Fundament vor Urteil

Reading / EN

Orientation is not a score.

Anchors of meaning, justified goals, and the right to object.

Epoch AdL · Bib / 2026-10-21

Orientation is not a score.

A system can achieve its goal very well and still optimize the wrong question. This reading distinguishes measurement, value judgment, and responsible action.

A well-achieved goal can be too small

An advice center is assessed by how many inquiries it closes each day. The team develops quick standard responses, and the metric rises. People with complicated concerns, however, keep returning because their actual problem remains unresolved. This example is fictional. It describes no particular institution. The question behind it is: what meaning has been given to the word successful?

The manuscript's formal version emphasizes that a calculation presupposes a reference framework. This includes goals, boundaries, and weightings. A result can fit that framework without thereby being just or appropriate. This is the starting point of this reading: the accuracy of a calculation and the justification of its purpose are connected, but they are different tasks.

M. Selman Yildizhan: ADL – Formale Sinnordnung, Deutsche

What an anchor of meaning means here

The author links the complete ADL order of meaning to a register of 99 anchors of meaning. These include truth, dignity, justice, protection, care, and accountability. In this approach, the anchors are poles of orientation. They should not be read as measurable end states or automatically calculated moral values. This reading edition adopts the framework as the manuscript's declared position without turning it into a universally proven order.

The observation that assessments depend on stipulated standards does not, by itself, imply the necessity of this particular register. Its selection and interpretation still require justification. Even someone who uses other ethical reference points can examine the shared question: what value gives the decision its direction, and how is its meaning disclosed in the specific case? This makes the position open to discussion without concealing its origin.

An indication is not yet the value

In the fictional advice center, response time could be an indication of accessibility. It does not exhaust its meaning. A quickly sent, incomprehensible answer can even make access harder. Similarly, a complaints rate can indicate something about experiences without capturing all the difficulties that went unreported. A metric receives its function from the question for which it is used.

Orientation toward dignity or care therefore requires more than an additional weighting factor in the same table. It would be necessary to examine what experiences are recorded at all, which people a procedure overlooks, and whether a decision can be corrected. These are editorial applications of the anchors of meaning. They do not prove that a particular procedure already fulfills those values.

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When good reasons point in different directions

More time for a difficult concern can increase other people's waiting time. Equal treatment through a

uniform order can seem fair and miss exceptional urgency. Such a conflict does not disappear as soon as both sides are described with positively charged words. The decision must explain which differences it takes into account and why a boundary is drawn at that point.

A short justification could record the starting situation, the people affected, the alternatives considered, and the decisive conflict between goals. It also belongs in the record which burden is consciously accepted. This does not automatically protect against a wrong judgment. But it creates a trace that can be examined. Anyone who objects can respond to the specific weighing of considerations instead of first having to guess what purpose lay behind the procedure.

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Responsibility shows itself in correction

The manuscript leaves the decision with the human role, Order M. In this reading edition, responsibility means being able to respond to reasoned objections. For that, a responsible person needs the ability to

correct data, have a decision reviewed, and change an unsuitable procedure. A name at the end of the decision-making chain is not enough.

One's own orientation must withstand criticism, too. Was a value used merely to justify a solution already decided upon? What experience does not fit the model? What alternative was excluded too early? Anchors of meaning acquire practical seriousness when such questions are allowed to have consequences. Orientation then remains a reasoned direction for action, rather than becoming a seal of approval that makes further examination unnecessary.

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Questions

What purpose does the metric achieve, and what part of the actual concern remains unresolved?

Where does an observable indication imperceptibly turn into a judgment about dignity or justice?

Who can object, and what must happen for that objection to change the procedure?

About this edition

Adapted from “ADL – Formale Sinnordnung,” especially sections 1, 4 to 7, and 12. The commitment to 99 anchors of meaning is presented as the author's declared normative framework. The dependence of an assessment on its standard is not turned into a general proof of this particular register.

Distinguishes the author's position from universal validity and empirical effectiveness.

Explains the difference between an observable indication and a normative pole of meaning.

Adds a fictional distribution example and a transparent way of handling conflicts between goals.

An independent adaptation of selected passages with new examples and context. This is not a complete reprint of the source texts. Examples are fictional; ADL interpretations are editorial applications. External sources do not establish ADL’s effectiveness.

Sources

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