

Journal of Human Values

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Call for papers for Special Issue:
Ethical Innovation for Business
Transformation



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About the Journal:

The *Journal of Human Values* is a peer-reviewed tri-annual journal, devoted to research on values. Communicating across several knowledge traditions and geographies, it presents a vast scholarship on values from various disciplines within humanities and social sciences. The journal seeks to encourage and foster a meaningful conversation among researchers for whom, values are no esoteric resources to be archived uncritically from the past. Thus, moving beyond cultural boundaries, the journal looks at values as something that animates the contemporary in its myriad manifestations: politics and public affairs, business and corporations, global institutions and local organizations, along with the personal and the private. With a focus on original ideas, academic rigor and conceptual exegesis, the journal carries research papers, conversations, review articles and book reviews. It serves as an important forum of dialogue and discussion for a wide range of scholars from such fields as ethics and philosophy, social and political theory, cultural studies and critical management studies.

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About the Special Issue: Ethical Innovation for Business Transformation

Humanity has entered in the Anthropocene era: we are altering the biogeochemistry of the planet itself, destabilizing climate and influencing co-evolution at the planetary level. (Steffen, Crutzen, & McNeill, 2007) Human perturbation overcomes planetary boundaries (climate change, biosphere integrity, biogeochemical flows, and land system change) which define safe operating space for humanity (Stockholm Resilience Center, 2024).

Business organizations are the most powerful players in the Anthropocene and are mainly responsible for the degrading state of the biosphere. Business related activities including material production and consumption caused most of the negative effects in the biosphere in the last 50 years. The key problem is the nature, form and scale of business operations. To maximize profit mainstream businesses seek to privatize environmental and social capitals, and externalize social and environmental costs in order. (Marquis, 2024) The working models of today's mainstream business do not fit in the reality of the biosphere. Mainstream business practices are incompatible with the flourishing of life on Earth (including human, non-human and future life).

We have to reinvent the way business functions. How can business be transformed into an ecologically conscious and socially responsible agent which operates within limits, and contributes to the richness of life on Earth?

Ethical innovation is a key to reinventing and transforming business. (Enderle & Ryan Jr., 2015) Ethical innovation can be understood as developing and implementing products, processes, policies and organizational models based on strong ethical commitments to serve real human needs and to conserve/regenerate nature. (O'Higgins & Zsolnai, 2017; Zsolnai, Walker, & Shrivastava, 2023).

In this special issue we are seeking contributions that provide theoretical or empirical insights (including case studies) on how ethical innovation influences business transformation in different industries in different parts of the world. Researchers are encouraged to elaborate on the following research areas:

- (i) frugality and sufficiency practices in business organizations
- (ii) acknowledging the intrinsic value of nature and the legal personhood of nature
- (iii) trusteeship models for corporations
- (iv) planet positive policies and "net positive" practices of business
- (v) models of the community-based economy and community supported organizations
- (vi) incorporating the interests of future generations in business decisions and policies
- (vi) adopting indigenous worldviews for business transformation
- (vii) balancing intrinsic (ethical) motivation with extrinsic (financial) motivation in doing business
- (viii) using aesthetics in organizational renewal and transformation
- (ix) developing spirituality-informed business models
- (x) considering and measuring the total value impacts of business operations

References

Enderle, G., & Ryan Jr., J. T. (Eds.). (2015). *Ethical innovation in business and the economy*. Edward Elgar.

- Marquis, C. (2024). *The profiteers: How business privatizes profits and socializes costs*. PublicAffairs.
- O'Higgins, E., & Zsolnai, L. (Eds.). (n.d.). *Progressive business models: Creating sustainable and pro-social enterprise*. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Steffen, W., Crutzen, P. J., & McNeill, J. R. (2007). The Anthropocene: Are humans now overwhelming the great forces of nature? *AMBIO: A Journal of the Human Environment*, 36(8), 614–621.
- Stockholm Resilience Centre. (2024). *Planetary boundaries*. <https://www.stockholmresilience.org/research/planetary-boundaries.html>
- Zsolnai, L., Walker, T., & Shrivastava, P. (Eds.). (n.d.). *Value creation for a sustainable world: Innovating for ecological regeneration and human flourishing*. Palgrave Macmillan.

Submitting your manuscript:

For the special issue, the guest editor is inviting full-length articles within the broad theme of the special issue. The length of manuscripts should ideally not exceed 5,000 words, including figures, tables and annexures. The *Journal of Human Values* is available electronically on Sage Journals Online, a web-based online submission and peer-review system. Please read the author guidelines for manuscript submission before submitting your article: <https://journals.sagepub.com/authorinstructions/JHV>

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The following are important milestones:

- Manuscript Submission Deadline: March 15, 2025
- First reviews shared with authors: June 30, 2025
- Final accepted manuscripts due from authors: November 30, 2025
- Special Issue publication date: January 2026

For any queries or clarifications related to the special issue, you may please contact the special issue guest editor.

Guest Editor of the Special Issue

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