

# NEWS AND NOTES

## *Tradition and Discovery* 43:3

October 2017

The “News and Notes” section of *Tradition and Discovery* is available only online. It includes bibliographic information, calls for papers, annual meeting programs, and any other items possibly of interest to members of the Polanyi Society and others persons working with the thought of Michael Polanyi. Send material to Paul Lewis, Editor of *Tradition and Discovery* at [lewis\\_pa@mercer.edu](mailto:lewis_pa@mercer.edu).

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### **Epistemology, Ontology and the Philosophy of Technology Workshop**

A December 1 and 2, 2017 workshop on the theme “Epistemology, Ontology and the Philosophy of Technology” will be held at Budapest University of Science and Technology (BUTE) in Budapest, Hungary. This Philosophy and Technology workshop, sponsored by the BUTE Department of Philosophy and History of Science has a Polanyi-related orientation. Proposals are invited on the following and related topics:

- Tacit knowledge and engineering
- Ontology of technological artefacts
- Ontological status of artificial agents
- Knowing artefacts
- Virtuality - new realities created by technology
- Engineering epistemology

Send inquiries or proposals (1 page) to Dr. Mihály Héder ([info@budpt.eu](mailto:info@budpt.eu)), Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy and History of Science, Budapest University of Technology and Economics. Proposals e-mailed before October 3 will be reviewed by October 18; later proposals will also be accepted, but approval will be subject to the considerations of appropriate space available in the program. The workshop is free and the language of the workshop is English. A peer-reviewed proceedings volume will be compiled in January, 2018. The web site with details about this workshop in at <http://budpt.eu/>.

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## Polanyi Bibliography Update Project

Maben Poirer compiled a massive 430 plus page bibliography of writings by and about Michael Polanyi which became available in 2002. It is titled *A Classified and Partially Annotated Bibliography of all Forms of Publications, Sound Recordings, Internet Documents, etc., by and about the Anglo-Hungarian Philosopher of Science Michael Polanyi* and was published by Canadian Scholars' Press, Inc. There is an interview of Poirer in TAD 29:2 ( pp. 44-49) which provides interesting details about the organization of this bibliography, the problems of making it, and other Polanyi bibliographies. Although the Poirer bibliography is now out of print, it likely can be found in some university libraries and may even be available via the interlibrary loan system. Colin Cordner, a former student Poirer, is in the process of updating this Polanyi bibliography. He is adding pieces originally overlooked as well as Polanyi materials that has been published since 2002. His update is projected to appear soon. If you have published something Polanyi-related after 2002 which you think should be mentioned in this bibliography (i.e., something that has not appeared in the primary Polanyi journals, TAD, *Polanyiana* or *Appraisal*, or been noted in TAD's "News and Notes" section), please notify Coliin Cordner ([colin\\_cordner@yahoo.ca](mailto:colin_cordner@yahoo.ca)).

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### *Full Employment and Free Trade Available in Chinese*

A Chinese translation of Michael Polanyi's 1945 book *Full Employment and Free Trade* has been published by Fudan University Press in Shanghai. The translator is Zhang Qingjin who is affiliated with the Institute of Rural Development of the Shandong Academy of Social Sciences. Zhang Qingjin has published articles in English language journals and books about Chinese economic behavior and its connection with religious ideas and practices as well as regional Chinese responses to economic crises. The Polanyi translation is part of the Western Economic and Social Thought Series which features translations of several books treating political and economic theory and history, including *Utilitarianism and Beyond* by Amartya K. Sen ( the Nobel economist who wrote the new Introduction to the 2010 reprint of *The Tacit Dimension*) and Bernard A. O. Williams.

