FROM THE EDITOR

I am excited to bring you the latest volume of the journal. While I am relatively new to RSHI, I have used formal axiology since the early 2000s. Additionally, I am on the RSHI Board of Directors, the current Vice President of Research, and now the incoming President. While this is my first journal as editor, the journal follows past editions by extending our knowledge and use of formal axiology.

An unintentional theme emerged from this year's submissions. Most of the articles investigate or evaluate leadership and values. The timeliness of their inquiry is appropriate. Over the past decade, we have witnessed a concerning shift in our politics and our leaders. We have witnessed a broad range of leadership behaviors, from inappropriate and immoral to acts of bravery in the face of a crisis or to lead during a war. Yet, our knowledge of leaders remains limited. Since 2017, several researchers have examined the subject through formal axiology (Clowney-Johnson, 2021; Hurst, 2019; North et al., 2019; Weinkauf, 2023). Their work has advanced our understanding of value structures associated with unethical leadership, transformative leaders, and entrepreneurs. Several articles presented here advance this knowledge further.

As I prepared this journal, I was reminded of Plato's Ship of State, which states that the least capable leader focuses on getting elected while the most capable leaders focus on solving problems (Plato, 1992). In light of the current geopolitical issues, Plato's analogy rings true 2,000+ years later—"It isn't natural for the captain to beg the sailors to be ruled by him" (Plato, 1992, p. 489b). Consequently, exceptional leaders are difficult to identify. Thus, people choose leaders who may be misaligned to their needs and desires. The journal explores this topic as societies face these critical issues around the world.

Hartman believed intensely that formal axiology could improve human behavior and societies. The authors included in this year's journal add three empirical studies to our knowledge of Hartman's theories. We are presented with information that helps identify who is out for us and who is out for themselves, who can lead through chaos, and what value orientations lead to optimal outcomes. A quasi-experimental study by Hernandez evaluates the malleability of value structures using a pre-posttest design. While Hartman and others explored associations to formal axiology, a broad horizon remains unexplored regarding changing an individual's value structure. Thus, this journal is organized first to understand the values desired in our leaders and then to evaluate if one's value structures are malleable toward a more pro-social perspective.

Finally, I must acknowledge the titans who came before me and provided the foundation to produce this year's journal. I am indebted to Rem Edwards, Cliff Hurst, and all the previous contributors. I am grateful for their work and contribution to formal axiology. I hope to build on their achievements. This year, I sought out more empirical research.

In 2024, the board has agreed to make HVP datasets available for academic study, adopt APA publication standards, and begin incorporating the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) practices. While the latter two have limited involvement from our readers, the first item could benefit from your participation. Several organizations have already agreed to provide their data for academic study. If this interests you, please let me know. Hartman's teachings are as

visionary and applicable now as when he was alive. Through these efforts, we hope to improve our academic standing, broaden awareness and appeal of formal axiology, and advance our knowledge.

I hope you enjoy this year's journal!

Jonathan S. Ciampi