologies reflecting the essence of the subject matter, tasks, objects, subjects and research methods. That is why this issue is becoming increasingly relevant and must be thoroughly analysed. The issue of integration and differentiation of specific expertise was considered and the following classification

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of multidisciplinary forensic examinations was proposed: psychological and psychiatric; medical, psychiatric and psychological (sexological and psychological); medical and psychological; psychological and engineering-technical; psychological and handwriting; psychological and linguistic; psycholinguistic and video/sound recording; psychology and art studies; military and psychological. The aforementioned provisions and recommendations are intended for implementation in expert practice, with the aim of boosting the efficiency of forensic expert activity.

Keywords: *criminal procedure; proceedings; integration; differentiation; specific expertise; multidisciplinary forensic examination; psychological research; methodology; technique.*

Research Problem Formulation

Within the framework of modernizing Ukrainian legislation, which governs forensic expert activity, and against the backdrop of developing various branches of specific expertise, the practice of conducting forensic psychological and other types of multidisciplinary forensic examinations is being supplemented with new categories and methodologies reflecting the essence of the subject matter, tasks, objects, subjects and research methods. That is why this issue is becoming increasingly relevant and must be thoroughly analysed.

Analysis of Essential Researches and Publications

Before addressing the types of multidisciplinary forensic psychological examina-

tions and making an attempt to classify and differentiate them according to subject-matter subtypes, let's focus on the nature of specific expertise integration (specific expertise synthesis), which is the basis for multidisciplinary forensic examinations and is vital for understanding the dynamic processes that constantly take place in forensic examination. To begin, research papers addressing the integration of specific expertise should be analysed.

From our perspective, Ella Simakova-Yefremian's monographs ¹, along with several of her research papers and other scientific publications ², extensively analysed theoretical-legal and methodological foundations of multidisciplinary forensic examinations. Specifically, stemming from the analysis of papers on theoretical and applied issues of forensic expertise by

- 1 Сімакова-Єфремян Е. Б. Теоретико-правові та методологічні засади комплексних судово-експертних досліджень : дис. ... д-ра юрид. наук. Харків, 2017. 503 с. URL: <https://uacademic.info/ua/document/0517U000760> (date accessed: 12.11.2025).
- 2 Див., напр.: Її ж. Теорія і методологія комплексної експертизи контактної-слідової взаємодії об'єктів : монографія. Харків, 2004. 176 с. ; Її ж. Комплексні судово-експертні дослідження: теорія та практика : монографія. Харків, 2016. 456 с. ; Сімакова-Єфремян Е. Б., Федоренко В. Л., Свиридова Л. В. та ін. Класифікація судових експертиз : монографія / за заг. ред. Е. Б. Сімакової-Єфремян. Харків, 2021. 568 с. URL: <https://nncise.org.ua/diyalnist/naukova> (date accessed: 12.11.2025) ; Сімакова-Єфремян Е. Б. Шляхи вдосконалення нормативно-правового регулювання судово-експертної діяльності. *Вісник Академії правових наук України*. 2001. № 1 (24). С. 190—197 ; Її ж. Загальна теорія

researchers and practitioners and relying on personal scientific developments, the researcher offers an author's definition of the interdisciplinary subject of multidisciplinary research in forensic examination, emphasizing the need to clarify the *forensic examination object* concept, which, as set out in the Law of Ukraine: *On Judicial Examination* ³, encompasses phenomena and processes. The scientist argues that this rule is somewhat inaccurate, since a forensic expert does not directly examine the phenomenon or processes related to a crime: they have already taken place in the past. The researcher pinpoints that a forensic expert examines both tangible carriers and materialized media of information about the aforementioned phenomena and processes, which is contained in these media. Furthermore, Ella Simakova-Yefremian formulated the author's definition of the integrated forensic examination object (a complex object requiring a multidisciplinary approach for its analysis). From our perspective, the above-mentioned concept most accurately

corresponds to the definition of the object of multidisciplinary forensic examination. This kind of forensic research is being increasingly implemented in practice. She also proposed her own definition of the *forensic examination methodology* concept (in particular, multidisciplinary) and justified the need to make certain structural components mandatory when developing forensic examination methodologies (research subjects; tasks to be performed; an approximate list of issues to be resolved; objects under study; subject(s) of research [requirements for experts in specific disciplines]; methods used to fulfil tasks: technical specifications for researching standardized and non-standardized methods [if there is an assessment of their suitability and measurement uncertainty], equipment, measurement traceability, initial standards and sample substances, procedures for selecting experimental samples, etc.; an algorithm of the expert's [experts'] sequential actions according to the stages [steps] of expert research; expert evaluation of obtained results and formulation

судової експертизи як основа методології проведення комплексних судово-експертних досліджень. *Там само*. 2006. № 3 (46). С. 225–235. URL: https://dspace.nlu.edu.ua/bitstream/123456789/720/1/VestnikAprN3_2006.pdf (date accessed: 12.11.2025) ; Ї ж. Деякі проблеми та шляхи вдосконалення правового регулювання судово-експертної діяльності. *Держава і право. Юридичні і політичні науки*. 2001. Вип. 11. С. 447–451 ; Ї ж. Вирішення теоретичних та процесуальних проблем комплексних судово-експертних досліджень – важливий чинник удосконалення судово-експертної діяльності. *Право України*. 2006. № 8. С. 78–82 ; Ї ж. Процесуальні та теоретичні проблеми комплексної судової експертизи. *Теорія та практика судової експертизи і криміналістики*. 2005. Вип. 5. С. 113–122 ; Ї ж. Сутність суб'єкта інтеграції знань при проведенні комплексних судово-експертних досліджень. *Там само*. 2006. Вип. 6. С. 108–117 ; Ї ж. Проблеми методичного забезпечення комплексних експертних досліджень. *Там само*. 2013. Вип. 13. С. 225–232. URL: <https://khrife-journal.org/index.php/journal/issue/view/14/2013-1> (date accessed: 12.11.2025) ; Ї ж. Інтеграційні процеси в судовій експертизі: сутність та проблемні питання комплексних досліджень. *Там само*. 2016. Вип. 16. С. 172–183. DOI: 10.32353/khrife.2016 (date accessed: 12.11.2025) ; Ї ж. Сутність комплексних досліджень за міжгалузевим предметом інтеграції знань. *Проблемні питання судової експертизи* : зб. мат-лів міжнар. наук.-практ. конф. (Дніпропетровськ, 03–04.10.2013). Дніпропетровськ, 2013. С. 14–18 тощо.

3 Про судову експертизу : Закон України від 25.02.1994 р. № 4038-XII (зі змін. та допов.). URL: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/4038-12#Text> (date accessed: 12.11.2025).

of opinions). Apart from these mandatory components, expert research methodology may contain other recommendations, such as documenting the procedure and findings of expert examination in the expert's (experts') opinion, preparing materials for conducting research, or having an investigator (court) evaluate obtained results, etc. One of the essential scientific achievements of Ella Simakova-Yefremian's research papers is that she provided her own definition of the *multidisciplinary expert examination* concept and, based on the analysis, submitted a proposal to supplement the Law of Ukraine: *On Judicial Examination* and procedural legislation with a corresponding definition, and also justified the need to amend the Criminal Code of Ukraine in the aspect of increasing liability for exerting unlawful pressure on a forensic expert (preclusion of appearance of an expert, or his/her coercion to refuse to testify or give an opinion, and also give any knowingly false testimony or opinion) and drafted the provisions of the relevant article of this Code. Ella Simakova-Yefremian's⁴ above-mentioned papers and other works also address various issues related to the improvement and further development of forensic expertise

provisions in the context of multidisciplinary forensic analyses.

