
SYMPOSIUM ON THE VALUE-FORM PARADIGM

Introductory Note

This symposium represents the first organized dialogue between two significant traditions of Marx-inspired value theory, the value-form paradigm and the temporal single-system interpretation (TSSI) of Marx's value theory. Both traditions began to be developed about three decades ago in response to claims that Marx's own value theory was internally inconsistent and that prices, profits, and the rate of profit can be explained without any reference to the concept of value. It is not easy to describe the differences between these traditions in a brief and uncontroversial way, since one difference is the fact that their proponents characterize the differences differently, as the contributions to the symposium make clear. We shall therefore allow these contributions to speak for themselves.

The first three contributions are by proponents of the TSSI—Alan Freeman, Andrew Kliman, and Michael Posner & Maya Gonzalez. We invited four proponents of the value-form paradigm—Chris Arthur, Michael Heinrich, Patrick Murray, and Geert Reuten—to respond. Most of them expressed their desire to contribute to the symposium, but to date we have received only Murray's paper. Since he ended up bearing the burden of singlehandedly responding to three papers, we set aside our usual word limit and gave him the space needed to do so.

We hope to continue the dialogue in future issues of this journal. In particular, we again invite contributions from Arthur, Heinrich, and Reuten, as well as from other proponents of the value-form paradigm.