

# NEWS AND NOTES

## *2014 Annual Meeting News & Call for Papers*

### **Charles Taylor to Speak**

The annual meeting of the Polanyi Society in 2014 is tentatively scheduled for November 21 and 22 in San Diego. The Society is pleased to announce that the eminent Canadian philosopher Charles Taylor has accepted the Society's invitation to participate in two sessions. The first session will feature a presentation by Taylor on tacit knowing with a stress on its importance for social theory. Taylor will be explicitly interpreting and critiquing Michael Polanyi's thought in this session. Several respondents will comment on Taylor's presentation before the general discussion.

This call for papers is addressed primarily to those who wish to write an essay on some aspect of Taylor's thought. The second session will feature these papers and Taylor's responses to them. Proposals featuring some Polanyian themes in Taylor's writings are encouraged but not at all required. In addition, the Society welcomes receiving proposals on some aspect of Polanyi's thought not connected with Taylor to be presented during a possible third session.

The deadline for receiving proposals of 200-300 words is April 1. They should be submitted to Walter Gulick at [wgulick@msubillings.edu](mailto:wgulick@msubillings.edu).

### **The Primacy of Persons: The Legacy of William Poteat**

The Polanyi Society is sponsoring a conference on the legacy of William H. Poteat (1919-2000) on June 6-8, 2014 at Yale University.

William Poteat was instrumental in bringing to the American philosophical and theological communities the ideas of Michael Polanyi—ideas that converged with and deepened his own profound critique of the self-abstracting tendencies of modernity.

From the mid-1950s onward he drew on Polanyi's work in his own writing and teaching as he sought to advance Polanyi's approach to reclaiming the tacit existential "mindbody" roots of all of our explicit endeavors. Together they powerfully advocated a post-critical paradigm shift within contemporary intellectual culture. By identifying "mindbody" as the tacit ground of all human feats of sense-making and sense-giving, Poteat provided a comprehensive and concrete framework for recovering a sane understanding of responsible personhood. The Poteat-Polanyi connection, in both directions, will be a prominent theme addressed on the first day of the conference: where each influenced the other, where each differed from the other, and how that vital connection extends and radicalizes Polanyi's work to constitute a uniquely Poteatean approach to understanding and redeeming personhood.

The Fall Conference Donation Campaign benefited from twenty generous donations ranging from \$50 to \$500 that provide a fund sufficient to cover the deposit required by Yale while reducing conference fees significantly and allowing for substantial student subsidies. Fees for the conference, lodging and meals, including a dinner, are set to cover all remaining conference expenses, including liability insurance and a fund for unanticipated expenses. Optional choices among registration, lodging, and meals will be available.

Over thirty Society members and former Poteat students and associates have expressed their determination to attend, of whom about twenty have proposed to offer presentations. From that, a total attendance of between thirty and fifty is inferred, possibly including some from the Yale community to whom Polanyi and Poteat are not yet familiar.

The conference planning group (Dale Cannon, Walter Mead, and James Clement van Pelt) anticipates that online registration will become available in January. Because Yale requires that a maximum number of attendees be specified well in advance, early registration assures a conference seat and

offers a fee discount. Given the likelihood that airline costs will increase in 2014, booking flights sooner rather than later should result in significant savings. See <http://yalecollege.yale.edu/content/transportation-and-travel> for detailed travel options.

The registration website address, travel tips, accommodations, and other details are to be provided to those who have already expressed an interest in attending and to those who do so by emailing Dale Cannon at [cannodw@wou.edu](mailto:cannodw@wou.edu).

## Polanyi in Recent Scholarship

The thirteenth biennial Science, Technology Policy and Management in Latin Ibero-American Context Conference was held on October 28-30, 2013, in Porto, Portugal. It included a workshop on Michael Polanyi that coincided with the publication of Eduardo Beira's Portuguese translations of *Personal Knowledge* and an anthology of Polanyi essays entitled, *Science and Technology* (Beira has earlier published translations of *The Study of Man* and *The Tacit Dimension* and plans to publish translations of *The Contempt of Freedom* and *Meaning*.) In the workshop, Dr. Beira discussed his interest in translating Polanyi's work. Phil Mullins also gave a talk entitled, "Michael Polanyi's Post-Critical Vision: Science, Technology and Society." Two Portuguese and two Brazilian scholars interested in Polanyi's thought responded.

*Phenomenology and the Cognitive Sciences* (2013) 12 has material on tacit knowledge and interactional expertise, a concept developed by Harry Collins. See Evan Selinger's introductory essay, "Tacit Knowledge: New Theories and Practices" (247-249) for a review of the essays in this issue. Selinger's essay is available online at DOI 10.1007/s11097-012-9280-0.

Economist Ricardo Hausmann has published a Project Syndicate opinion piece entitled, "The Tacit Knowledge Economy" which argues that some developing economies, despite urbanization, schooling, and Internet access, do not transmit effectively the tacit knowledge required to be productive (<http://www.project-syndicate.org/commentary/on-the->

[mental-sources-of-productivity-growth-by-ricardo-hausmann](#)).

The latest issue of *Appraisal* is now available (vol. 9, No. 4, October 2013). It contains the following articles: Dries Deweer, "The Person and the Political Paradox: The Personalist Political Theory of Paul Ricoeur;" J. Cutting, B. Toone and M. Trimble, "The Merits of a Phenomenological Analysis of Dreams;" and R.T. Allen, "Personalism and the Free Market."

Polanyi is mentioned several times in a "Roundable on the Sociology of Religion: Twenty-Three Theses on the Status of Religion in American Sociology—A Mellon Working Group Reflection," in the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 81/4 (December 2013): 903-938. This essay is part of a celebration of Robert Bellah's work.

## Contributing to the Polanyi Society

The Society offers three exciting opportunities to support our work:

**1. Dues** (\$35 for individuals, \$25 for libraries, and \$15 students) support the cost of annual meetings and the production of *TAD*.

**2. The Travel Assistance Fund** supports students and other young scholars planning to attend Polanyi Society Annual Meetings. Wally Mead is the fund administrator ([wbmead@ilstu.edu](mailto:wbmead@ilstu.edu)).

**3. The Endowment Fund** supports occasional projects, such as the Loyola Conferences. David Rutledge ([david.rutledge@furman.edu](mailto:david.rutledge@furman.edu)) administers this fund.

Those living in the United States should send a check to Charles Lowney, Dept. of Philosophy, Baker Hall 124, Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA 24450. Those living outside of the U.S. should use the Pay Pal payment option on the Polanyi Society membership web page (<http://polanyisociety.net/register/join-renew.php>).