Indisputably, other researchers also discussed the issues of multidisciplinary research in forensic examination. Thus, Yu. Hroshevyi and S. Stakhivskiy⁵ emphasize the evaluation of experts' opinions as sources of evidence. Various types of expert examinations, in particular, their multidisciplinary subtypes, are given particular attention in a guide edited by V. Honcharenko and I. Hora⁶. V. Shepitko, V. Zhuravel, and H. Avdieieva⁷, considering innovations in forensics, also underscore the systematic and multidisciplinary nature of verbal and non-verbal information established during pre-trial investigation, specifically to obtain such sources of evidence as an expert's opinion. In one of the first manuals on forensic expertise in Ukraine, N. Klymenko⁸ addresses multidisciplinary forensic examinations. Given the interpretation and functions of expert versions, V. Konovalova⁹ also pays attention to the synthesis of specific expertise when proposing expert versions. From our perspective, fundamental methodological papers on forensic expertise are papers by Ukrainian scientists M. Sehai and V. Strynzh¹⁰, analysing integration

4 Див. виноски «1» і «2».

5 Грошевий Ю. М., Стахівський С. М. Докази і доказування у кримінальному процесі : наук.-практ. посіб. Київ, 2006. 272 с.

6 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.

7 Шепітько В. Ю., Журавель В. А., Авдеева Г. К. Інновації в криміналістиці та їх впровадження в діяльність органів досудового слідства. *Питання боротьби зі злочинністю*. 2011. Вип. 21. С. 39–46. URL: <https://dspace.nlu.edu.ua//jspui/handle/123456789/5481> (date accessed: 12.11.2025).

8 Клименко Н. І. Судова експертологія: курс лекцій : навч. посіб. для студ. юрид. спец. Київ, 2007. 528 с.

9 Коновалова В. Е. О значении и функциях экспертных версий. *Криминалистика и судебная экспертиза*. 1977. Вып. 14. С. 53–58.

10 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.

signs of specific expertise in the processes of developing the methodology for performing identification, diagnostic and situational tasks of forensic examination, in particular, through multidisciplinary forensic examinations. One should also highlight publications by M. Shcherbakovskiy¹¹, which, in addition to considering the issues within expert support to justice, outline multidisciplinary forensic examinations.

Theoretical and applied aspects of interdisciplinary links between sciences, which play a decisive role in performing multidisciplinary forensic examinations, resonate not only with specialists in forensic science and criminalistics, but also with specialists in philosophy and science studies, whose works delve into the methodology of jurisprudence, the latest Western philosophy of science, certain philosophical inquiries, particular aspects of the dialectical method (as a general method of cognition in law) and are dedicated to general dialectics as a methodology of legal science, methodological approaches to the analysis of public administration features amidst the challenges of globalisation, the methodology of scientific cognition (from phenomenon to es-

sence), etc.¹². Accordingly, in the view of R. Shevchuk, “*Within an ontological framework, scientific cognition methodology is a system of philosophical underpinnings of cognitive process and corresponding general scientific, interdisciplinary and branch scientific principles, methods, categories, and theoretical provisions facilitating the acquisition and systematization of new knowledge about objective reality. Within an epistemological framework, it is a doctrine about essential properties and regularities of the emergence, functioning and development of a set of methodological systems*”¹³. In the light of multidisciplinary forensic examination, we focus on the consideration of interdisciplinary principles that serve as the basis for the methodology system of any multidisciplinary research.

In this respect, when compiling the methodology for multidisciplinary forensic examinations (and at the same time applying integration approaches), the differentiation of specific expertise should be viewed as their methodological tool. As N. Klymenko notes, the integration function consists in “*systematization and presentation <...> of empirical data obtained during the conduct of various types and kinds of forensic examinations, the use of new natural*

- 11 Див., напр.: Щербаковський М. Г. Проведення та використання судових експертиз у кримінальному провадженні : монографія. Харків, 2015. 560 с.
- 12 Див., напр.: Добронравова І. С., Білоус Т. М., Комар О. В. Новітня західна філософія науки : підручник. Київ, 2008. 216 с. ; Костицький М. В. Про діалектику як методологію юридичної науки. *Філософські та методологічні проблеми права*. 2012. № 1. С. 3—17 ; Його ж. Позитивізм як методологія юриспруденції. *Там само*. 2014. № 2. С. 16—35. URL: http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/Fmpp_2014_2_4 (date accessed: 12.11.2025) ; Шевчук Р. М. Діалектичний метод у правознавстві: окремі аспекти. *Там само*. 2012. № 2. С. 25—31. URL: http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/Fmpp_2012_2_5 (date accessed: 12.11.2025) ; Його ж. Методологія наукового пізнання: від явища до сутності. *Там само*. 2016. № 1 (11). С. 31—45. URL: http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/Fmpp_2016_1_5 (date accessed: 12.11.2025) ; Кримський С. Б. Запити філософських смислів. Київ, 2003. 240 с. ; Мозговий Л. І., Бичко І. В., Додонов Р. О. та ін. Філософія. Кредитно-модульний курс : навч. посіб. / за ред. Р. О. Додонова, Л. І. Мозгового. Київ, 2009. 456 с. ; Шкурат В. І. Методологічні підходи до аналізу особливостей державного управління в умовах глобалізації. *Державне управління*. 2006. № 1. С. 14—22 та ін.
- 13 Шевчук Р. М. Методологія наукового пізнання ... С. 42—43. URL: http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/Fmpp_2016_1_5 (date accessed: 12.11.2025)

science and technical methods that can be employed in expert research, their adaptation to the performance of forensic examination tasks, their evaluation in conformity with the principles of forensic expertise cognition”¹⁴. From the standpoint of E. Simakova-Yefremian, we share the view that the differentiation of specific expertise “drives the emergence of new expert specialties, each defined by a specific field of research”¹⁵. At the same time, the researcher pinpoints the following: “An overemphasis on the differentiation of expertise sometimes leads to situations where well-versed individuals can operate at full capacity exclusively within their ‘own’ area of expertise and face significant obstacles when it comes to the conduct of multidisciplinary forensic examinations”. In this regard, she cites K. E. Boulding’s reasoning regarding the organisation of systems: “The discourse remains limited to physicists talking only to physicists and economists talking only to economists; to make things even worse, nuclear physicists interact exclusively with nuclear physicists, and econometricians interact with econometricians. The central question guiding this study is whether science has become an isolated domain, inhabited by a community of hermits separated by high walls, each communicating in a unique language that only he/she can comprehend. The prevalence of “professional deafness” means that someone who needs to know something that someone else knows is incapable of understanding another due to a lack of cross-disciplinary receptivity”¹⁶. In an effort to avert this scenario, forensic experts, just like any researchers specialized in multidisciplinary forensic examinations, should not only possess specific expertise in the field in which they hold a formal degree and were trained, but

also be well-versed in common issues of science studies, philosophy and theory, in particular, the theory of forensic expertise, as well as in the interdisciplinary fields of forensic expertise and criminalistics. It is an indisputable fact that integration of specific expertise affects the forensic examination classification, and, therefore, the classification of multidisciplinary forensic examinations.

Article Purpose

For the purposes of this study, we deem it appropriate to meticulously study the classification of multidisciplinary forensic examinations, one component of which is forensic psychological examination incorporated into other areas of specific expertise, and to supplement it not only with new structural components, but also with provisions regarding the content of classification units.

Research Methods

With respect to the issue in question, general, separate and special research methods were applied.

Main Content Presentation

Throughout our research on incorporating specific psychology expertise into multidisciplinary forensic examinations, we will rely on the classification developed by E. Simakova-Yefremian:

“5. *Multidisciplinary forensic psychological and medical (psychiatric, etc.) examination.*

14 Клименко Н. І. Інтеграційна функція експертології. *Теорія та практика судової експертизи і криміналістики*. 2006. Вип. 6. С. 118.

15 Сімакова-Єфреміан Е. Б. Комплексні судово-експертні дослідження С. 19.

16 Там само. С. 19–20.

