

Tradition & Discovery

The Polanyi Society Periodical

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2011–2012

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Preface

TAD 38:1 is an issue with many elements that should be of interest. Stephen Henry, a physician, and Charles Lowney, a philosopher, provide careful analysis and discussion of Harry Collins' new book *Tacit and Explicit Knowledge*, a book that has been discussed by Polanyians since it recently came out. Collins, a sociologist, graciously agreed to respond to the comments in these review articles. In a follow-up to an article last year, Kyle Takaki shows how Polanyi and Merleau-Ponty, although they have generally compatible orientations, have projects that differ at key junctures. Takaki argues that Polanyi's "enactive realism" delineates the hierarchical, stratified nature of comprehensive entities as brought forth by the structure of tacit knowing. There are five shorter book reviews in this issue and the books range from philosophy of mind to religion and science to a study of innovation to the project of improving higher education.

Please pay close attention to the abundant informational material included at the beginning of this *TAD*. The program for the November 19 Polanyi Society annual meeting in San Francisco is on page 8. There is an update (p. 9) on the program for the Polanyi Society's June 8-10, 2012 conference in Chicago. The first deadline for the call for papers for the conference (pp. 11-12) is fast approaching. Those planning this conference strongly encourage you early to make known your intention to participate. Society President David Rutledge's open letter (p. 10) is a forthright appeal for dollars to support the Loyola conference and the Society's new endowment. In *News and Notes* (pp. 3-7) there is an extended list of recent publications of possible interest; most come from the recently published *Bulletin of Science, Technology and Society* issue focusing on Polanyi's thought.

This October issue initiates the annual membership cycle; a membership renewal form and a self-addressed return envelope are enclosed. Some changes are in the offing so please read the Note on Dues Payment at the top of the opposite page.

Phil Mullins

Tradition & 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

A Note on Dues Payment

As is the case with every fall issue of *TAD*, this issue includes a return envelope to be used to pay 2011-2012 academic year membership dues. Both the October and February issues of *TAD* have enclosed a return envelope and a membership flyer. US postage regulations require that **EVERY** copy of *TAD* mailed in the postage class used must weigh exactly the same. Thus, even if you promptly pay your dues with this October issue's return envelope, the February *TAD* will also include an envelope. Dues remain \$35 (\$25 for libraries and \$15 students), which is a great bargain in the academic journal world. Except for those residing outside the US, members should pay dues with a check.

The Society can no longer easily and inexpensively process credit cards. We may eventually be able to set up a Pay Pal web payment option that will simplify payment. As in past years, this October 2011 return envelope will be returned to Phil Mullins, the *TAD* Editor. However, after the October billing cycle, dues and donations will be handled directly by the Polanyi Society Treasurer, Charles Lowney. Phil Mullins can be contacted for address changes or other near term membership business (see his address on the opposite page).

Recent Publications

Walter Mead was guest editor for a special issue of *Bulletin of Science, Technology & Society* (2011, no. 31) which focused on Michael Polanyi's thought. This issue came out in the late spring of 2011. Below are titles and abstracts for the 10 essays included in this issue.

Walter B. Mead, "A Symposium on the Relevance of Michael Polanyi's Insights to a Reformulated Understanding of Science, Technology, and Society," 155-159. wmead@ilstu.edu

Abstract: This is intended as an introductory statement to the explorations undertaken in the essays that follow. The authors of these essays attempt to introduce the reader to some of the insights of Michael Polanyi and their implications for the reader who wishes to come to a greater understanding of modern technological society, which — for better or worse — has come to define his very existence. Arguably, no twentieth-century thinker has probed more deeply than Polanyi into the dynamics of scientific discovery or demonstrated more courage in his willingness to think outside the box of ruling orthodoxies and, consequently, come up with more profound insights and radically new ways of understanding the processes of scientific inquiry, their technological implications, and the sometimes fateful, but potentially fruitful, relationships that exist among science, technology, and society. Each of the following nine authors, grounded in different fields of study and research, but also in a common appreciation of Polanyi's contributions, offers valuable insights into this multi-faceted subject.

