FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the 2024 Journal of Formal Axiology. This year's journal includes several empirical studies and philosophical exposés, showcasing the latest thinking around formal axiology. In addition, Cliff Hurst provided an original Hartman writing he found in the archives regarding enlightenment for our own time. The information shared in the journal is timely, if not timeless.

Our dear colleague Rem passed away as I prepared this year's journal. For those who did not know, Rem started the journal with others in 2008 and served as the Editor for 10 years. In usual fashion, Rem was the first to submit his journal article for this year's volume. Unfortunately, I did not start editing until the fall and missed the opportunity to work with him on revisions. Hence, this year's submission represents his final article, with my slight revisions.

Rem's contributions to the journal and formal axiology are immense. His advancements in axiology and ability to simplify complex ideas into digestible everyday applications are invaluable. However, now is the time for others to pick up the torch and carry it forward. This year's journal features several stepping into those shoes and carrying Hartman's and Rem's legacy forward.

The journal showcases new studies and thoughts. Some are original research that advances our knowledge in specific disciplines, while others synthesize concepts from other academics and relate them to formal axiology. North, Hurst, Ciampi, and Rouhe conducted studies on formal axiology, self-actualization, meta-cognition, and defense mechanisms. These studies explore the relationship between value structures and other psychological processes.

Edwards and Byrum pursue more philosophical pursuits. Edwards challenges Hartman's definition of concept fulfillment, while Byrum cautions against value capture that neglects intrinsic worth. Edwards reminds us that formal axiology is a well-defined theory but needs refinement. He examines the assumptions of formal axiology and identifies an area of further refinement. Alternatively, Byrum argues that cultural emphasis on quantification masks deeper problems that disfavor qualitative intrinsic worth.

This year's journal provides academics with rich, detailed material and thought-provoking opportunities to engage the mind and ponder new research topics. Yet, the journal may be erudite and challenging for the non-academic. I ask that you dig in and resist the uncomfortable feeling when tackling unfamiliar knowledge. Many of this year's journal articles will be (or, in the case of Byrum's, have been) presented at the Happy Hour or Conference. Between the articles and the presentations, all members of the Institute should come away with an understanding of the material.

Thank you to Cliff Hurst, Ph.D., and Edward Korbal for helping me get the journal ready for publication. I hope you enjoy this year's journal.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Ciampi, Ph.D.

Editor