5.1. *Multidisciplinary forensic psychological and psychiatric examination (study of the nosological nature and degree of mental deviation manifestations and their impact on the mental activity of a person).*

5.2. *Multidisciplinary forensic medical, psychiatric and psychological (sexological and psychological) examination (a study of how mental activity influences the behaviour of people with sexual development disorders).*

5.3. *Multidisciplinary forensic medical and psychological examination (a study of the manifestations, nature, and interaction of psychological and somatopathological factors of a specific nosological affiliation, which are reflected in the peculiarities of a person's mental activity).*

5.4. *Multidisciplinary forensic psychological and engineering-technical examination (a study of the relationship between the occurrence of a traffic collision, man-made emergency, and the individual psychological features of human behaviour under these conditions).*

5.5. *Multidisciplinary forensic psychological and handwriting examination (investigation of causal links between individual psychological traits, the emotional state of a person who executed the handwritten text, and the presentation of these peculiarities in the handwritten text).*

5.6. *Multidisciplinary forensic psychological and linguistic examination (investigation of causal links between a person's*

speech activity and individual psychological traits and the emotional state of a person (audience).

5.7. *Multidisciplinary forensic psychological and art studies examination (a study of the way people's minds are affected by multimedia content, including print, audio and video, that is either erotic or pornographic or promotes a cult of violence and cruelty)"*¹⁷.

As is clearly demonstrated, multidisciplinary psychological and psychiatric examination is at the top of this classification. In our previous publications, we have already emphasized the issues of multidisciplinary psychological-psychiatric, psychological-military, etc., studies¹⁸. Drawing upon forensic practice, we propose expanding the spectrum of multidisciplinary studies in which specific psychology expertise is applied.

Let us first address multidisciplinary forensic psychological and psychiatric examination. This study is responsive to the dynamics of social processes and contemporary challenges. It methodologically re-evaluates traditional scientific achievements and transforms them into new, flexible theoretical and practical systems.

As set out in Art. 1 of the Law of Ukraine: *On Judicial Examination*, "Forensic examination is a form of research based on specific expertise in science, technology, art, crafts, etc., used to study objects, phenomena, and processes for the purpose of providing

17 Сімакова-Єфремян Е. Б. Комплексні судово-експертні дослідження С. 106—107.

18 Див., напр.: Євсюков О. Ф. Вирішення комплексною військово-психологічною експертизою завдань щодо оцінювання впливу деструктивної пропаганди. *Вісник Луганського навчально-наукового інституту імені Е. О. Дідоренка*. 2025. Вип. 2 (110). С. 117—125. DOI: [10.32782/2786-9156.110.2.117-125](https://doi.org/10.32782/2786-9156.110.2.117-125) (date accessed: 12.11.2025) ; Його ж. Можливості дослідження пропаганди в межах комплексної військово-психологічної експертизи. *Військова експертиза в умовах сьогодення: проблемні питання та шляхи їх вирішення* : зб. мат-лів Всеукр. наук.-практ. конф. (Дніпро, 25.04.2025). Дніпро, 2025. С. 69—72 ; Yevsiukov O. Complex forensic psycho-psychiatric examination: modernity and prospects. *Trends and Prospects for the Development of Science and Education* : Proceedings of the 2nd International Scientific Conference (Oxford, UK, 10 July 2025). Oxford, 2025. Pp. 204—207. DOI: [10.64076/iedc250710.32](https://doi.org/10.64076/iedc250710.32) (date accessed: 12.11.2025).

a conclusion on issues that are or will be the subject of trial”¹⁹. The law fails to specify the meaning of the specific expertise concept, but only links thereof to science, technology, art, crafts, etc. In the preamble of this Law, forensic activity purpose is defined as follows: “Upholding justice in Ukraine through independent, qualified and objective expert examinations that make the most of scientific and technological advances”²⁰. Therefore, when justifying the need to extend the specified list, we will rely on the provided rules.

The following Ukrainian scholars devoted their research papers to theoretical and applied issues of specific expertise: D. Hurina and I. Kalinina²¹, M. Shcherbakovskiy²², I. Petrova²³, H. Spitsyna and H. Bidniak²⁴, E. Simakova-Yefremian²⁵, N. Filipenko et al.²⁶, and others). “Con-

versely, various interpretations of specific expertise essence have become the “cornerstone” underlying the discrepancies concerning the lawfulness of engaging a specialist who is qualified in a particular field to conduct a forensic examination”²⁷.

H. Spitsyna defines specific expertise as a set of knowledge and skills in various disciplines; a system of data from science, technology and other areas of human activity; knowledge used procedurally in pre-trial investigation and in court proceedings; utilized in conjunction with scientific and technical means; applied and implemented by “participants in criminal proceedings in practical activities, special training, taking into account professional experience and based on the body of theoretical knowledge in the relevant field; <...> implementation of specific expertise is both

19 Про судову експертизу : Закон URL: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/4038-12#Text> (date accessed: 12.11.2025).

20 Там само.

21 Гуріна Д. П., Калініна І. В. До питання щодо компетенції та компетентності судового експерта у кримінальному провадженні. *Криміналістика і судова експертиза*. 2018. Вип. 63 (1). С. 195—203. URL: [http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/krise_2018_63\(1\)_23](http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/krise_2018_63(1)_23) (date accessed: 12.11.2025).

22 Щербаковський М. Г. Співвідношення спеціальних знань з уміннями та навичками. *Сучасні тенденції розвитку криміналістики та кримінального процесу*: тези доп. міжнар. наук.-практ. конф. до 100-річ. від дня народж. проф. М. В. Салтєвського (Харків, 08.11.2017). Харків, 2017. С. 225—226. URI: <http://dspace.univd.edu.ua/xmlui/handle/123456789/14545> (date accessed: 12.11.2025).

23 Петрова І. А. Теоретико-правові та організаційно-методологічні засади регулювання судово-товарознавчих експертиз споживчих товарів : дис. ... д-ра юрид. наук. Харків, 2012. 541 с. URL: <https://uacademic.info/ua/document/0512U000231> (date accessed: 12.11.2025).

24 Спіцина Г. О., Бідняк Г. С. Форми використання спеціальних знань. *Теорія та практика судової експертизи і криміналістики*. 2018. Вип. 18. С. 240—248. DOI: [10.32353/khrife.2018.26](https://doi.org/10.32353/khrife.2018.26) (date accessed: 12.11.2025).

25 Сімакова-Єфреміан Е. Б. Про необхідність удосконалення законодавства щодо здійснення судово-експертної діяльності в Україні. *Там само*. 2019. Вип. 19. С. 118—129. DOI: [10.32353/khrife.1.2019.09](https://doi.org/10.32353/khrife.1.2019.09) (date accessed: 12.11.2025).

26 Філіпенко Н. Є., Снігер'єв О. П., Бубликов А. В. Застосування спеціальних знань під час виявлення, профілактики й розслідування злочинів у сфері комп'ютерної інформації та високих технологій (оглядова стаття). *Там само*. 2020. Вип. 22. С. 162—178. DOI: [10.32353/khrife.2.2020.12](https://doi.org/10.32353/khrife.2.2020.12) (date accessed: 12.11.2025).

27 Євсюков О. Ф. Використання спеціальних психологічних знань у кримінальних провадженнях. *Правовий часопис Донбасу*. 2025. № 1 (90). С. 87. DOI: [10.32782/2523-4269-2025-90-87-91](https://doi.org/10.32782/2523-4269-2025-90-87-91) (date accessed: 12.11.2025).

labour-intensive and cognitively demanding; <...> specific expertise contributes to the development of technical means and methods of working with evidence and to the establishment of compelling circumstances that are vital for proof procedure”²⁸.