Murray Jardine, "Sight, Sound, and Knowledge: Michael Polanyi's Epistemology as an Attempt to Redress the Sensory Imbalance in Modern Western Thought," 160-171. jardimu@auburn.edu

Abstract: The author argues that Michael Polanyi's philosophy of science can be understood as an (unconscious) attempt to recapture elements of experience largely forgotten or repressed in modernity. Specifically, the author argues that Polanyi's epistemology appears to draw on elements of oral-aural experience that have been relatively ignored by the heavily visual sensory orientation typical of modern Western societies. The author does this by first deriving the primary features of the modern objectivist conception of knowledge from Polanyi's critique of objectivism and then using the anthropological literature on the differences between oral and literate cultures to demonstrate that these same aspects of the objectivist paradigm correspond closely

to typical features of literate, visual consciousness while Polanyi's alternative formulations correspond to a more oral–aural orientation.

Struan Jacobs, “C. P. Snow's The Two Cultures: Michael Polanyi's Response and Context,” 172-178. swjacobs@deakin.edu.au

Abstract: C. P. Snow's “The Two Cultures” controversially contrasted science and literature, suggesting that neither scientists nor literary intellectuals have much in common with, and seldom bother speaking to, the other. Responding to Snow, Michael Polanyi argued that specialization has made modern culture, not twofold but manifold. In his major work, *Personal Knowledge*, Polanyi explained that branches of modern culture have *personal* knowing and knowledge *in common*, and there is extensive cross-pollination of ideas. He also, in this book, saw the branches of culture as disparate intellectual frameworks that are *divorced* from one another.

Charles Lowney, “Rethinking the Machine Metaphor Since Descartes: On the Irreducibility of Bodies, Minds, and Meanings,” 179-192. lowneyc@wlu.edu.

Abstract: Michael Polanyi's conceptions of tacit knowing and emergent being are used to correct a reductionism that developed from, or reacted against, the excesses of several Cartesian assumptions: (a) the method of universal doubt; (b) the emphasis on reductive analysis to unshakeable foundations, via connections between clear and distinct ideas; (c) the notion that what is real are the basic atomic substances out of which all else is composed; (d) a sharp body-mind substance dualism; and (e) the notion that the seat of consciousness can be traced to a point in the human body. The reductivist project in biology began with the emphasis Descartes put on the body as a machine. Polanyi reappropriates the machine metaphor to demonstrate how mechanistic explanations are not fully reductive. He shows how an eliminative materialism that would reduce mind to brain is unwarranted if either an interlevel mechanistic reduction or an intralevel successional reduction is posited.

Terence Kennedy, “From Paradigms to Paideia: Thomas S. Kuhn and Michael Polanyi in Conversation,” 193-199. tkennedy@alfonsiana.edu

Abstract: There are three approaches to the Kuhn-Polanyi relationship: their ideas are the same, can be reconciled, or profoundly diverge. This article seeks to show that both share a tradition of *paideia*. Kuhn espouses scientific revolutions while Polanyi stresses reform and continuity within a Platonic worldview.

Richard Henry Schmitt, “Models, Their Application, and Scientific Anticipation: Ludwig Boltzmann's Work as Tacit Knowing,” 200-205. rschmitt@uchicago.edu

Abstract: Ludwig Boltzmann's work in theoretical physics exhibits an approach to the construction of theory that he transmitted to the succeeding generation by example. It involved the construction of clear models, allowed more than one, and was not based solely on the existing facts, with the intent of examining and criticizing the assumptions that made each model work. This tacit program influenced physicists like Ehrenfest and Einstein and the philosopher Wittgenstein, suggesting ways that they used to make further advances.

Mark T. Mitchell, “Polanyi and the Role of Tradition in Scientific Inquiry,” 206-211. mtmitchell@phc.edu

Abstract: A characteristic of the modern mind is a disdain for tradition. Polanyi argues that neglecting the role of tradition leads to philosophical incoherence as well as moral and political chaos. Polanyi's postcritical philosophy represents an attempt to show how tradition plays a vital role in the process of discovery. Ultimately, a coherent account of the sciences, as well as the humanities, is only possible when tradition is acknowledged as indispensable.

Maben Walter Poirier, “Michael Polanyi and the Social Sciences,” 212-224. poirmw@alcor.concordia.ca

Abstract: In this article, the author attempts three things: (a) to describe the main beliefs of the “continental empiricist” epistemology that dominated the study of the social sciences in North America since the mid 1930s; (b) to speak of the influence of this epistemology on the dominant or mainstream school in the study of politics; and (c) to propose a new-old approach to the study of politics, based on the thinking of Michael Polanyi (1891-1976).

