

NEWS AND NOTES

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The online-only “News and Notes” section of *Tradition and Discovery* includes bibliographic information, calls for papers, annual meeting programs, and any other items possibly of interest to members of the Polanyi Society and other persons working with the thought of Michael Polanyi. Send material to Paul Lewis, Editor of *Tradition and Discovery*, at lewis_pa@mercer.edu.

New *TAD* Editor

The Polanyi Society Board of Directors recently appointed David Stewart the new general editor of *TAD*. If you wish to read a bit about David’s interests and recent work, go to his web page which is here: <https://www.davidjamesstewart.com/>. David has been on the *TAD* Editorial Board for several years, so he is familiar with editorial and production practices that currently are employed to produce each new issue of *TAD*. The transition to a new general editor will occur gradually over the course of 2020. Paul Lewis is moving to the new position of Managing Editor of *TAD*. He will continue to be the primary figure responsible for *TAD*’s relationship with Mercer University and with businesses that produce the printed journal. You can e-mail David Stewart at contact@davidjamesstewart.com.

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 21st 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). **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). 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). Updated information regarding the conference will be posted on the Society's website (<http://www.polanyisociety.org/>).

Polanyi Society-Sponsored Pre-Conference Seminar June 8, 2020, Nashotah, WI

In conjunction with the June 9-11, 2020, conference at Nashotah, WI (discussed above), the Polanyi Society will sponsor a one-day seminar on June 8 open to graduate students and others new to Polanyi studies. This small pre-conference seminar begins on the afternoon of June 8 and is designed to interface with the June 9 opening conference afternoon workshop focusing on

Polanyi texts addressing social dynamics. The June 8 seminar will provide an introductory overview of Polanyi's life and developing philosophical ideas and will focus on key elements of Polanyi's philosophy of science and its roots in his ideas about skills and articulation, subsidiary and focal awareness, and the "tacit dimension." The June 8 seminar will dig deeply into parts of *Personal Knowledge*, which treat topics such as skills and articulation, and perhaps a short late Polanyi essay. Copies of primary texts will be provided to participants for study before the seminar; the seminar discussion of texts will be facilitated by seasoned Polanyi scholars. Those who attend the June 8 seminar and the June 9 opening conference day workshop are also invited to participate in the subsequent conference events on June 10 and June 11. Financial aid for registration, accommodations, and/or travel is available to scholars new to Polanyi studies who wish to attend both the pre-conference seminar and the conference. For further details, contact Andrew Grosso (atgrosso@icloud.com).

2020 Polanyi Society Boston Annual Meeting

Call for Papers

The 2020 Polanyi Society Annual Meeting will take place in Boston, MA, on Friday, November 20, 2020, immediately prior to the American Academy of Religion's annual meeting and the week before Thanksgiving. We expect to have two sessions on Friday, November 20, as well as a Polanyi Society Board Meeting. If the number of proposals warrants a third session, this would likely be scheduled on Thursday evening (November 19) or Saturday morning (November 21). There is a possibility that a session on Thursday or Saturday (such as the 2017 workshop on Polanyi's economic thought at MIT) at a nearby university will be set up. Please check the Polanyi Society web site (<http://www.polanyisociety.org/>) later in the spring for additional information.

As in the past, we invite paper proposals on any topic related to Polanyian thought that interests you. However, one of the themes in Polanyi's work that has received attention over the years is that of moral inversion. Some have suggested moral inversion is a useful way of understanding contemporary social and cultural dynamics, and others have argued Polanyi's account of moral inversion can be a useful way of identifying other forms of "inversion" he identified in his critique of late modern thought. There remain, too, several historiographical questions to be asked regarding Polanyi's diagnosis of the etiology of moral inversion. Proposals that explore and elaborate Polanyi's understanding of moral inversion (or other forms of inversion) are encouraged.

Briefly noted below are several additional topics that recently have been suggested or partially discussed and which seem to have the potential for interesting presentations:

- Polanyian understandings of interpretation and frameworks
- Michael Polanyi and Karl Polanyi

- Elements worth developing further in Polanyi and Prosch's *Meaning*
- The Meaning Lectures in relation to Polanyi and Prosch's *Meaning*
- Post-critical approaches to history (or sacred texts)

A proposal of about 250-300 words should be sent as an attachment to Walter Gulick (wgulick@msubillig.edu) by May 1. This Call for Papers and updated information on papers accepted, the final schedule, etc., will be posted on <http://www.polanyisociety.org>.

Walter Gulick, Chair of Program Committee.

Future Consultation on Michael Polanyi and Thomas Torrance

The Polanyi Society is currently in talks with the Thomas F. Torrance Theological Fellowship regarding the possibility of collaborating on some particular project or meeting. Torrance made considerable use of Polanyi's work and was Polanyi's original literary executor, and their respective interests overlapped at several points. In order to clarify the degree of interest in this collaboration, the Society invites informal comments and suggestions from its members regarding possible avenues for exploration and discussion. These comments can include recommendations about particular themes or questions that both Polanyi and Torrance engaged (e.g., epistemology, interdisciplinary studies, etc.) and/or possible opportunities for interaction and collaboration (e.g., conferences, publications, etc.). Please send any comments or suggestions to Andrew Grosso (atgrosso@icloud.com).

