

2016 Polanyi Society Annual Meeting

The 2016 Polanyi Society annual meeting will be held in San Antonio, Texas on November 18 and 19, 2016. As in past years, the Polanyi Society meeting will be held in conjunction with the annual meeting of the American Academy of Religion which provides meeting space. It is not, however, necessary to register for the AAR meeting in order to attend the Polanyi Society sessions.

In early November, papers that are available will be posted here. Papers are normally not read in meeting sessions but are summarized.

Session I: Friday, November 18, 2016 4:00 to 6:00 pm, La Reina Room, Hilton Palacio del Rio

Theme: **Reviewing Polanyi's Life History and Intentions**

Gus Breyspraak, Ottawa University, Presiding

Martin Moleski, S.J., Canisius College
"The Polanyi Biography a Decade Later"

Response: Phil Mullins, Missouri Western State University

Jon Fennell, Hillsdale College
["Balance of Mind': Polanyi's Response to the Second Apple and the Modern Predicament"](#)

Response: Andrew Grosso, Nashotah House Theological Seminary

Session II: Saturday, November 19, 2016 9:00 to 11:30 am, La Reina Room, Hilton Palacio del Rio

Theme: **Symposium on Matthew Crawford's *The World Beyond Your Head* (Farrar, Straus & Giroux, 2015)**

Walter Gulick, Montana State University Billings, Presiding

The subtitle of Crawford's book, "On Becoming an Individual in an Age of Distraction," will be addressed by Crawford in relation to best practices in education. Crawford challenges us to question Kantian autonomy, rethink the notion of authority, and learn to direct our attention more mindfully.

Matthew Crawford, University of Virginia
["Teachers and Students"](#)

“My jumping-off point will be Polanyi's insight that as a student one must submit to a teacher's way of doing things without yet being able to give an account of why it is the proper way, and that therefore there is a moral relation at the heart of education: trust. (I treat this briefly in the section "Liberal Education as Apprenticeship," pp. 135-40 in *The World Beyond Your Head*).

I think a further exploration of this would be fitting in our current moment, as there seems to be a widespread breakdown of trust in the university. Many teachers report that they are afraid of their students, in particular of the Jacobin political passions that currently circulate under the heading of "social justice." For their part, students do not seem to trust that the discomfiting effects of the books assigned by their teachers are for their own good. More fundamentally, Polanyi's treatment of the role of authority in education reveals a tension between learning and democratic culture. One finds a similar thought in Book 8 of Plato's *Republic*, and in Kierkegaard's *The Present Age*. The difficulty is surely heightened by the highly individualistic picture of human knowing that comes to us from Descartes, as I suggest in those pages."

Responses to *The World Beyond Your Head* and Crawford's presentation:

[Paul Lewis, Mercer University](#)
[Collin Barnes, Hillsdale College](#)
[Richard Moodey, Gannon University](#)

General Discussion

11:15: Business Meeting:

David Rutledge, Furman University, Presiding

Session III: Saturday, November 19, 2016 7:00 to 9:00 pm, La Reina Room, Hilton Palacio del Rio

Charles Lowney, Hollins University, Presiding

Diane Yeager, Georgetown University
[“Assessing Mary Jo Nye’s New Foreword to Polanyi’s *Personal Knowledge*”](#)

Lindsay Atnip, University of Chicago
[“Extending Polanyi: A Polanyian Theory of Mimesis”](#)

Stan Scott, University of Maine, Presque Isle
[“The Poetics of Discovery: Literature and the Tacit Dimension”](#)

William Birdsall, University of Michigan
[“Why Is Polanyi Ignored in Philosophy?”](#)