Robert Doede, “Technologies and Species Transitions: Polanyi, on a Path to Posthumanity?” 225-235. **bobd@twu.ca**

Abstract: Polanyi and Transhumanism both place technologies in pivotal roles in bringing about *Homo sapiens*’ species transitions. The question is asked whether Polanyi’s emphasis on the role of technology in *Homo sapiens*’ rise out of mute beasthood indicates that he might have been inclined to embrace the Transhumanist vision of *Homo sapiens*’ technological evolution into a postbiological, techno-cyber species. To answer this question, some of the core commitments of both Transhumanism and Polanyi’s postcritical philosophy are examined, especially as they bear on *Homo sapiens*’ species transitions. The conclusion reached is that rather than being the next step dictated by the inner logic of Polanyi’s thought, Transhumanism is actually the final conclusion of epistemological ideals he spent most of his career denouncing.

James Clement van Pelt, “Toward a Polanyian Critique of Technology: Attending From the Indwelling of Tools to the Course of Technological Civilization,” 236-246. **james.vanpelt@yale.edu**

Abstract: As a scientist, Michael Polanyi made significant advances in chemistry and economics. From that deep hands-on experience, he derived a powerful critique of prevailing ideas of knowledge and the proper role of science. He demonstrated that disregarding or eliminating the personal embodiment of knowing in the tacit dimension in pursuit of purely explicit and impersonal knowledge results in knowing that is misleadingly incomplete—“absurd.”

If technology is the practical application of science, then it should be useful to extend his critique of science to technology. The pursuit of impersonal knowledge parallels the quest for efficiency through the standardizing and programming of technique while devaluing personal knowing in the form of embodied skills, institutional memory, and a “feel” for possibilities that leads to insightful breakthroughs. As technological development continues to accelerate and proliferate unsustainably, the idolizing of efficiency operates to subsume other values that would tend to constrain such development, raising concerns about the future of discovery, of the economic and social order, and of the human soul.

Stefania Jha’s review of *Knowing And Being: Perspectives On The Philosophy of Michael Polanyi* edited by Tihamér Margitay (Newcastle upon Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2010) is forthcoming in *Journal of Value Inquiry* and became available online on July 16, 2011 (DOI 10.1007/s10790-011-9278-9). This new collection of essays on Polanyi’s thought was also reviewed by **John Apczynski** in *TAD* (37:1 [2010-11]: 55-59) and by **Péter Hartl** in the forthcoming English issue of *Polanyiana* (Vol. 19:1-2 [2010]).

Stefania Jha, “Wigner’s “Polanyian” Epistemology and the Measurement Problem: The Wigner–Polanyi Dialog on Tacit Knowledge,” *Physics in Perspective* 13:3 (2011): 329-358. DOI: 10.1007/s00016-010-0050-5.

Abstract: I analyze the long dialog that Eugene Wigner (1902-1995) and Michael Polanyi (1891–1976) carried out on Polanyi’s concept of tacit knowledge and its meaning for the measurement problem in quantum physics, focusing in particular on their ten-year correspondence between 1961 and 1971 on these subjects and the related mind-body problem. They differed in their interpretations, epistemologies, and ontologies, and consequently never resolved their differences on the measurement and mind-body problems. Nonetheless, their long dialog is significant and opens up avenues for exploring these problems further.

Struan Jacobs and **Phil Mullins**, “Relations Between Karl Popper and Michael Polanyi,” *Studies in the History and Philosophy of Science* 42 (2011) 426–435. DOI:10.1016/j.shpsa.2010.09.001.

