

## **20 March 2020 Conference Update**

This message pertains to the conference the Polanyi Society is scheduled to sponsor at Nashotah House Theological Seminary in June.

At present, we are still hoping to be able to hold this conference. However, the COVID-19 pandemic has of course significantly altered most everyone's lives, and conditions seem to change almost daily. At this point, I and the Society's executive committee are trying to balance making a decision to proceed or not early enough to be convenient for all concerned but not so early as to preempt possibilities that may yet emerge. I expect we'll be able to make a final decision within the next few weeks (i.e., by Friday, 3 April).

Thus far, there are nine people registered for the conference. In order to assist the Society's executive committee as it discerns the best path forward, I'd ask anyone who has registered but is now planning to cancel their registration to contact me as soon as possible. Likewise, if you are planning to attend the conference but have not yet registered, please register as soon as possible. In the event we have to cancel the conference, we will fully refund everyone who registers.

If we have to cancel the conference, we may try to pull together something using Zoom or another digital conferencing platform and thereby salvage some parts of the conference. But this possibility is still very much in the conceptual stage. If this is something that would interest you, please feel free to let me know.

If we have to cancel the conference, there's a very good chance we will try to reschedule it for June of 2021. Some of the proposals that were submitted for the June conference may also be scheduled for presentation during the annual meeting in Boston later this year (i.e., 20 Nov 2020).

Thanks for your patience and understanding as we determine how best to carry on the work of the Society in the midst of current conditions. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions about the conference at Nashotah House.

Convivially,

Andrew Grosso

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**POST-CRITICAL PHILOSOPHY AND SOCIAL THEORY**  
**JUNE 9-11, 2020 Nashotah House Conference**  
**Call for Papers**  
**Revised Deadline for Proposals: February 21, 2020**

In June 2020, the Polanyi Society will sponsor a conference dedicated to exploring the abiding relevance of Michael Polanyi's philosophical work, and in particular his social thought. Many of the socio-political and cultural dynamics of the early 21<sup>st</sup> century invite a reconsideration of the principles and practices that contribute to the maintenance of liberty, solidarity, and constructive pluralism. Although this conference will explore the relevance of Polanyi's social philosophy, it will also accommodate papers dedicated to other dimensions of Polanyi's work. Comparative studies that examine Polanyi's thought alongside ideas of others are welcome. As in earlier conferences sponsored by the Polanyi Society, the final program will include presentations on a range of subjects which reflect the diversity of Polanyi studies.

Initial proposals should be no more than 250 words, and can be sent to Andrew Grosso at ([atgrosso@icloud.com](mailto:atgrosso@icloud.com)). **The original deadline for submission of proposals (December 31, 2019) has been revised to February 21, 2020;** proposals submitted thereafter will be considered only if the conference schedule allows it.

The first sessions of the conference (beginning the afternoon of June 9) will be dedicated to collaborative discussion of selections from Polanyi's writings that set forth his thoughts on social dynamics. Conference participants will be e-mailed copies of shorter Polanyi texts to be examined.

There will also be a pre-conference seminar for graduate students and those new to Polanyi studies beginning in the afternoon of June 8 preceding the conference opening session on the afternoon of June 9. 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 entry on the pre-conference seminar immediately below this call for papers).

The conference will convene 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 2020 conference will be organized to be a comparatively inexpensive academic conference which cultivates what Polanyi called "conviviality" and serious conversation.

Registration fees include access to all conference sessions and all meals. Early-bird registration is \$225 and opens Tuesday, January 14, 2020. Regular registration is \$275, and opens Tuesday, March 17, 2020. Late registration will be \$300, and opens Tuesday, May 12, 2020.

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](mailto: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).

A limited amount of financial aid is available for those unable to meet the cost of registration, accommodations, and travel. For more information about financial assistance or other questions, please contact Andrew Grosso at ([atgrosso@icloud.com](mailto:atgrosso@icloud.com)). Updated information regarding the conference will be posted on the Society's website (<http://www.polanyisociety.org/>).