M. Mykheienko et al. stress that “commonly known, publicly available scientific knowledge, everyday and household information, as well as knowledge of law” are not included in the specific expertise structure²⁹. V. Shepitko views specific expertise as “a system of scientific data (knowledge) or skills of an objective nature, obtained as a result of higher professional training, scientific activities, hands-on experience — all meeting modern standards”³⁰. V. Honcharenko et al. emphasize that specific expertise is knowledge and skills acquired as a result of “professional education and/or hands-on experience in any field of science, technology, art or craft, which are used <...> by participants in proceedings within the scope of their granted powers to solve procedural tasks following a specific procedure”³¹.

In previous publications we stressed that specific expertise is a holistic system reflecting the extent to which the forensic expert perceives tangible and materialized objects within the scope of his/her competence. The logical organization of the cognitive process of an expert psychologist is aimed at obtaining and substan-

tiating the knowledge gained about the object under study, at transforming one’s cognitive activity into a subject-oriented, conscious scientific and practical search related to the concepts and categories of specific fields of knowledge. This is accomplished through appropriate methods and techniques of forensic psychological examination³².

General classification of expert sciences views forensic psychological examination and forensic psychiatric examination as adjacent generic expert disciplines. This is linked to the fact that these branches of science (forensic psychology and forensic psychiatry) primarily focus on the study of peculiarities of human mental activity. At the same time, it stressed that a forensic psychologist studies the mental activity of a mentally healthy person, and a forensic psychiatrist examines a person suffering from mental disorders. When evaluating human mental functioning, well-versed individuals (expert psychologists and expert psychiatrists) fulfil tasks within their areas of competence and incorporate specific expertise into a common opinion. The authority of forensic experts participating in conducting a multidisciplinary forensic analysis is defined not only by the forensic examination subject (tasks), but also by its object and subjects (experts with specific expertise). The set of research methods

28 Спіцина Г. О., Бідняк Г. С. Знач. твір. С. 241. DOI: 10.32353/khrife.2018.26 (date accessed: 12.11.2025).

29 Михеєнко М. М., Шибіко В. П., Дубинський А. Я. Науково-практичний коментар Кримінально-процесуального кодексу України: за станом законодавства і постанов Пленуму Верховного Суду України на 15 серпня 1997 р., зі змінами законодавства станом на 01 квітня 1999 р. / ред.: В. Ф. Бойко, В. Г. Гончаренко. 2-ге вид. Київ, 1999. 622 с.

30 Шепітько В. Ю. Проблеми використання спеціальних знань крізь призму сучасного кримінального судочинства в Україні. *Судова експертиза*. 2014. № 1. С. 11.

31 Гончаренко В. Г., Курдюков В. В., Легких К. В. Спеціальні знання: генезис, предмет, рівні, форми використання в доказуванні. *Вісник Академії адвокатури України*. 2007. Вип. 2 (9). С. 24. URL: http://nbuv.gov.ua/UJRN/vaau_2007_2_5 (date accessed: 12.11.2025).

32 Євсюков О. Ф. Використання... С. 88. DOI: 10.32782/2523-4269-2025-90-87-91 (date accessed: 12.11.2025).

employed by forensic experts within their professional remit is also an essential component.

Sent. 1 of para. 6 of cl. 1.2.13 of Sec. I of the Instructions on the Appointment and Conduct of Forensic Examinations and Expert Research stipulates the following: “*Multidisciplinary is an expert examination conducted with the application of specific expertise from diverse domains, such as various fields of science, technology, or other specific expertise (various specializations within the same field) to address one joint (integration) task (issue)*”³³. Notably, even though the Criminal Procedure Code of Ukraine contains Art. 486: *Comprehensive psychology-psychiatric and psychological examination of an underage suspect or accused*, it does not fully define multidisciplinary (comprehensive) expert examination³⁴. The situation remains consistent across the other codes of Ukraine, even though they include articles titled *Multidisciplinary expert examination* (Art. 112 of the Civil Procedure Code of Ukraine³⁵, Art. 106 of Code of Commercial Procedure of Ukraine³⁶, Art. 110 of the Code of Administrative Proceedings of Ukraine³⁷). However, they do fail to include the interpretation of the multidisciplinary forensic examination concept; instead, they contain a rule that requires an expert who disagrees with another expert’s opinion to provide a separate opinion on all issues, or on those on which he/she disagrees. This violates the

fundamental multidisciplinary expert examination principle, which presupposes that opinions can only be drawn on the basis of the integration of specific expertise from various fields of science. We would like to emphasise once again that when conducting a multidisciplinary forensic examination, it is impossible to reach a conclusion without synthesizing cross-disciplinary knowledge, and the application of the rule concerning the possibility of providing a separate expert opinion based on the results of a multidisciplinary expert examination will lead to a deadlock.

When considering multidisciplinary forensic psychological and psychiatric examination (hereinafter referred to as the *FPPE*), it is worth pointing out that the expert psychologist only examines examinees who have been diagnosed as mentally healthy by the expert psychiatrist. These boundaries of experts’ competence are determined by the scope of their specific expertise.

An expert psychologist “*tackles highly complex tasks to reconstruct the specific nature of a person’s mental activity in a situation that developed in the past. Retrospective analysis requires the application of a suite of knowledge and skills: possession of empirical and theoretical knowledge in the field of psychology, mastery of methods for verifying and substantiating obtained results, the capacity for synthesizing specific properties of*

33 Інструкція про призначення та проведення судових експертиз та експертних досліджень : затв. наказ. Мін’юсту України від 08.10.1998 р. № 53/5 (зі змін. та допов.). URL: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/z0705-98#Text> (date accessed: 12.11.2025).

34 Кримінальний процесуальний кодекс України від 13.04.2012 р. № 4651-VI (зі змін. та допов.). URL: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/4651-17#Text> (date accessed: 12.11.2025).

35 Цивільний процесуальний кодекс України від 18.03.2004 р. № 1618-IV (зі змін. та допов.). URL: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1618-15#Text> (date accessed: 12.11.2025).

36 Господарський процесуальний кодекс України від 06.11.1991 р. № 1798-XII (зі змін. та допов.). URL: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1798-12#Text> (date accessed: 12.11.2025).

37 Кодекс адміністративного судочинства України від 06.07.2005 р. № 2747-IV (зі змін. та допов.). URL: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2747-15#Text> (date accessed: 12.11.2025).

psychological phenomena and abstractions (e.g., ideal models of a personality's structure, models of the structure of his/her mental activity), description and expert evaluation of studied mental phenomena, which have been categorised and conceptualized within the framework of scientific psychology and special concepts of forensic psychological examination, etc. Therefore, in the course of research, the expert synthesizes knowledge of forensic examination theory and scientific psychological knowledge, as well as organizes his/her professional activities according to a procedural framework for conducting an expert examination"³⁸.

From the perspective of V. Pervomaiskyi, when evaluating the specific expertise and competence of an expert psychiatrist, the following should be emphasized: "The object of forensic psychiatric examination is not only the person directly involved, but also all other physical media containing information about a person's past (including the relevant timeframe for the investigation and court) and current states of consciousness (his/her perception of himself/herself, his/her environment, and behaviour). The scientist also notes that "two aspects must be singled out in the "competency" concept. The first one encompasses the range of questions stipulated by legislative acts and departmental instructional documents derived from them, which must be resolved by a forensic expert. These same documents set forth certain requirements for expert examination and the expert's opinions. The second one is the range of questions that experts may address in the presence of all the necessary materials and based on the potential of their respective fields. The overlap of these aspects of the concept serves as an obligatory pre-

requisite for defining the limits of the expert psychiatrist's competence. The limits of the expert psychiatrist's competence include:

- smth that makes up the forensic psychiatry subject;
- smth that can be obtained using a forensic psychiatric diagnostic method;
- smth that can be proved using the tools of this field;
- smth that cannot be refuted by anyone other than another specialist in this area of knowledge"³⁹.