Abstract: Karl Popper and Michael Polanyi grew up in central Europe and, having escaped from Nazism, went on to pursue academic careers in Britain where they wrote prolifically on science and politics. Popper and Polanyi corresponded with each other, and met for discussions in the late 1940s and early 50s, but they seldom referred to each other in their publications. This article examines their correspondence so as to produce a picture of their intellectual relations. The most important of the letters was one that Popper wrote in 1952, which we reproduce in its entirety, indicating his dissatisfaction with ideas that Polanyi had expressed in a paper of that year, ‘The Stability of Beliefs’. In this paper, Polanyi used the example of the framework of Zande witchcraft to shed analogical light on science and other systems of belief, arguing that ‘frameworks of belief’ equip their adherents with intellectual powers whose use reinforces commitment to the framework, inoculating adherents against criticism. Polanyi’s 1952 paper and his 1951 and 1952 Gifford Lectures (to which that paper is intimately tied) are the first articulation of Polanyi’s sharp rejection of the modern critical philosophical tradition that by implication included Popper’s philosophical ideas. The 1952 paper is also part of Polanyi’s constructive philosophical effort to set forth a fiduciary philosophy emphasizing commitment. Popper regarded Polanyi’s position as implying cognitive relativism and irrationalism, and from the time of Polanyi’s 1952 paper their personal relationship became strained. Discord between them became publicly manifest when Polanyi subtitled his book *Personal Knowledge* (1958), *Towards A Post-Critical Philosophy*, and Popper lambasted the idea of a ‘post-critical’ philosophy in his Preface in *The Logic of Scientific Discovery* (1959).

Milton Scarborough’s book, *Comparative Theories of Nonduality: The Search for a Middle Way* (London, New York: Continuum, 2009), which was discussed by **Walter Gulick** and **Milton Scarborough** in a recent *TAD* (37:1 [2010-11]: 39-50), is now available in a more reasonably priced paperback edition.

Travel Assistance Available For November Meeting

For students and other young scholars planning to attend the Society’s Annual Meeting in San Francisco on November 19, 2011, limited travel funding is available. Society members are urged to inform worthy candidates about this assistance. Those interested in this funding, as well as those who know of potential candidates, should contact Walter Mead (wbmead@ilstu.edu). Contributions to the travel fund are always welcome; those interested in contributing should e-mail Walter Mead. Related information about the travel fund can also be found on the Polanyi Society web site.

Student applicants are expected first to inquire if their school’s academic department or student affairs office can provide assistance. Applications to the Polanyi Society (via Walter Mead) should include the e-mail and postal address at which they can be contacted before November 18, information regarding the applicant’s academic background and accomplishments, as well as a brief comment describing his/her interest in and study of Polanyi’s thought. The applicant should identify and provide an e-mail address for someone (preferably a professor under whom he/she has studied) who has agreed promptly to supply a letter of reference by e-mail to Walter Mead. Also, the applicant should indicate estimated travel expenses and cost of lodging for the night preceding (November 18) and the night following (November 19) the two sessions of the Polanyi Society meeting—that is, the portion of these expenses requiring assistance. Applicants are encouraged to share travel, if by car, and lodging with others, wherever possible, in order to minimize costs. (Walter Mead can assist applicants by providing names of persons traveling from nearby locations and names of those seeking roommates.)

Fall 2011 awards will be made no later than mid October 2011 so applications need to be submitted no later than early October.

Some travel assistance should also be available for students and/or younger scholars with limited resources who have had a paper proposal accepted for presentation at the June 8-10 Polanyi Society Conference at Loyola University, Chicago. Those interested in assistance should contact Walter Mead soon after receiving notification that a paper proposal has been accepted.

Polanyi Society Speakers Bureau

The Polanyi Society's Speakers Bureau helps organize talks to groups by Polanyi scholars. Marty Moleski, S. J. and Richard Gelwick gave talks in 2010 at universities; Richard Moodey and Phil Mullins gave talks in summer of 2011 at a meeting in Gummersbach, Germany. If you know anyone who might be interested in a speaker, send the name and e-mail address to Phil Mullins (mullins@missouriwestern.edu). There is now a link on the Polanyi Society web page with general information about the Speakers Bureau. You will find there a précis of the talks given by Moleski and Gelwick. Several Society members have indicated interest in speaking on different aspects of Polanyi's thought. It is likely that the Society can arrange for someone nearby to provide a talk on a topic of interest.

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 (Douglas.Masini@armstrong.edu) and someone will see that you are added to the list.

New Polanyi Society Web Addresses

The address for the Polanyi Society web site has long been <http://www.missouriwestern.edu/orgs/polanyi/>. This address still works but (with the help of some web saavy members) the Society now has acquired rights to two other web addresses that are much easier to remember and don't require the http and the www: polanysisociety.org/ and polanyi-society.com/.

