EDITOR'S PAGE: WHAT IS FORMAL AXIOLOGY?

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Defining "Formal Axiology"

Formal axiology is a branch of axiology in general. Axiology in general or "as such" is value theory in all its ramifications, ranging from meta-theory to ethics, aesthetics, logic, and any other dimension of human interest that involves questions of good and evil, right and wrong, correctness or incorrectness, beauty and ugliness, truth and falsity, and every other conceivable value issue, dimension, or interest.

Formal axiology, to which this *Journal of Formal Axiology: Theory and Practice* is devoted, was created by Robert S. Hartman (1910-1973) who spent his final years before his premature death teaching in the Philosophy Departments of The University of Tennessee, Knoxville, TN and The National University of Mexico, Mexico City, MX.

Formal axiology focuses initially upon the most formal features of human values, then upon applications of these formalities to the concrete details of what we value (values) and how we value (valuations). Robert S. Hartman searched for and began to find the most logically abstract (he would say "synthetic") features of all human values and valuations. His most important contributions were (1) the formal definition of "good" or "value," which he regarded as the "axiom" of formal axiology — Good is concept (or standard) fulfilment, (2) the three basic kinds of value, intrinsic, extrinsic, and systemic, (3) the hierarchy of value, where the three basic kinds of value are themselves ranked with respect to their relative worth, (4) an association of the three basic kinds of value with set theory and transfinite mathematics, (which has proved both enlightening and highly controversial), (5) preliminary work on a formal calculus of value, further advanced by Frank. G. Forrest and challenged by Mark A. Moore, who provides a finitistic alternative, (6) the creation of the "Hartman Value Profile," based upon all of the above, which is a powerful personality profile which assumes that our values are the keys to our personalities, (7) the prediction that formal axiology would eventually embrace, apply to, and bring rational order to all the humanities and social sciences, and (8) the expectation that formal axiology would be or become a "science," a formal not an empirical

science, but further advanced more recently as an empirical science by Leon Pomeroy.

Instead of explaining each of the above in more detail, let me just say that this journal will be devoted to such topics as these. Also, let me invite you and interested others to read and write for this journal on such topics. The articles in the current issue make a good start, beginning with Steve Byrum's lead article titled "A Bushel and A Peck: Robert S. Hartman's Axiology and Transfinite Mathematics," and ending with the Discussion Topic, "Applying Axiological Calculuses to "Killing to Save Lives," as treated by Frank G. Forrest, Mark A. Moore, and Ted Richards.

Robert S. Hartman made a great beginning, but he left us with many unsolved problems and puzzles and with a vast amount of work still to be done. Members of the Robert S. Hartman Institute, organized in 1976, have attempted to carry on and further develop Hartman's insights into the formal features of human values and to apply them to many value domains such as business consulting, psychology, spirituality, etc. Much of this work has resulted in a number of books in the Hartman Institute Axiology Studies sub-series of the Value Inquiry Book Series, published by Editions Rodopi, Amsterdam - New York, and in other books and publications listed on the "Books and Publications" page of Hartman Institute website, http://www.hartmaninstitute.org. Many additional fruitful discussions will also be found on the "Research Topics" page of that website. You are invited to take a look.

The Officers, Board Members, and other friends and members of the Robert S. Hartman Institute believe that we are now sufficiently strong, mature, and promising to begin to publish this *Journal of Formal Axiology: Theory and Practice* in order to facilitate ongoing discussions, critiques, advancements, and applications of issues relating to Hartmanian Formal Axiology. Some if not all future issues will be devoted to special topics, and we Editors welcome your help and suggestions in identifying special themes of general interest. The next issue will address the question, "Is Formal Axiology a Science?" Hartman himself, and others like Leon Pomeroy, have had a great deal to say about this already, but much remains to be said and clarified. You are invited to contribute to this discussion. Other non-theme topics of interest will also be covered in the next issue if space allows.

If you wish to write for this Journal, it is absolutely essential that your work conform to the formatting and content requirements given on the JOURNAL OF FORMAL AXIOLOGY page of the Robert S. Hartman Institute website, http:// www.hartmaninstitute.org. Please try to meet these requirements at the very beginning of your writing process, not at the end of it, and definitely do so before you submit even a preliminary draft to the Editors. This will make the writing and editing processes much easier for all of us and forestall many easily avoidable difficulties. *Articles that fail to meet these requirements will not be read or considered by the Editors*.