If we align the cited reasoning with the limits of an expert psychologist's competence, then they include a component of the forensic psychology subject. This component can be obtained using forensic psychological examination methods, are proven by this science, and cannot be refuted by anyone except another specialist in this field.

Therefore, taking into account the specifics of the forensic psychological and forensic psychiatric examination described above, during the conduct of a FPPE:

- An expert psychologist studies peculiarities of the mental activity of a person without mental disorders (describes, analyses, evaluates it) and case materials necessary for addressing questions.
- An expert psychiatrist examines (detects, evaluates, diagnoses) an examinee and studies medical records.

A sample-based analysis of expert practice demonstrates that approaches to the conduct of a FPPE vary depending on different regions of Ukraine, specifically due to the lack of multidisciplinary scientific research by psychologists and

38 Євсюков О. Ф. Використання.... С. 89. DOI: 10.32782/2523-4269-2025-90-87-91 (date accessed: 12.11.2025).

39 Первомайский В. Б. Невменяемость. Киев, 2000. 320 с. URL: <http://www.psychiatry.ua/books/insanity/> (date accessed: 12.11.2025).

psychiatrists, which would contain general methodological guidelines for FPPE conduct. This methodological gap requires the delineation of concepts that would help describe the object under study using categories derived from the parent sciences (psychology and psychiatry) and adapted to the intellectual repository of psychological and psychiatric examination. This will also help methodologically organise and unify the process of interdisciplinary expert cognition for subsequent application in case law.

Consequently, in light of contentious issues that occur during research activities carried out at the intersection of forensic psychology and forensic psychiatry, it is necessary to synthesize the findings of expert psychologists from the Ministry of Justice and of expert psychiatrists from the Ministry of Health of Ukraine in order to organize the scientific and methodological support for FPPE. Scientific-methodological and organizational-management support for forensic expert activities is set out in Art. 8 of the Law of Ukraine: *On Judicial Examination*⁴⁰. We propose that joint activities on scientific and methodological support for FPPE be carried out in two stages. *At the first stage*, it is advisable to develop and agree on the terminology for these types of forensic examinations. We consider the problem of applying terminology that combines certain aspects of forensic psychological and forensic psychiatric examinations to be of primary importance. A glossary of terms for forensic psychological and psychiatric examinations will ensure the correctness and scientific accuracy of expert language, taking into account peculiarities of interdisciplinary terminology. This approach stems from the principles of terms universality

(adaptation to different fields of specific expertise while preserving the core meaning) and contextual variability (clarification of the term meaning depending on the expert discipline). *At the second stage*, it is crucial to develop modern methodologies (methodological guidelines) for FPPE, which will contribute to the regulation of forensic expert activities, providing objective answers to the investigation's (court's) questions.

Similar to the above is the issue of synthesizing knowledge during a multidisciplinary forensic medical, psychiatric and psychological (sexological-psychological) examination. This research aids in studying the impact of the mental activity of a person suffering from sexual development disorders on his/her behaviour. How exactly does this type differ from the one described above? From our perspective, this category can be considered a type of multidisciplinary forensic psychological and psychiatric examination in theory. However, to assess the sexual maturity of an examinee and biological and medical signs of his/her disease, causes (etiology or aetiology), mechanisms of development (pathogenesis), and single out classifications and nomenclatures, not only expertise in the field of psychiatry and psychology is required, but also in medicine, since disease should be considered a holistic phenomenon that requires systematization and classification for correct diagnosis, treatment and prevention. For this purpose, specialists qualified in therapy, gynaecology, and endocrinology (other medical experts) are engaged, without whom it is often impossible to diagnose a specific disease characterized by a specific cluster of symptoms, functional and morphological changes, as well as by

⁴⁰ Про судову експертизу : Закон URL: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/4038-12#Text> (date accessed: 12.11.2025).

a certain cause and mechanism of development.

Objects that will be examined during a multidisciplinary forensic medical and psychological-sexological examination encompass the examinee, medical records, and other documentation. Since human activities depend on many factors and can yield both external (man-made artifacts, accomplishments) and internal (personal growth, self-realization) outcomes, they are manifested in actions that society and a person himself/herself categorize as either positive or negative, depending on their purpose and content. That is why expert examination objects also comprise various products for free creativity and self-expression created and crafted of one's own will (e.g., diaries, personal notes), results of experimental psychological studies, etc., exploring the intersection of somatopathological, psychopathological, and psychological phenomena, etc. The main task of multidisciplinary forensic medical and psychological-sexological examination is to identify whether a person suffering from borderline personality disorder of a sexological nature is able (or unable) to express will, reflect, and have a clear mental perception of reality. Predominantly, in criminal proceedings involving sexual offences, investigative authorities formulate the following questions to fulfil this task: "What are the psychological factors of a person's sexual behaviour?"; "Can a person with specific sexual mental disorders, at a certain level of socio-psychological and mental development, with individual psychological traits and an emotional state, comprehend the nature and significance of sexually violent acts committed against him/her and resist them?"; "Is a person, given his/her

level of mental development and individual psychological traits, capable of fully understanding the nature and actual content of his/her actions, exercising complete control over them, and anticipating their consequences?"; Have (and how exactly) individual properties of a person's mental processes (specify, depending on what is important in a case: memory, attention span, perception, thinking, nature of emotional responses) affected the adequacy of his/her perception of the nature and context of a situation (clarify inherent signs of a situation investigated in a case), or presentation thereof in the testimony?; "Does a person possess individual psychological traits that significantly influenced the nature of his/her testimony in a case?"

Apart from general research methods, the following are employed within the analytical toolkit of multidisciplinary forensic medical and psychological-sexological examination: clinical-diagnostic, directed observation, diagnostic conversation, experimental-psychological examination, etc., and specialized methodologies for expert analysis in the relevant specialties (excluding forensic-medical and forensic-psychiatric ones, which are not subject to registration) from the *Register of Methodologies for Conducting Forensic Examinations*⁴¹.

During a multidisciplinary forensic medical and psychological-sexological examination, the expert committee primarily studies case (proceedings) materials and only after that proceeds to the evaluation of the victim's sexual maturity (medical-somatic examinations) and the identification of sexual development disorders (if any). If present, the type and degree of expressiveness of the person's borderline mental disorder are studied,

41 Реєстр методик проведення судових експертиз : вебсайт. URL: <https://rmpse.minjust.gov.ua/page/24> (date accessed: 12.11.2025).

and intermediate medical and psychiatric opinions are formulated. At the second stage, an expert psychiatrist and an expert psychologist conduct a clinical follow-up and an experimental psychological study, respectively. They identify core personality traits, study a person's emotional and volitional sphere, leading and situational motives of activity, and ways of acting; analyse regulatory, protective, and compensatory mechanisms; assess the level of mental development, specific instances of a victim's understanding of sexual relations; analyse the development of a criminal situation and peculiarities of the victim's awareness of the perpetrator's sexually inappropriate actions during the early stages; evaluate the emotional state of a victim in a certain criminal situation; analyse the adequacy of moral and ethical assessment of events, and shed light on the understanding of the social significance of actions committed against the victim. Drawing upon a synthesis of the collective findings, experts compile a joint opinion about the degree of sexual maturity of an individual, the awareness of his/her own actions, the level of volitional control over his/her own behaviour, and his/her ability to choose means of resisting the perpetrator in a situation under investigation. Experts' answers to the questions posed should be formulated in a categorical or probable manner, or in the form of an expert opinion stating the impossibility of resolving an issue, accompanied by specific reasons. The opinion of the multidisciplinary forensic medical, sexological and psychological examination is signed by a medical expert, an expert psychiatrist, and an expert psychologist.

Similar to the above type of multidisciplinary expert examination is multidisciplinary forensic medical and psychological examination. Its subject matter is the factual data and circumstances of a case,

which are established by synthesizing knowledge in the fields of forensic medicine and forensic psychology. They concern the assessment of manifestations, nature and interaction of psychological and somatic-pathological factors of a particular nosology, reflected in the peculiarities of a person's mental activity and interlinked with disturbances in his/her physical health.