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### Recent Work of Interest

Zhenhua Yu, former Polanyi Society Board member and author of several things on Polanyi in English and Chinese, finished his Fulbright award at NYU in July 2017 and returned to Shanghai. He recently published a review on Gascoigne and Thornton's *Tacit Knowledge* entitled "Tacit Knowledge in What Sense?" in *Metascience*, (2015) 24 (2): 301-307. DOI 10.1007/s11016-014-9934-3. This is the third of three fairly lengthy reviews of this book by Polanyi-savvy folks. Stephen Turner reviewed it in TAD 41:1 under the title "[Tacit Knowledge Meets Analytic Kantianism.](#)" Walter Gulick also reviewed the book in a *Social Epistemology* article (2016) 39 (3): 297-325, "Relating Polanyi's Tacit Dimension to Social Epistemology: Three Recent Interpretations." Gulick referenced Turner's article and a 2013 article by Zhenhua. In his review, Zhenhua says, "Insights and blind spots are intertwined in

Gascoigne and Thornton’s understanding of tacit knowledge.” He appreciates the authors’ attempt to move beyond their native analytic perspective toward personal knowing, but he critiques them for, among other things, conflating practical and linguistic articulation.

Chris Abel’s book, *The Extended Self: Architecture, Memes, and Minds* (Manchester, UK: Manchester University Press, 2015. ISBN 978-0-7190-9612-9), [reviewed by Andrew Grosso in the June 2017 issue of TAD](#), recently was awarded the International Committee of Architectural Critics’ 2017 Bruno Zevi Book Award.

Gábor István Bíró recently finished the Ph. D. program in the Philosophy and History of Science Department at Budapest University of Technology and Economics. His recent dissertation is a careful, historically-oriented study of Polanyi’s fifteen years of work on economic literacy and his diagrammatic film *Unemployment and Money: The Principles Involved* (1940). His extensive research in the archival Michael Polanyi Papers has turned up many interesting things about Polanyi’s work on his film. A future TAD issue will include an interview of Bíró focusing on his research.

*Appraisal: Journal of the British Personalist Forum* takes a special interest in the thought of Michael Polanyi. The contents of the forthcoming issue (currently in press) of *Appraisal* is listed below. Information about *Appraisal* is available online at the following address: <http://www.britishpersonalistforum.org.uk/contents.html>.

*Appraisal* Vol. 11, No. 3 (Autumn 2017)

Daniel Paksi: “Medium Emergence Part Two: A Short Reductionist Argument Against Materialism” pp. 4-11.

Medium emergence, which unites the concepts of strong and weak emergences, is the proper personalist ontological position between dualism and materialist monism. Michael Polanyi’s ontological conviction of personal reality and his understanding of “existential” and “conceptual” emergence comport with this theory, according to which persons emerged from inanimate fundamental matter through evolutionary achievements. This is the reason that they have tacit and personal knowledge which cannot be represented in the neutral terms of physics and chemistry and thus cannot be reduced synchronically to matter. Theorists of materialism claim that every higher level phenomenon can be reduced synchronically and thus cannot exist ontologically; however, reduction, as a form of human knowledge, is itself a higher level phenomenon thus is the necessary precondition of any kind of reduction. Therefore, the (synchronic) reduction of reduction and human knowledge is self-eliminating and logically impossible—that is, materialism cannot stand.

Adriano Naves de Brito: “Responsibility without Freedom and the Burden of Personhood” pp. 12-17.

Responsibility is a trait constitutive of personhood. A mature person is someone who can be held responsible for their actions. In the prevailing moral tradition, responsibility is dependent on freedom, understood in the strong Kantian sense. The aim of this paper is to disentangle

responsibility from freedom in that Kantian sense without weakening the concept of personhood. Therefore, this paper aims to show that responsibility can be understood in naturalistic and immanent terms, i.e., in consonance with the spirit of much of contemporary science, especially the neurosciences. It begins by rejecting freedom as a form of transcendent causality and by placing the debate beyond the dichotomy of compatibilism and incompatibilism. It goes on to describe the evolutionary roots of the human brain's ability to take norms into account in the decision-making process. I finish by applying a naturalistic concept of responsibility to some borderline cases. The main thesis of this paper is that persons are responsible if they can respond in accordance with the social demands, a trait which also constitutes one of the central burdens of personhood.

