

New paradigms and methodology area of Human Systems Management

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Terence A. Oliva, Associate Professor of Management, Louisiana State University, teaches and conducts research in the area of Production/Operations Management and Systems Theory. He has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Saint Mary's College of California with a double major in Mathematics and Art, minors in Philosophy and Literature of the Western World. After serving his military obligation with the United States Airforce, which included a tour in Vietnam, he attended California State University at Fresno and received an MBA with a concentration in Organization Theory. His Ph.D. is in Industrial Management from the University of Alabama.

Professor Oliva's current publications include a text book entitled, "The Management of the Operation/Production Function: A Problem Solving Approach", to be available from Prindle, Weber and Schmidt in January, 1981, and an article in both the April, 1980 issue of the *Academy of Management Review* and in the May, 1980 issue of *Behavioral Science*. In addition to the foregoing, he has a contract for the publication of a Management Information Systems text.

His professional activities include work with the Society of General Systems Research, the American Institute for Decision Science (he coedited the 1979 national proceedings), referees manuscripts for *Behavioral Science*, and is a former editor of the *HSM CoEnzyme*.

The primary purpose of this area of *Human Systems Management* is to focus on new paradigms and methodologies. While it can be argued that all the various areas outlined by the different editors try to accomplish this, it is the function of this particular area to deal directly with issues which are of a strictly paradigmatic or methodological nature. Thus, if a paper is within the general confines of the two basic sections:

- (1) Coping with Social Complexity and/or
- (2) Action Research in Management, yet focuses primarily on the development of a new paradigm or methodology, it is appropriate for this area of the Journal.

The secondary purpose of this area is to accommodate papers which do not clearly fit into one of the other areas of *Human Systems Management*. Without such an alternative the Journal would become a victim of the rigidity of structure it intends to avoid. That is, there needs to be room for things that do not fit into preestablished categories.

Consonant with *Human Systems Management's* goals, and perhaps more intensely, this area seeks papers that are *clearly* transdisciplinary in nature, break with tradition, are innovative, and deal at a high and responsible level with significant issues. No special preference will be given to either the qualitative/quantitative, or the theoretical/empirical dimensions.

To give potential authors an idea of the kind of creativity hoped for, the following articles are suggested for review. Note, suggesting these articles for perusal should in *no* way be construed as an endorsement of the ideas presented in them, rather they should be viewed as attempted break aways from traditional thinking:

- (1) "Planning for freedom", John P. van Gigh, *Management Science* 22 (9) (1976) 949-964.
- (2) "The problems of critical problem selection", Peter Teige, Willis Harman and Peter Schwartz, in:

Futures Research: New Directions, Eds. Linstone and Simmonds (Addison-Wesley, Reading, MA, 1977) 230–249.

(3) "Catastrophe theory", E.C. Zeeman, *Scientific American* (April 1976) 65–83.

(4) "Ionic calculus: symbols with feeling in mathematical structures", Vladimir A. Lefebvre, *General Systems* 20 (1955) 71–95; translated from Russian by Irene Jerison.

(5) "Dialectical decision theory: A metatheory of Decision-Making", Mitroff and Betz, *Management Science* 19 (September 1972) 11–24.

Specific requirements for authors are the same as those listed on the back cover of the Journal with the addition of the following: all mathematical analysis must be accompanied by a good verbal description

that clearly explains the mathematics. The purpose of the Journal is to facilitate transdisciplinary communication, not to obfuscate it. Papers which cannot be made intelligible to the general readership of *Human Systems Management* probably belong in one of the already existing technical journals.

Lastly, I would like to make a personal appeal for any suggestions readers might have as to how to improve these guidelines. Furthermore, if any readers would like to serve as reviewers for this area, please identify your specific interests and send your vito to:

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