

Tradition & Discovery

The Polanyi Society Periodical

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The Polanyi Society

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Preface

This is a special issue of *TAD* put together by guest editor Dale Cannon. Several years ago, Dale noticed the work of Blythe Clinchy and he began to talk about organizing an annual meeting session that brought Clinchy to the Polanyi Society and focused on the convergence of the ideas developed by Clinchy (and her colleagues) and Michael Polanyi. In November 2007, one session of the annual meeting was devoted to this topic. We posted a couple of interesting Clinchy essays and asked three members of the Polanyi Society to respond to these and there was a vigorous discussion in the session. This issue grew out of this annual meeting session, although the material here has changed somewhat from what was originally part of the session. Blythe Clinchy's three pieces as well as Dale's introduction and the response by Dale, Esther Meek and Zhenhua Yu fit together like hand and glove. This material should not only be interesting to Polanyi Society members but to anyone who has followed the kind of work that Clinchy and her colleagues have been doing.

This issue of *TAD* includes the call for papers for both the June 13-15, 2008 conference at Loyola University, Chicago, celebrating the fiftieth year of publication of *Personal Knowledge* (p. 5) and the June 26-28, 2008 Budapest Polanyi conference (pp. 7-8). Note (p. 6) that the Polanyi Society is again plugging its 2007-2008 membership drive because we need to raise some funds for the June 2008 Loyola conference. We will be following up to remind those tardy in paying dues and we again encourage you to make a generous tax deductible (for US citizens) contribution along with your 2007-2008 membership dues. The Polanyi Society is an incredibly efficient low-budget scholarly society and we must make a special appeal if we are to remain solvent when sponsoring a major conference like that upcoming in June 2008. Thanks to those who have already paid dues and made a contribution. Also you will find in this issue the program for the Polanyi Society annual meeting to be held in San Diego on November 16 and 17, 2007 (p. 4) as well as other notes of interest.

Phil Mullins

Tradition and Discovery is indexed selectively in *The Philosopher's Index* and *Religious and Theological Abstracts* and is included in the EBSCO online database of academic and research journals.

NEWS AND NOTES

Polanyi Society Travel Funds Available

For students and others requiring assistance to attend the Society's annual meeting in San Diego on November 16 and 17, 2007, limited funding is available. Some travel funds will also be available for the June 13-15, 2008 Polanyi Society conference at Loyola University, Chicago. Society members are urged to call the availability of this assistance to the attention of those whom they consider worthy candidates. Those interested in applying for this funding, as well as those able to assist in making this funding available, should contact Walter Mead (wmead@insightbb.com) and see the information on the Polanyi Society web site (<http://www.missouriwestern.edu/orgs/polanyi/>).

Additional Meeting of Polanyi Society on Nov. 15 in La Jolla

On Thursday, November 15, between 6 p.m. and 9 p.m., the San Diego Polanyi Study Group will host an additional meeting of the Polanyi Society in La Jolla, California at 1150 Torrey Pines Road in the main conference room. This meeting is in conjunction with the AAR conference and the annual meeting of the Polanyi Society, which will be meeting in San Diego on November 16 and 17; all Polanyi Society members and guests are cordially invited.

Presentations will be given by Polanyi Society Board member Esther Meek ("Covenant Epistemology: Blending the Insights of Michael Polanyi, John MacMurray and Others"), organizational consultant Will Stillwell (reflecting on Michael Polanyi's heuristic error as he led investigations in polymerization chemistry in the mid-1940s) and nursing man-

ager Barbara Bonnice with members of the staff of Sharp Hospital (reflecting on personal knowledge and the doctor-patient relationship).

La Jolla is 30 minutes from the downtown convention center: take route 5 north to La Jolla Village Drive—west to Torrey Pines Road—south to the dead end on Girard Street—west to Silverado, north to 1150 Silverado Street. Express bus #30 and non-express #34 will get you to Silverado and Girard. Jere Moorman will have his cell phone on and he can give traveler's aid (707-363-3394), and can take up to four people back to hotels after the meeting. He is confident that he can arrange rides for others also. Jere is willing to make airport pickups for anyone arriving at 4 p.m. or earlier. Wine and snacks will be provided.