Togeir Fjeld: "In the Isle of the Mountain King: Bergman on Shame and the call of Art" pp. 18-25.

The present article reconnects two of Ingmar Bergman's films from the mid '60s to notions of anxiety, alienation and creativity. *Shame*, a film set in a village ravaged by war, provides the viewer with three senses of transversality: (1) as a crossing of the ego's boundaries; (2) as a sexual and political transgression; and (3) as an intervention of an abstract power. To Søren Kierkegaard, despair and anguish are key emotions to eclipse the sense of powerlessness brought about by depression and alienation. In *Hour of the Wolf*, the main character follows his calling to pursue his art at the expense of his romantic relationship. This summoning has an ambiguous character, since we cannot fully decide if it functions as a liberating or demonic force.

Colin Cordner: "Trust, Understanding, and Paradigms in the Works of Michael Polanyi and of Plato" pp. 26-40.

The purpose of this comparative essay shall be to delve into how indwelling (Polanyi) or *mimesis* (Plato) bear upon the education, maturation, and existential ordering of our knowing and being. The reflections herein shall proceed in an exegetical format, and enucleate the parts played in the maturation of knowing and being by what Plato termed *mimesis* and *paradeigmata* (paradigms of life), and Polanyi termed *indwelling* and *apprenticeship*. These shall be further related to *noesis/comprehending* and thereby to *episteme/understanding*, and their reliance upon some form of *pistis/trust* or faith. Methodologically, this shall be done by bringing together the elements of two representative works which directly bear upon the problem - those which Polanyi explored in his reflections on the "logic of commitment" in *Personal Knowledge*, and those with which Socrates' prepares for the presentation of the "Divided Line" in Book VI of the *Politeia*. The essay ends with a brief recapitulation of the parallels in both men's insights into the essence of a mature human being, and his diametric opposite - what Polanyi dubbed the Minotaur, "man masked as a beast".

#### *Discussion Notes*

Daniel Paksi: "Understanding Emergentism – Jon M. Fennell is Right, Polanyi's Emergence is Reductive" pp. 41-47.

Jon Fennel: “Polanyi, Emergence, and Common Sense: Reflections on the Paksi Essay” pp. 48-53.

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### **Donations to the Travel Fund and/or the Richard Gelwick Fund**

The Polanyi Society’s Travel Fund and the Richard Gelwick Fund enable younger scholars to participate in Society meetings. One of the Society’s goals is to involve persons who are presently, or have recently, been engaged in their academic studies. But making this happen in the midst of the increasing burden of student loans, the escalation of travel costs, and diminishing university resources available to facilitate such involvement is a daunting challenge. Society meetings are held in different places in North America and in some years there are two meetings so demands on these Society funds are different in different years. We need continually to replenish these special funds. Please support these funds by sending a tax deductible contribution to The Polanyi Society, C/O Charles Lowney, 10 Jordan Street, Lexington, VA 24450. Checks should be made out to the Polanyi Society but marked Travel Fund and/or Gelwick Fund. You can also directly access the Polanyi Society PayPal button (<http://polanyisociety.org/paypal/donate.html>) to make a donation.

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### **Back Printed Issues of TAD Available for Purchase**

A limited number of back issues of TAD are available for purchase as long as supplies last. The cost for a copy of issues up to and including Vol. 41:3 is \$5.00. A copy of issues from 42:1 on is \$7.00. All prices include shipping and handling. For issues up to and including Vol. 39:2, contact Phil Mullins ([mullins@missouriwestern.edu](mailto:mullins@missouriwestern.edu)). For issues from 39:3 to the present, contact Paul Lewis ([lewis\\_pa@mercer.edu](mailto:lewis_pa@mercer.edu)). Payment should be sent to The Polanyi Society, C/O Charles Lowney, 10 Jordan Street, Lexington, VA 24450. Checks should be made out to the Polanyi Society and earmarked for back issues.

