



Tübingen, April 2010

World-wide writing competition on the subject: Which values inform our lives?

Who we are, and what this is all about

We, a group of students and professors of Literary Studies and Law, at Tübingen University in Germany, would like to explore what “makes us tick”, i.e. if and how our world views and the realities we respectively live in connect, across a large variety of world cultures. We want to find out what informs the thoughts and emotions of people when they make decisions affecting their personal lives.

What concretely we want to know:

Ways of looking at the world, often the result of formal education and/or other learning processes, individual preferences or aversions etc., determine our behavior. These can either be values, norms and rules, or other “inherited” predispositions.

Why do we help people? Why do we insult a person? Why do we decide this way or that way? Why do we hate, love or despise one another? What pleases us, and why? What do we expect, what do we hope that our futures will hold in store for us?

What we expect of you?

In order to come a little bit closer to realizing our stated goal, we need YOU, and we hereby invite you to participate in this exercise. Participation, in this case, does not mean to answer questions like those in polls and surveys or to fill in lengthy questionnaires, but to write a small text (**no longer than two pages**). This may be in the form of a sketch, a glimpse taken from events of a normal day, or in the style of a protocol, a narrative or a report on moments of your daily routine, but in which you have become aware of the presence of values or, as the case may be, of their absence or uselessness. The more subjective, personal, and authentic the texts are, the better it would be.

www.wertewelten.net

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How we'll reward you

Out of the texts submitted, approximately 100 most original contributions will be published in an essay collection, in their original languages and in German translation.

In addition, an international jury will select the 10 best and award their authors a scholarship for a study and/or research stay of up to 6 months at the University of Tübingen, within the framework of the "Wertewelten" project.

Eligibility : students of Literary Studies and Law, aged 18 to 30

Please submit your contribution together with your details (name or pseudonym, age, sex, citizenship, country of Graduation) **e-mail address and affiliation** (department, registered or completed degree) **by 15 July 2010 to Prof. Carlotta von Maltzan, the coordinator in Southern Africa by 30 June 2010 to the following e-mail address:** vmaltzan@sun.ac.za

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