Electronic Discussion List

The Polanyi Society supports an electronic discussion group that explores implications of the thought of Michael Polanyi. Anyone interested can join. To join yourself, go to the following address: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/polanyi_list/join. If you have difficulty, send an e-mail to Doug Masini (masini@etsu.edu) and someone will see that you are added to the list.

2007 Polanyi Society Annual Meeting Program

This year's annual meeting will be in San Diego, CA on November 16 and 17, 2007. Papers will be available for downloading on the Polanyi Society web page (<http://www.missouriwestern.edu/orgs/polanyi>) by late October. The Polanyi Society annual meeting will again this year will be an "Additional Meeting" held in conjunction with the annual meetings of the AAR and SBL. For information, go to the AAR/SBL web site: <http://www.aarweb.org/annualmeet/default.asp>. It is not necessary to register for the AAR/SBL meetings in order to attend the Polanyi Society annual meeting.

Friday, November 16, 2007--4:00 pm - 6:00 p.m.

Jere Moorman, Presiding

4:00 William Coulson, Center for Studies of the Person, San Diego
"On Having Misread Polanyi's Theory of Personal Knowledge"

Respondents:

Dale Cannon, Western Oregon University

Philip Rolnick, St Thomas University

5:15 William Kelleher, La Canada, CA
"Personal Knowledge as Pure Self-Reflection"

Respondents:

Phil Mullins, Western Missouri State University

Diane Yeager, Georgetown University

Saturday, November 17, 2007 9:00 am – 11:30 a.m.

Joint Session with North American Paul Tillich Society

9:00 Walter Gulick, MSU-Billings, Presiding

Theme: *How Tillich's Recently Retrieved Paper, "Participation and Knowledge: Problems of an Ontology of Cognition," Engages Polanyi's Thought*

Co-Presenters:

Durwood Foster, Pacific School of Religion

Richard Gelwick, Bangor Theological Seminary

Respondents:

Donald Musser, Stetson University

Robert Russell, Center for Theology and the Natural Sciences, GTU, Berkeley

11:15 Business Meeting:

Walter Mead, Illinois State University, Presiding

“Personal Knowledge at Fifty”

Call for Papers

June 13-15, 2008 the Polanyi Society is sponsoring a conference at Loyola University, Chicago on the theme “*Personal Knowledge At Fifty.*” *Personal Knowledge* was published in May, 1958 and this conference will celebrate this event as well as provide an opportunity to reappraise Michael Polanyi’s *magnum opus* and its philosophical agenda in terms of developments in philosophy, science and the globalization of culture.

The conference will be organized like the 1991 and 2001 Polanyi Society conferences at Kent State University and Loyola University, Chicago. There will be several plenary speakers as well as parallel sessions in which conference participants present and discuss papers with others interested in the session’s particular topic. Invitations for plenary speakers are presently pending. This will be a conference that builds in many opportunities for discussion as well as a trip for those interested to the archival Polanyi Papers at the Regenstein Library of the University of Chicago.

Proposals are invited for papers that discuss the themes or impact of *Personal Knowledge* and the importance of Polanyi’s philosophical ideas in the contemporary world. Below are a few suggested general categories within which papers might be grouped; these are intended merely to stimulate reflection. The final program will organize sessions in terms of rubrics fashioned in light of proposals submitted.

Personal Knowledge, Postcritical Philosophy and Postmodernism

Personal Knowledge As Fiduciary Philosophy and the the History of Philosophy

Personal Knowledge And William Poteat, Marjorie Grene, Wittgenstein, Phenomenology, etc.