The committee of forensic experts identifies individual psychological traits of an examinee resulting from somatic disease. The question may be phrased as follows: "Are there any health-related psychological traits of an individual that have significantly influenced the nature of his/her actions during crime commission (attention span, sensory sphere, fatigue, reaction time, etc.)?"; "Was the person in an emotional state (intense fear, depression, confusion, despair, mental strain, fatigue, etc.) that significantly affected his/her consciousness during crime commission?"; "Is a person able, given his/her state of health, psychophysiological and emotional state, and individual psychological traits, to correctly understand the circumstances relevant to a particular proceeding and give adequate testimony about them?"; "Have the person's state of health and individual psychological traits (memory, attention span, thinking, emotional reactions) affected his/her ability to accurately apprehend the specific features and nature of a given situation and to reproduce them in their testimony?"

The objects of multidisciplinary medical and psychological examination are a certain person, medical records and other documentation compiled based on the individual's examination results and activities (diaries, profiles, etc.), findings of an experimental psychological study on the interdependence of somatopathological

and psychological phenomena in the behaviour of an individual.

The methods of multidisciplinary medical and psychological examination include: general, separate (clinical-diagnostic, directed observation, diagnostic conversation, experimental-psychological study, etc.) and special methods, functions of which are fulfilled using established expert research methodologies for relevant specialties (excluding forensic medical examinations, which are not subject to registration) from the *Register of Methods for Conducting Forensic Examinations*⁴².

At the first stage, the expert committee studies case materials and conducts a medical-somatic expert examination (where the medical expert plays a leading role): it assesses the nosological nature, type and severity of health disorders. At the second stage, an expert psychologist determines the following: dominant individual personality traits; regulatory, protective and compensatory mechanisms; mental state of a person in a criminal situation; a person's behaviour in certain situational circumstances of a crime. Based on expert examination findings, the expert committee draws a conclusion on the impact of the person's health problems on his/her mental activity in the context of the alleged offense. The expert's opinion may be categorical, probable, or in the form of a conclusion stating that it is impossible to resolve the issue, with reasons provided. The conclusion is signed by both experts (the medical expert and the expert psychologist).

Multidisciplinary forensic psychological and engineering-technical examination is used to determine facts and circumstances surrounding the interconnection between events of a technical nature (traffic collisions, man-made emergencies) and

individual psychological and behavioural traits of a person. Under such circumstances, experts in the fields of engineering and psychology examine, within their competence, the elements of a complex system: person – technology – environment.

The primary objective of this research type is to establish whether a connection exists between the occurrence of a man-made emergency or traffic collision and the individual psychological traits of human behaviour in this particular context. To achieve this, the following questions are proposed for consideration: “Does a particular individual possess individual psychological traits that have significantly influenced the nature of his/her actions during a man-made emergency or traffic collision (increased dependence, hesitancy, vulnerability, anxiety, etc.)?”; “Was a certain person in an emotional state (intense fear, depression, confusion, despair, emotional stress, frustration, etc.) that significantly impaired his/her consciousness and disrupted his/her activities while performing duties (operating machines, mechanisms, vehicles, etc.) stipulated by the relevant regulatory documents?”; “Was a particular individual capable of taking measures to prevent a man-made (emergency) situation, given their psychophysiological state?”; “Have the individual psychological or sensory characteristics of a particular individual (memory, attention span, perception, thinking, emotional reactions, vision, smell, hearing) affected his/her ability to properly understand the circumstances of an accident or man-made emergency and reproduce them in his/her testimony about the man-made (emergency) situation?”.

During a multidisciplinary forensic engineering-technical and psychological examination, the expert committee proceeds

42 Реєстр методик ... URL: <https://rmpse.minjust.gov.ua/page/24> (date accessed: 12.11.2025).

to individual studies after reviewing case materials submitted to resolve issues related to the establishment of a causal relationship between the actions of a person from an operational and technical perspective and his/her psychophysiological features. First, a forensic engineering expert assesses technical features of the incident's onset, sequence of events, and consequences of an emergency. He/she analyses the actions of a participant in the event exclusively from a technical standpoint, that is, the expert analyses to what extent the person's actions comply (non-comply) with the requirements of regulatory acts (legal regulations): for example, whether these actions comply with the technical specifications of Road Traffic Regulations, etc.

Subsequently, an expert psychologist identifies the person's psychophysiological profile in the event of an emergency. The psychologist constructs a mental model of a person's appropriate behaviour in normal conditions and compares it with the context of a specific emergency that has taken place, determining the psychological parameters of the situation (extremity or normality), the extent of the individual's ability to accurately assess the situation as threatening, the extent of his/her ability to consciously control, accept and implement decisions, the degree of the individual's ability to correctly perceive, remember and reproduce the circumstances of the event in his/her testimony, etc. The joint expert opinion stemming from the conducted research should encompass the definition of circumstances, nature, and mechanisms of a man-made emergency (accident) and their relationship with individual psychological traits and the mental state of an individual.

A completely different nature of specific expertise integration can be traced in

multidisciplinary psychological and handwriting examination, which covers the identification of the relationship between individual psychological traits, the emotional state of a person who has executed the handwritten text, and the reflection thereof in the handwritten text. The question can be posed as follows: "Was a person who wrote the handwritten text in an atypical psychophysiological condition? If so, what condition was it?".

The scope of objects (apart from a person who has executed the handwritten text) of this type of multidisciplinary expert examination includes handwritten texts and comparative samples (free, conditionally free, experimental), as well as other proceedings materials documenting the mental activity of a specific person in a situation involving handwritten text execution, etc. Apart from general and specific methods (diagnostic interview, experimental-psychological examination, microscopic examination, forensic photography, etc.), specialized methods employing specific methodologies for the relevant specialties from the Register of Methods for Conducting Forensic Examinations⁴³ are also used during multidisciplinary psychological and handwriting examinations.

Although many have studied the influence of a person's psycho-emotional states on his/her motor skills (a system of movements characteristic of a certain person), specifically on handwriting, this type of research has not been adequately addressed to date. Following the standard procedure of previous multidisciplinary expert examinations, the expert committee first familiarizes itself with the submitted case materials. Firstly, the handwriting expert identifies an author of the manuscript. Then, he/she establishes

43 Реєстр методик ... URL: <https://rmpse.minjust.gov.ua/page/24> (date accessed: 12.11.2025).

whether the manuscript has been written under unusual circumstances or in an unusual state. In the event of a favourable outcome, at the second stage, the expert psychologist determines the set of individual psychological traits of an individual and the nature of his/her emotional state during the execution of the handwritten text. The joint opinion, which is signed by all experts, should cover the identification of the emotional state (indicate the specific state) of a person who, under certain conditions, executed the handwritten text. The forms of opinions are the same as mentioned earlier.

Similar in methodology to the above is multidisciplinary forensic psychological and linguistic examination (authorship analysis), but it focuses not on the executor, but on the text author or the semantic and textual peculiarities of text (words, phrases). This research's subject matter involves studying facts and circumstances related to determining peculiarities of an author's speech activity and their interconnection with individual psychological traits and emotional state of the recipient (audience). Following the previous research, the system of multidisciplinary forensic examinations fails to distinguish this type of research as a separate category either. At the same time, such questions arise in expert practice, so they need to be resolved. In our view, typical tasks of multidisciplinary psychological and linguistic examination (authorship analysis) entail the determination of the nature and features of written communication (speeches, texts in social networks, or other types of communication), its potential impact on the cognitive, motivational, and emotional spheres of those to whom it is addressed. Expert psychologists are usually addressed with the following questions: "Does a particular statement (word, text)

by the communicator have the potential to influence the cognitive (motivational, emotional) sphere of the recipient (audience) with the aim of bringing the recipient's value systems, attitudes, motivations, social stereotypes, and guiding principles into line with the communicator's desired outcome?"; "If the communicator's speech, textual reproduction of which is provided in the video recording review protocol, contains demands for providing undue advantage in exchange for taking certain actions or inaction, and the communicator uses his/her official standing over a person under his/her authority, how could this affect the recipient's perception of this information?". The expert linguist's opinions serve as the basis for addressing these questions.