WWW Polanyi Resources

The Polanyi Society has a World Wide Web site at <http://www.missouriwestern.edu/orgs/polanyi> (or polanysisociety.org). In addition to information about Polanyi Society membership and meetings, the site contains the following: (1) digital archives containing all issues of *Tradition and Discovery* and its predecessor publications of the Polanyi Society going back to 1972; (2) indices listing *Tradition and Discovery* authors, reviews and reviewers; (3) the history of Polanyi Society publications; (4) information on *Appraisal* and *Polanyiana*, two sister journals with special interest in Michael Polanyi's thought; (5) a link to the "Guide to the Papers of Michael Polanyi," which provides an orientation to archival material housed in the Special Collections Research Center of the University of Chicago Library, Chicago, IL 60637; (6) photographs of Polanyi; (7) links to a number of Polanyi essays (available on the Polanyi Society web site and other sites), Polanyi's Duke Lectures (1964), as well as audio files for Polanyi's McEnerney Lectures (1962), and Polanyi's conversation with Carl Rogers (1966).

2011 Polanyi Society Annual Meeting

Saturday, 19 November

The annual meeting for the Polanyi Society will be held in conjunction with the American Academy of Religion annual meeting in San Francisco. The overall theme for the meeting is “Persons in Society.” Information about the meeting sessions (including papers) will also be posted on the Polanyi Society website.

9:00-11:30 am Taylor Room at the Hilton Hotel, Union Square, San Francisco

Convener: Charles Lowney, Washington and Lee University

“The Moral Person: Psychology, Neuroscience and Polanyi”
Darcia Narvaez, University of Notre Dame.

Respondent: Paul Lewis, Mercer University

Respondent: Gus Breyspraak, Ottawa University

Business Meeting

Presiding: David Rutledge, Furman University

The Online Program Book is available at http://www.aarweb.org/Meetings/Annual_Meeting/Curent_Meeting/Program_Book/addmtg.asp. Locate the listing by searching for session number P19-106.

7:00-9:30 pm Taylor Room at the Hilton Hotel, Union Square, San Francisco

Convener: Esther Meek, Geneva College

“The ‘Hard Problem’—From Polanyi to Chalmers:
Nonreductive Explanations for the Mind-Body Connection”
Stefania Jha, Independent Scholar

Respondent: David Nikkel, University of North Carolina, Pembroke

“The Participatory Turn”
Jacob Sherman, California Institute of Integral Studies

Respondent: Dale Cannon, Western Oregon University

The Online Program Book is available at http://www.aarweb.org/Meetings/Annual_Meeting/Curent_Meeting/Program_Book/addmtg.asp. Locate the listing by searching for session number P19-492.

Update on Polanyi Society Loyola Conference

The Polanyi Society conference that is scheduled for June 8-10, 2012 at Loyola University, Chicago, is beginning to take shape. The conference will be held at the downtown Loyola conference center which is easily accessible by public transportation. This site is much like the Loyola conference center at which the 2008 Polanyi Society conference was held. During the fall of 2011, details about food, housing, registration and other matters will be posted on the Polanyi Society web site (<http://www.missouriwestern.edu/orgs/polanyi/> or simply polanysisociety.org/). A notice indicating that details are posted will be circulated on the Polanyi Society electronic discussion list and such information will be included in the February 2012 issue of *Tradition and Discovery: The Polanyi Society Periodical*. The conference planning committee presently anticipates that some travel assistance/conference registration scholarships will be available for students and/or younger scholars. See the note in this issue of *TAD* about travel assistance as well as Polanyi Society President David Rutledge's open letter which seeks to stimulate the Society's fund raising efforts.

The conference planning committee is pleased to announce that some of the plenary sessions for the Loyola conference are now in place and others are slowly taking shape. Mary Jo Nye, Horning Professor in the Humanities and Professor of History Emeritus at Oregon State University, will give a talk on Friday evening June 8. Nye is a historian of chemistry with long-standing interest in (and many publications about) Michael Polanyi. Professor Nye received the History of Science Society's Sarton Medal for Lifetime Scholarly Achievement in 2006. Her new book, *Michael Polanyi and His Generation: Origins of the Social Construction of Science* is scheduled for publication by the University of Chicago Press in fall 2011. Walter Gulick, Professor Emeritus from Montana State University, Billings, will give an address at the Saturday, June 9 evening banquet. Gulick had a long career at MSU, Billings, working not only as a professor teaching a wide array of material in philosophy, religious studies and interdisciplinary humanities, but also as a department chair, founding honors director and academic vice president. He was twice a Fulbright Scholar (once in Budapest where he worked on the then new journal of the MPLPA, *Polanyiana*) and has also taught in several other programs in Europe and was a member of the Montana Humanities Council and President of the Montana Association of Churches. Gulick joined the Polanyi Society in 1972 at its inception and has been an important leader, serving as Society President, Board member and *TAD* review editor for many years. Over those years, Gulick has published more than thirty essays, review articles, and book reviews in *TAD* as well as many essays and reviews in other Polanyi journals like *Appraisal* and *Polanyiana* and journals like *Zygon*. On Saturday afternoon, a third plenary session will be a panel discussion focusing on issues in political philosophy. Presently, we are still working on assembling the panel of scholars whose writings about political theory/political philosophy makes use of Polanyi's work. Two earlier Loyola conferences featured a plenary session with a skilled practitioner (a musician and a magician in 2001 and 2008); suggestions are invited.