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### **Call for Papers**

#### **Michael Polanyi’s Post-Critical Turn: Polanyi’s Legacy and Contemporary Relevance**

**Nashotah House Conference, Nashotah, WI  
June 6-9, 2018**

The Polanyi Society will sponsor a conference at Nashotah House, Nashotah, WI, June 6-9, 2018. Like the 2016 Polanyi Society conference at Nashotah, the 2018 conference theme will be broadly inclusive; it intends to promote the assessment and contemporary relevance of Polanyi’s philosophical work, including links between Polanyi and other thinkers. Polanyi’s important

term “post-critical” will provide a general organizing motif for the 2018 conference. What does it mean to be “post-critical?” Are there in fact a variety of “post-critical” projects and do such projects differ from “post-modern” projects? Two themes linked to the “post-critical” have been particularly prominent in recent discussion of Polanyi: (1) the place of Polanyi in modern Western intellectual history, including Polanyian ways of reading the intellectual history of the late modern West; (2) Polanyi’s understanding of emergence and the constellation of themes associated with emergence. This conference will also accommodate a wide range of other topics; a list below identifies other themes and proposed themes in recent essays and discussions. In sum, the 2018 Nashotah conference hopes to attract and draw together scholars with a wide variety of Polanyi-related interests and to link this North American conference with a similar conference in June of 2019 in Budapest, Hungary to be sponsored by the Michael Polanyi Liberal Philosophical Association.

Like the 2016 conference, the 2018 conference will include an opening workshop component designed for those new to Polanyi but also open to Polanyi veterans interested in the topic. The workshop will use Polanyi’s 1949 article, “The Authority of the Free Society” as its focal point of reference and then proceed to explore how Polanyi’s post-critical turn evolved. The program following the Wednesday workshop will include sessions that incorporate a broader, comparative consideration of post-critical philosophy, investigating its significance today.

As was the case in the 2016 Nashotah House conference, some registration waivers or housing support for participants will be available through the Richard Gelwick Fund and the Polanyi Society Travel Fund. Details of registration costs have not yet been finalized. In 2016, the registration fee that included rooms, materials and all the meals for the three full days and four nights of the conference was \$275, and it is reasonable to expect a similar or slightly higher cost in 2018. There are a few inexpensive rooms on campus and motels run from \$60 on up for two persons. Roommates can be arranged. Updated information on such matters as registration, housing and travel options will be posted under the link for 2018 Nashotah House Polanyi Society Conference on [polanyisociety.org](http://polanyisociety.org).

Proposals for papers (or panels) and inquiries should be sent to Andrew Grosso ([atgrosso@icloud.com](mailto:atgrosso@icloud.com)). Proposals submitted early are appreciated and will be quickly reviewed; those submitted by February 1, 2018 will be given first priority in our scheduling.

The following topic areas have been proposed in recent discussion as of particular interest.

1. Polanyi and the History of Ideas
2. Postmodern, Postanalytic, and Postcritical Philosophies
3. The Open Society and Its Enemies Revisited: Polanyi's Political Liberalism and the Future of European and American Political Culture
4. Polanyi’s Economic, Political and Cultural Criticism in Its Historical Context
5. Mind, Meaning and Emergence: Polanyian and Other Perspectives

5. Polanyi, the Arts and Aesthetics

6. Polanyi on Education (assessment mania; purpose, aims, traditions; strategies used to provide education [e.g., residential, distance—both synchronous and asynchronous—and hybrid])

7. Polanyi and Contemporary Science and Technology Studies

8. Polanyi and Contemporary Ethics and Value Theory

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**2017 Polanyi Society Annual Meeting in Boston  
Schedule  
Friday-Saturday, November 17 & 18, 2017**

The final version of the Boston Annual Meeting schedule with the times and locations for all sessions has now been posted. Papers will be posted as soon as they are submitted; most should be posted by early November. Please download and review papers since they will not be read in meeting sessions.

Use this link to the Polanyi Society home page ([polanyisociety.org](http://polanyisociety.org)) and scroll down to the link for 2017 Annual Meeting Program for the version of the final program with the most recent links to papers.