The scope of objects for this multidisciplinary expert examination may cover relevant materials of proceedings related to the products of mental and speech activity: e.g., texts, phrases, and individual words (both handwritten and printed: since it is about the author of a text, video recording review protocols).

Methods are classified according to the following criteria: general, specific and special. The methods are freely selected based on the expert's professional expertise, since the choice of the forensic analysis method falls within the expert's remit. At the initial investigation stage, the expert committee familiarises itself with the provided case materials/ other objects and determines the sufficiency (insufficiency) of materials and, if necessary, submits a corresponding motion for additional information. Thereafter, the expert linguist identifies speech production peculiarities, such as its characteristics, purpose, category based on presentation type, and meaningful components, along with the communicative environment.

During research, socio-biographical details of the text author, including native language and educational background, can also be established from available materials. Subsequently, an expert psychologist assesses the communicative potential of the text and reviews the collected data. Following the multidisciplinary expert examination, the expert committee formulates and signs an opinion (an expert psychologist discusses the impact of the researched speech production on the recipient, person or audience in his/her opinion). Experts' answers to the questions posed should be formulated in a categorical or probable manner, or in the form of an expert opinion stating the impossibility of resolving the issue, accompanied by specific reasons.

Similar to the above-mentioned type of multidisciplinary expert examination is multidisciplinary forensic psychological, linguistic, video and audio recording examination. It aims to assess the communicative influence in communication scenarios captured on video and audio recordings. The object of such a study is information (video and audio recordings and protocols for the review of audio and video recordings, documented on paper-based or digital media) containing factual data about a specific communicative interaction (human speech activity). Given the functions of communicative acts and their symbolic nature, the subject of multidisciplinary psychological and linguistic examination of speech and video/audio recordings is a set of factual data on peculiarities of human speech production and on the presence (absence) of communicative influence, which are established through the synthesis of knowledge from related fields of science—linguistics, psychology, and video/audio recording research—and are of paramount importance in legally relevant situations.

The subject of expert examination in the field of video and audio recording is the factual data about a speaker featured in the video or audio recording. These data facilitate the identification of this person by physical parameters of his/her voice or by linguistic features of his/her speech; physical media and video/audio recording devices help obtain information about technical specifications and technology of video/audio recording production based on specific expertise. The subject of the expert linguist's research is factual data captured on video and audio recordings relating to speech forms (provision of information, coercion, persuasion, threats, etc.), which are identified using specific expertise. The subject of the expert psychologist's research is factual data from video and audio recordings about peculiarities of communicative interaction between persons (verbal and non-verbal behaviour aimed at achieving a specific communicative and practical goal in the context of certain psychological attitudes, characteristics of the communicative space), which are established relying on specific psychology expertise.

The task of an expert examining audio and video recordings containing communicative interactions is to determine technical settings and technologies for obtaining video and audio recordings and/or identifying persons. It is worth noting that establishing the textual content of conversations captured via video and audio recordings is not a separate expert task, as it does not require specific expertise: it is carried out by an expert during speaker profiling and attribution or speech intelligibility improvement. For research purposes, the expert is provided with the relevant inspection and listening protocols, which contain the content of conversations. The task of an expert

linguist examining recorded situations of communicative interaction is to determine the objective content of statements provided for research, identify imperative speech forms (direct and indirect), and the grammatical structure of utterances (factual statements, value judgments, etc.). The task of an expert psychologist analysing recorded situations of communicative interaction is to identify whether the communicator utilises any verbal and non-verbal communication means of a motivational, manipulative, suggestive nature (determine how they influence the recipient's behaviour, emotional state, cognitive and personal spheres).

The integration component of the outlined research subjects is the communicative influence exerted in a situation of communicative interaction, recorded on the video and sound recording and verbalized in the inspection and listening protocol (provided that the content of conversations is available). This necessitates the execution of a common task based on the synthesis of specific expertise in the fields of psychology, linguistics, and video and sound recording examination.

Given current circumstances, experts use the *General methodology for appointing and conducting multidisciplinary forensic examinations by the expert committee (as amended by the decision of the Coordinating Board dated 12 September 2014)*⁴⁴ when conducting multidisciplinary forensic ex-

aminations. At the same time, expert practice emphasizes the importance of developing an algorithm of actions for forensic experts in the course of multidisciplinary expert examinations to establish communicative influence in situations of communicative interaction recorded on video or audio.

The subsequent type of multidisciplinary expert examination is multidisciplinary forensic psychological and art studies examination. It is ordered when, drawing upon the synthesis of specific expertise in the fields of art history and psychology, it is necessary to identify factual data on the presence of erotic, pornographic information or information promoting the cult of violence and cruelty in printed, audio, video products, etc., as well as to assess the impact of these data on socio-psychological traits of a consumer (in particular, minors).

Predominantly, forensic expert practice demonstrates that similar studies fall within the competence of a forensic art historian, and they are carried out in conformity with appropriate methodologies (for example: *Methodology for forensic art studies examination of pornographic content*⁴⁵, *Methodology for examination of works glorifying the cult of violence and cruelty*⁴⁶). At the same time, the *psychological and art examination* concept has not yet been well-defined. Research & Development (hereinafter referred to as R&D)

44 Загальна методика призначення та проведення комплексних судових експертиз, що виконуються комісією експертів (із змінами, внесеними рішенням Координаційної ради від 12.09.2014) : зареєстр. 06.02.2009 р. Харків, 2007. Реєстр. код 0.1.16 / Реєстр методик URL: <https://rmpse.minjust.gov.ua/search> (date accessed: 12.11.2025).

45 Методика судово-експертного мистецтвознавчого дослідження продукції порнографічного характеру : зареєстр. 01.03.2013 р. Харк., Дон. і Крим. НДІСЕ Мін'юсту України; ДНДЕКЦ МВС України, Дон. та Запоріж. НДЕКЦ при МВС України, 2011. Реєстр. код 15.1.12 / Там само. URL: <https://rmpse.minjust.gov.ua/search> (date accessed: 12.11.2025).

46 Методика дослідження творів, що пропагують культ насильства і жорстокості : держреєстр. 28.01.2022 р. ДНДЕКЦ МВС України, Він. НДЕКЦ МВС України, 2021. Реєстр. код 15.1.16 / Реєстр методик URL: <https://rmpse.minjust.gov.ua/search> (date accessed: 12.11.2025).

led by M. Zhuravleva and carried out by a collaborative research team from Odesa Scientific Research Institute of Forensic Sciences (hereinafter referred to as OSRIFS)⁴⁷ can be considered a significant step forward in this field. The subject of the aforementioned expert methodology is the phenomenon of child pornography. Results of expert studies conducted in the relevant OSRIFS departments served as the initial data for this R&D project. As the authors note, according to cl. 2 of the Comment to Art. 156–1 of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, child pornography “shall mean depicting in any way a child or a person who looks like a child, in a real or simulated sexually explicit image or involved in real or simulated sexual behaviour, or any image of the child’s genitals for sexual purposes”⁴⁸. However, the legislation does not contain a legal rule that would clearly define both the concept of *sexually explicit imagery* and *sexual*. That is why defining the *child pornography* concept is considered one of the main accomplishments of this R&D project. Its authors have developed classification criteria for child pornography in the visual arts (audio-visual products, painting, graphic art, photography, etc.). Researchers have provided a classification of pornographic objects for philocartia objects, items of a decorative and utilitarian nature, objects and phenomena of contemporary art (ready-made, installations, actions, performances, etc.) and advertising, as well as defined the concepts of *pornographic*, *erotic*, *sexual*, and other

specialized terminology. The theoretical and applied significance of this study lies in the following: for the first time, a methodology for expert examination of child pornography products has been created; discrepancies in the definition of typical classification features of pornographic products and methods for their assessment have been addressed (specifically, art studies criteria for child pornography have been amended); algorithms for identifying camouflaged and overt child pornography have been developed⁴⁹. Applying the developed methodology in forensic expert practice will contribute to the development of a common approach to the performance of the integration task. This can be implemented through the comprehensive use of specific expertise in psychology and art studies, during the investigation of criminal offences involving production and distribution of pornography and sexual offenses against children.