The 2012 Loyola conference, like the earlier conferences, will also include a number of concurrent sessions at which conference participants can give papers. Insofar as possible, papers will be grouped thematically. Sessions will be scheduled with ample time for discussion. The conference planning committee hopes for proposals covering a wide range of topics to which Polanyi's ideas can be related. See the call for papers elsewhere in this issue of *TAD*. This conference, like earlier Loyola conferences, will build in time for informal discussions among participants.

An Open Letter Soliciting Financial Support For The Polanyi Society

Dear *TAD* Reader,

Even a quick reading of the plans for the June 8-10, 2012 Polanyi Conference at Loyola University, Chicago outlined in this issue reveals the opportunities for scholarly enrichment this conference presents. Anyone who has attended these Loyola gatherings in the past knows how much more enjoyable they are than more typical, large academic meetings where you have to fight to access elevators or restaurants!

But the Chicago conference offers another, less visible, opportunity—a chance to support the Society’s work tangibly by making a special gift to the Loyola effort. Many Society members contribute more than dues to the Society each year, and that faithfulness, as well as an extremely Spartan operation with minimal overhead, has enabled The Polanyi Society to be one of the more active scholarly groups around. Publishing this journal, maintaining a web site (with many scholarly resources) and an electronic discussion list, sponsoring annual meetings (with peer-reviewed papers and/or invited distinguished speakers) in conjunction with the American Academy of Religion and occasional meetings with the American Philosophical Society, supporting important publications (e.g., the Polanyi biography and the re-issue of *The Tacit Dimension*), establishing the William Poteat archive at Yale, setting up a travel fund to help young scholars attend Polanyi-related meetings—all of these efforts have depended upon the energy and financial support of a relatively small society.

The Loyola conference entails certain unavoidable expenses (e.g., renting meeting rooms), as well as costs that enhance the event: (covering expenses for some plenary speakers, registration and travel support for some younger scholars, organizing a trip to the Polanyi archives). As in the past, contributions to offset special conference expenses are something we must solicit and count on. Please send a check to the Treasurer, Dr. Charles Lowney, Dept. of Philosophy, Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA 24450 (e-mail: lowneyc@wlu.edu).

As other earlier announcements in *TAD* indicated, another giving opportunity exists is the new Polanyi Society Endowment Fund, which aims to establish more stable, long-term funding for the Society’s activities. The endowment contains about \$10,000 at present, and we hope to double that amount in this next year. If you wish to know more about supporting the endowment (and that includes making a bequest), please contact me, since as the current Society president I chair the Endowment Committee (david.rutledge@furman.edu). Like last year, we have a challenge open until January 1, 2012 from endowment donors willing to match up to the first \$1000 received. Send endowment donations (clearly marked as such) directly to Charles Lowney at the address above. Since the Polanyi Society is an IRS 501C3 organization, donations to the Loyola Conference and/or the endowment above the \$35 annual Society membership dues are tax deductible.

David Rutledge
President, Polanyi Society

2012 Polanyi Society Conference

Connections/Disconnections: Polanyi and Contemporary Concerns and Domains of Inquiry

Call For Papers

The Polanyi Society will sponsor a three-day conference June 8-10, 2012. Conference participants will have the opportunity to spend a morning (June 8) at the Regenstein Library of the University of Chicago reviewing the archival Polanyi materials held there. The conference will include several plenary speakers or panels as well as parallel sessions in which conference participants present and discuss papers with others interested in the session's particular topic. Like the Polanyi Society sponsored conferences in 2001 and 2008, this will be a conference that builds in many opportunities for discussion and is open to persons using Polanyi-related ideas in a number of fields.