Personal Knowledge and Contemporary Discussions of Emergence

Personal Knowledge On Religion

Personal Knowledge And Contemporary Philosophy of Science

Personal Knowledge And Political Philosophy

Personal Knowledge, Moral Inversion and Polanyi’s Criticism of Culture

Personal Knowledge and Polanyi’s Reformulations in Later Writing

Personal Knowledge: Shortcomings

Proposals for panel presentations on topics are invited.

Proposals will be blindly reviewed by a panel of jurors and should be no longer than 250 words. On the first page of the proposal, give your proposed paper title (or panel title), your name and your e-mail address. On the second page, repeat the title and provide an abstract. Mail proposals as e-mail attachments to Phil Mullins (mullins@missouriwestern.edu). Proposals will be reviewed in two or three batches. The initial deadline is Oct. 15, 2007 with projected response before December 1, 2007. Please forward proposals early in order to facilitate conference planning.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL/FUND DRIVE

On the previous page, there is a call for papers for the international Polanyi conference, set for June 10-13, 2008 at Loyola University, Chicago, which celebrates the publication of *Personal Knowledge*. Like the 2001 conference also at Loyola, this event is sponsored exclusively by the Polanyi Society. That is, the 2008 conference is not like the annual meeting held in conjunction with a larger professional society that considers the Society an affiliate and gives us space at a preferred rate. Nor is the upcoming Loyola conference like the 1991 conference at Kent State University that was generously subsidized by that university. Unfortunately, it is necessary for the Polanyi Society to cover all of the expenses of organizing the 2008 Loyola conference; we must also remain solvent enough to cover other annual operating expenses associated with the annual meeting and the publication of *TAD*. The Organizing Committee for the 2008 Loyola conference is investigating strategies modestly to improve the finances of the Society. We welcome any suggestions about possible funding sources for the Loyola conference. One necessary funding option--getting Society members to reach into their pockets to pay annual dues and make contributions--is outlined below.

Membership dues for the Polanyi Society are still only an unbelievable \$25/academic year. The first issue of a new *TAD* volume normally includes a flyer asking for dues payment. In the 2007-2008 academic year the Society will be more diligent about dues collection and we will remind you about the opportunity to support the Loyola conference. You may get a first and second payment notice reminding you that it is time to renew your membership. You are invited **now** to combine your dues payment with a contribution. If you have not paid your 2006-2007 dues, you may combine that with your 2007-2008 dues and contribution. In order to encourage you to “think generously,” please review the chart below that sets forth some “rungs” on the contribution ladder. We hope you will reach as high as it is possible for you conveniently to stretch. Unlike the Public Broadcasting System and National Public Radio drives in the US, we do not have Polanyi Society coffee mugs, book bags and other memorabilia to distribute to those who are generous. But for those who do stretch (at least \$50), we can provide a copy of any of the following if you identify your preferences: (1) a remaindered copy of Andy Sanders’ 1988 book, *Michael Polanyi’s Post-Critical Epistemology: A Reconstruction of Some Aspects of “Tacit Knowing”* (offered in 2001 but there are about 20 copies left); (2) paper copies of any available old issues of *TAD* that you want (all those since 1991 are on the web site but the paper copies have not yet been discarded); (3) an audio CD of Polanyi’s 1962 McEnerney Lectures (now also available for downloading from the web site).

Donation Range

\$20-50

\$51-\$100

\$101-\$500

\$500

Designation

Associate

Friend

Benefactor

Patron

Acknowledgment

1 year membership

1 year membership

1 year membership

3 year membership

All donors will be acknowledged in the program of the 2008 Loyola Conference. The Polanyi Society is a 501C3 tax deductible non profit organization; the Society sends (to those who pay US income tax) charitable donation letters for donations above \$25. Dues and donations can be sent by post, fax or e-mail to Phil Mullins. Credit cards donations are welcome. **Please recall that a similar notice was included in the July 2007 issue of *TAD*. If you have already paid 2007-2008 dues, you do not need to do so again.**

Call for Papers

Reconsidering Polanyi - 2008, June 26-28, Budapest

In such men the traditional forms for holding moral ideals had been shattered and their moral passions diverted into the only channels which a strictly mechanistic conception of man and society left open to them. We may describe this as a process of *moral inversion*. The morally inverted person has not merely performed a philosophic substitution of material purposes for moral aims; he is acting with the whole force of his homeless moral passions within a purely materialistic framework of purposes.