We have already discussed multidisciplinary forensic military and psychological examination⁵⁰. As set out in cl. 8.1 of Sec. VIII of the *Scientific and Methodological Guidelines on the Preparation and Appointment of Forensic Examinations and Expert Research* (hereinafter referred to as the *SMG*), the principal tasks of military expert examination are “*establishing circumstances of the deployment and actions of military units; identifying circumstances that have resulted in grave consequences, the death of people (military personnel, employees of the Security Service of Ukraine,*

47 Розробка методики проведення комплексної психолого-мистецтвознавчої експертизи дитячої порнографії : звіт про НДР (остаточ.) / наук. кер. М. О. Журавльова, відповід. викон. С. В. Ласунова, Д. В. Хамула. № ДР 0122U000933. Одеса, 2024. 704 с.

48 Кримінальний кодекс України від 05.04.2001 р. № 2341-III (зі змін. та допов.). URL: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/2341-14#Text> (date accessed: 12.11.2025).

49 Розробка методики ...

50 Євсюков О. Ф. Вирішення DOI: [10.32782/2786-9156.110.2.117-125](https://doi.org/10.32782/2786-9156.110.2.117-125) (date accessed: 12.11.2025).

*the Armed Forces of Ukraine, the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Ukraine, the National Guard of Ukraine and other representatives of ministries and departments, civilian population), loss of weapons, military equipment, government facilities and infrastructure, personal property of citizens during the deployment of military units; assessing the compliance of actions (inaction) of officials with the requirements of relevant governing documents (assigned duties)”*⁵¹. From our perspective, performance of the specified tasks should encompass not only the managerial (command and control) scope of the established facts and circumstances in specific criminal proceedings, but also the human factor, which gains critical relevance in the activities and combat potential of the Armed Forces of Ukraine and other military units. This is a pivotal factor given the current informational influence of destructive propaganda and other challenges of information warfare. Both military personnel and representatives of other law enforcement agencies and units can become targets of destructive propaganda. Therefore, forensic expert examinations of this kind must be conducted solely through synthesizing specific expertise across various disciplines, namely military and psychological, i.e., in a comprehensive manner. It is precisely this kind of multidisciplinary forensic analysis that can fully and objectively assess the informational impact of the enemy’s destructive propaganda on the decision-making of military units commanders (staffs) in the context of hybrid warfare. Such studies will also serve a preventive purpose, which will consist

in improving the moral and psychological state of military staff and enhancing the national security posture of the State.

Given these considerations, we propose supplementing the list of multidisciplinary forensic examinations with multidisciplinary military and psychological examinations, since moral and psychological support for the daily activities of troops is inseparable from command and control.

In our opinion, the body (person) that orders an expert examination (engages an expert) in military matters specified in para. 8.1 of Sec. VIII of the SMG⁵² should also take into account the psychological component of the behavioural conduct of military forces in specific circumstances of criminal proceedings. Therefore, according to the studies of human behavioural acts related to the peculiarities of their mental perception of the investigated event and issues, it is necessary to order multidisciplinary forensic military and psychological examination when the military personnel who gives orders (instructions) or the military personnel who executes them (discards them) are subjected to the informational influence of destructive propaganda from other countries (persons). These findings will facilitate assessing the potential of such destructive influence of another country’s propaganda (its representatives) on the cognitive, emotional, motivational spheres and social stereotypes. The tasks of the proposed multidisciplinary forensic military and psychological examination are integrative in nature. This involves a thorough study of management activities in the military

51 Науково-методичні рекомендації з питань підготовки та призначення судових експертів та експертних досліджень : затв. наказ. Мін’юсту України від 08.10.1998 р. № 53/5 (зі змін. та допов.). URL: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/z0705-98#Text> (date accessed: 12.11.2025).

52 Там само.

sphere and individual psychological and personal components (the principle of completeness)⁵³.

Conclusions

Following the analyses of specialised literature and regulatory acts on the synthesis of specific expertise, the classification of multidisciplinary forensic examinations has been provided. Furthermore, a proprietary system of multidisciplinary forensic examinations has been proposed, where the incorporation of specific psychology expertise into other fields of science and technology has been observed. General methodological guidelines for multidisciplinary forensic examinations of the proposed types have been discussed.

Our classification is as follows:

- multidisciplinary forensic psychological and psychiatric examination;
- multidisciplinary forensic medical, psychiatric and psychological (sexological and psychological) examination;
- multidisciplinary forensic medical and psychological examination;
- multidisciplinary forensic psychological and engineering-technical examination;
- multidisciplinary forensic psychological and handwriting examination;
- multidisciplinary forensic psychological and linguistic examination;
- multidisciplinary forensic psychological-linguistic and video and sound recording examination;
- multidisciplinary forensic psychological and art studies examination;
- multidisciplinary forensic military and psychological examination.

The proposed research will contribute to the improvement and creation of relevant scientific and methodological materials. Once approved and introduced into expert practice, these materials will significantly enhance the efficiency of forensic expert activities.

Сучасний стан і перспективи інтеграції спеціальних знань у галузі психології в комплексні судово-експертні дослідження

Олександр Євсюков

Сучасний стан розвитку наук і технологій, виклики війни, на які має реагувати експертна спільнота для належного рівня експертного забезпечення правосуддя, спонукають дослідників до вдосконалення судово-експертної діяльності, зокрема, пов'язаної з використанням спеціальних знань у галузі судової психології. Важливу роль у цьому аспекті відіграють комплексні судово-експертні дослідження. Метою цієї дослідницької роботи є проведення аналізу наукових праць, нормативно-правових актів та експертної практики й надання на цій підставі характеристики сучасного стану та перспектив інтеграції спеціальних знань у галузі судової психології у комплексні судово-експертні дослідження. Під час опрацювання питань за темою статті застосовано загальні, окремі та спеціальні методи. В умовах реформування законодавства України, що регулює судово-експертну діяльність, розвитку різних галузей спеціальних знань, практика проведення судових психологічних та інших видів досліджень у формі комплексних судових експертиз наповнюється новими категоріями й методологією, які відбивають

53 Про судову експертизу : Закон ... URL: <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/4038-12#Text> (date accessed: 12.11.2025).

сутність предмета, завдань, об'єктів, суб'єктів і методів досліджень. Саме тому це питання набуває все більшої актуальності й потребує докладного аналізу. Розглянуто питання інтеграції та диференціації спеціальних знань і запропоновано таку класифікацію комплексних судових експертиз: психолого-психіатрична; медична, психіатрична та психологічна (сексолого-психологічна); медико-психологічна; психологічна та інженерно-технічна; психолого-почеркознавча; психолого-лінгвістична; психолого-лінгвістична та відео-, звукозапису; психолого-мистецтвознавча; військово-психологічна. Наведені положення й рекомендації спрямовані на впровадження в експертну практику й підвищують ефективність судово-експертної діяльності.

Ключові слова: кримінальний процес; судочинство; інтеграція; диференціація; спеціальні знання; комплексна судова експертиза; психологічні дослідження; методологія; методика.

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Declaration of Competing Interest

The author declares no conflict of interest.

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