Proposals are invited for papers that examine the themes of post-critical thought in the context of the new century. The following are some suggested general categories within which specific papers might be grouped. [Please do not think of these categories as a limit for submissions but as a springboard for your own reflections. The final program will reflect groupings adjusted in light of proposals submitted.]

- Polanyi As Public Intellectual: Cultural Criticism and Reorientation in the New Global Order
- Redeeming Reason: Does “Personal Knowledge” Have a Future in a Partisan World?
- Polanyi in the Light of Developments in Psychology (and vice versa)
- Polanyi’s Work in Relation to Current Accounts of Organizations, Institutions and Authority
- Doubt and Commitment in the Postmodern Environment
- Religion and Science: Polanyi and Current Discussions
- History and Philosophy of Science: Polanyi and Current Discussions
- Contemporary Politics and Economics in Polanyian Perspective (and vice versa)
- Polanyi and the Rediscovery of Embodiment
- Language, Learning and Logic—Polanyi and Current Discussions
- Trust, Truth and Conscience: Polanyian Communal Values and Contemporary Culture
- The Good Society: Polanyi and Current Challenges
- Pluralism: Does Polanyi Help Us Address Current Interest in and Problems Associated with Diversity?
- Can Polanyi Speak to a Digital Age?
- Resources in Polanyi for Theological Reconstruction in the Face of Fanaticism and Secularism
- Skills, Practice and Virtue—Polanyian Links
- Polanyi on the Importance of the Beautiful
- Polanyi’s Antireductionism and the Logic of Emergence
- Proposals for panel presentations are invited

Proposals should be 250-300 words and will be reviewed by a panel of jurors. Send an electronic copy of the proposal without your name on it as an attachment to Phil Mullins at mullins@missouriwestern.edu. In the body of the e-mail, provide a preferred mailing address (or fax number) as well a phone number of the author. The initial deadline for receipt of proposals is October 1, 2011 (however, if delivery of the October issue of *TAD* is slow, proposals received in early October will be reviewed in the first round) . If there is space on the program, those who do not submit for the October initial review can submit proposals before the final deadline of March 30, 2012. Priority consideration will be given to proposals considered in the October review. If the proposal is for a panel, the full panel needs to be identified and one member designated as the primary contact. The panel proposal should outline why a discussion of this topic is important. Future issues of *TAD* and a posting on the Polanyi Society web site (<http://www.missouriwestern.edu/orgs/polanyi/> or polanysisociety.org) will include additional conference information.

Notes on Contributors

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Stephen G. Henry (henrstep@umich.edu) is a primary care physician and research fellow in the Robert Wood Johnson Clinical Scholars program at the University of Michigan. He has published several articles exploring the role of Polanyi's thought and tacit knowing in clinical judgment and medical decision making. His current research focuses on face-to-face communication in medicine, with a particular interest in communication about pain during primary care office visits.

Charles Lowney (lowneyc@wlu.edu) received his doctorate from Boston University and is currently at Washington and Lee University in Virginia where his teaching focuses on Wittgenstein and applied ethics. He is primarily interested in the limits of understanding and expression in the analytic tradition and in moral epistemology. Lowney's recent writings on Polanyi include "Re-Thinking the Machine Metaphor since Descartes: The Irreducibility of Bodies, Minds and Meanings" (*Bulletin of Science, Technology and Society*, 31:3, Spring 2011, 179-192) and a series of three papers in *TAD* generally titled "From Science to Spirituality" (36:1, Fall 2009: 42-54; 36:3, Summer 2010: 52-65; 37:1, Fall 2010: 19-38). Lowney is a member of the Polanyi Society Speakers Bureau and is willing to speak at colleges and universities on these and other Polanyi-related topics.

Kyle Takaki (ktakaki@hawaii.edu) is a lecturer at Kapiolani Community College and the University of Hawaii at Manoa. He is interested in emergence and complexity across a wide range of disciplines. He completed his Ph.D. at Manoa, working with two faculty who are Deweyans and Polanyians, Ron Bontekoe and Jim Tiles. An earlier essay, "Embodied Knowing: The Tacit Dimension in Johnson and Lakoff, and Merleau-Ponty," appeared in *TAD* 36:2 (2009-2010): 26-39.