... a free society is one accepting the service of truth and justice, and ... totalitarianism is the outcome (by inversion) of a skepticism denying intrinsic force to the ideas of truth and justice...

Michael Polanyi

Polanyi, the philosopher, is mostly known as a theorist of knowledge. His philosophy proceeds from the analysis of knowing to address many important topics including ontology, social theory, theory of the person and the practical dimensions of science. His theory of knowledge rests on ethical, social and existential pillars beside his Gestalt-based theory of cognition.

On the 50th anniversary of the publication of his masterpiece, *Personal Knowledge*, the aim of the conference is the reappraisal of this perplexingly rich, highly original and refreshingly unconventional philosophy in the light of the current intellectual milieu as well as from historical perspectives.

The conference is open to contextual, historical, and analytical approaches including – but not limited to – the following list of topics:

- Personal knowledge in light of social and historical epistemology
- Tacit knowledge and the new results of cognitive psychology
- Reappraising Polanyi's *The Logic of Liberty*
- The cognitive functions of emotions
- Polanyi on the production and management of knowledge
- The postcritical and postmodern perspectives
- Embodiment and tacit knowing
- Polanyi and the concept of emergence
- Polanyi and understanding technology

Confirmed Speakers:

Richard Allen, Chairman and Editor of *Appraisal*, Nottingham

Bob Brownhill, (formerly:) University of Surrey, UK

Dale Cannon, Western Oregon University, Monmouth

Márta Fehér, University of Technology and Economics, Budapest

Walter Gulick, Montana State University, Billings

Chris Goodman, President of *Appraisal*
Karl Hall, Central European University, Budapest
Stefania Jha, Boston University, Boston
Tihamér Margitay, University of Technology and Economics, Budapest
Phil Mullins, Missouri Western State University, General Editor of *Tradition & Discovery*
Hans-Joerg Rheinberger, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin
Otto Sibum, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin
Yu Zhenhua, East China Normal University, Shanghai

Conference committee:

Tihamér Margitay (BUTE), chair, Department of Philosophy and History of Science
Márta Fehér, (BUTE) vice-president of the MPLPA, Editor of *Polanyiana*
Richard Allen, Chairman and Editor of *Appraisal*
Phil Mullins, Missouri Western State University, General Editor of *Tradition & Discovery*
Éva Gábor, (BUTE) President of the Michael Polanyi Liberal Philosophical Association
Benedek Láng, (BUTE), Department of Philosophy and History of Science

Practical details:

- **Conference language:** English
- **Registration fee:** 30 EUR
- **Deadline for abstract submission:** Oct. 15, 2007 via the following link: <http://www.polanyi.bme.hu>

The number of the participants is limited. Applicants will be informed about the outcome of their applications no later than the 30th October, 2007.

- **Accommodations** for conference participants will be available both on campus at the Budapest University of Technology and Economics and in nearby hotels

1) - on campus accommodation is available in the guesthouse of the University for approximately 55-65 EUR /night including breakfast

2) - Rooms in four-star hotels in 5-15 minutes walking distance from the conference venue:

(a) Danubius Hotel Gellért 80-120 EUR/night including breakfast, use of sauna, pool and historic steam bath: <http://www.danubiushotels.com/en/budapest-hotels/danubius-hotel-gellert-budapest/hotelrooms>

(b) Park Hotel Flamenco 90-110 EUR/night including breakfast, use of sauna, pool and fitness room: <http://www.danubiushotels.com/en/budapest-hotels/danubius-hotel-flamenco-budapest>

For more information visit [http:// www.polanyi.bme.hu](http://www.polanyi.bme.hu) or write to Benedek Láng: <http://www.conference@filozofia.bme.hu>