The June 2020 Nashotah House Conference was cancelled due to the pandemic. The Polanyi Society is pleased to again sponsor an in-person conference on 1-3 June 2022 with many of the features planned for the cancelled conference.

Many of the socio-political and cultural dynamics of the early 21st century invite a reconsideration of the principles and practices that contribute to the maintenance of liberty, solidarity, and constructive pluralism. Events like the 6 January 2021 insurrection and the turmoil associated with the political and cultural responses to the Covid pandemic and vaccine programs in the US and elsewhere make this clear. This conference will explore the enduring relevance of Polanyi’s social philosophy but will also include papers dedicated to other dimensions of Polanyi’s work.

This Call for Papers invites proposals for presentations that examine Polanyi’s social and political thought, its development, and its relationship to other aspects of his work; particularly important are analyses of the relevance of Polanyi’s social and political thought to contemporary culture. Comparative studies that examine Polanyi’s ideas alongside those of others are welcome. Proposals on any topic related to Polanyi studies will be considered; this conference aims to accommodate presentations on a broad array of subjects. Initial proposals should be no more than 250 words, and can be sent to Andrew Grosso at (atgrosso@icloud.com). Proposals should be e-mailed by Saturday, 1 January 2022; proposals submitted thereafter will be considered if the conference schedule allows it.

The first sessions of the conference (the afternoon of June 1) will be dedicated to discussion of selections from Polanyi’s writings that articulate his perspective on social dynamics. Copies of texts to be considered in a collaborative discussion will be posted for review before the conference. These conversations will hopefully provide a general framework for discussion in the conference.

There will also be a pre-conference seminar for graduate students and those new to Polanyi studies beginning in the afternoon of 31 May preceding the conference opening session on the afternoon of 1 June. This seminar will provide an introductory overview of Polanyi’s life and philosophy, and will focus on Polanyi’s philosophy of science and its roots in his ideas about skills and articulation, subsidiary and focal awareness, and tacit knowing (see the notice on the pre-conference seminar immediately below this call for papers).

The conference will be held at Nashotah House Theological Seminary in Nashotah, WI (west of Milwaukee). The nearest airport is General Mitchell International Airport (MKE) in Milwaukee, about 45 minutes away; Chicago’s O’Hare International Airport (ORD) is about two hours away. It is possible to take the train from O’Hare to General Mitchell and arrange transportation to Nashotah.

As with other recent Polanyi Society sponsored summer conferences, the June 2022 conference
will be organized to be a comparatively inexpensive academic conference which cultivates what Polanyi called “conviviality” and serious conversation. A limited amount of financial aid is available for those unable to meet the cost of registration, accommodations, or travel. For more information about financial assistance or other questions, please contact Andrew Grosso at (atgrosso@icloud.com).

Registration fees include access to all conference sessions and all meals. Early-bird registration is $225 and opens Tuesday, 8 February through Monday, 7 March 2022. Regular registration is $275, and opens Tuesday, 8 March through Monday, 2 May 2022. Late registration will be $300, and opens Tuesday, 3 May through Tuesday, 31 May 2022.

Registration does not include accommodations; a limited number of rooms will be available at Nashotah House, and there are several affordable hotels within five miles of Nashotah House. Guest rooms on campus (with rates ranging from $50 to $75 per night, and some rooms can be shared) can be reserved by contacting Kelly Medina at (kmedina@nashotah.edu). Nearby hotels include the Hilton Garden Inn (3.3 miles away), Holiday Inn Express (4.7 miles away), and AmericInn of Delafield (4.5 miles away).

Updated information regarding the conference will be posted on the Society’s website (polanyisociety.org) and will also be in the “News and Notes” in the February 2022 issues of Tradition & Discovery. See also the posting for the 31 May 2022 Pre-Conference Seminar open to graduate students and others new to Polanyi studies.