Changes in *Polanyiana*

Polanyiana, the journal of the Michael Polanyi Liberal Philosophical Association (MPLPA) centered in Budapest, has been published since 1991. The MPLPA is a scholarly/professional group similar to the Polanyi Society and it has, in the past, sponsored conferences and other programs similar to those sponsored by the Polanyi Society; these are periodically reported on in *TAD*. The issues of *Polanyiana* back to 1998 are digitally archived on the new MPLPA/*Polanyiana* web site (<https://polanyiana.org/polanyiana>) and older issues are currently being added. Work on the new web site will likely be completed by July 2020. For some years, there have been both Hungarian language and English language issues of *Polanyiana* (approximately every other issue is in English and a few issues have both English and Hungarian material). The titles and abstracts of articles in most English issues have appeared in the "News and Notes" sections of *TAD* issues. In addition to the new web site listed above (which is still under construction), it is possible to visit the old *Polanyiana* web site where there are materials not yet moved to the new site (<http://www.polanyi.bme.hu/periodical/period.php?lang=en>).

The Polanyi Society web site, like the *Polanyiana* web site, is presently being reconstructed; with luck, the new site will be online before the July 2020 issue of *TAD*. *Polanyiana* web materials, like those available in a section (<http://www.polanyisociety.org/essays.htm>) of the Polanyi Society web site, include some archival documents and some Polanyi publications of interest to Polanyi scholars and others. Work in the near future will try better to link the MPLPA/*Polanyiana* and Polanyi Society/*TAD* web sites so that the full array of available online Polanyi resources is more easily accessible.

The publication of *Polanyiana* has recently been impeded by funding and printing problems as well as changes in the Department of Philosophy and History of Science at Budapest University of Technology and Economics where work on the journal has long been centered. These issues now have been resolved with some re-organization and re-structuring. Gábor Bíró has taken over as *Polanyiana* editor in chief and Mihály Héder will work closely with Bíró on production issues as well as on the *Polanyiana* web site. Tihamér Margitay, the President of the MPLPA, will also still be involved in work on *Polanyiana* and will be advising Bíró and Héder. *Polanyiana* will in the future be a digital journal which uses the same review process used in the past (i.e., a blind review process similar to that of *TAD*). Those interested in having scholarly essays or reviews considered for publication in *Polanyiana* are invited to contact *Polanyiana* editor Gábor Bíró (<mailto:biro.gabor.istvan@filozofia.bme.hu>). The 2016 Hungarian language back issue of *Polanyiana* is now online and it includes two articles as well as a new Hungarian translation of Polanyi's *The Logic of Liberty* (part II). The English language 2017 back issue is currently being put together. Soon *Polanyiana* should again be on a regular publication schedule for the current year.

Academic Papers, Blogs, Dissertations, and Publications

David Hoinski and Ronald Polansky. 2017. "The Modern Aristotle: Michael Polanyi's Search for Truth against Nihilism." In *Contemporary Encounters with Ancient Metaphysics*, edited by Abraham Jacob Greenstine and Ryan J. Johnson. Edinburgh University Press: 180-201. https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.3366/j.ctt1g050w8.15?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents .

"The renaissance of key Aristotelian lines of thought in the work of Michael Polanyi . . . offers a critical realism that also does justice to the insights seemingly opposed to it—idealism, phenomenology, and the historicist school—by emphasizing the essential contributions of human beings to knowledge both in and beyond the natural sciences. At the same time, Polanyi's realism combats the skepticism and 'dogmatic subjectivity' often associated with these approaches . . . [This article has] three aims: (1) to show how central Aristotelian concerns, such as purpose and structure in nature, and the role of intellect in the human pursuit of knowledge, recur in Polanyi's work; (2) to suggest how Polanyi's rehabilitation of these Aristotelian concerns

offers a valuable contribution to contemporary philosophy of science; and (3) to indicate ways that Polanyi's approach to the philosophy of science answers to the ethical-political difficulties that he, like others, sees arising from misconceptions about the nature of science" (181).

"Polanyi's effort to present a viable 'post-critical philosophy' finds him reinvigorating many fundamental Aristotelian approaches. We believe that this reveals the promise of Polanyi's approach while also pointing to the way that various modern developments can be brought into the framework of Aristotelian naturalistic and realistic reflection upon everything that is" (195).

Chris Mulherin. 2010 [September]. "The Greenhouse, the Oppressed and the Conversation of Humankind: Fiduciary Hermeneutic Fallibilism and the Pragmatic Necessity of Realism" in *Traffic* 12: 73-93.

The conversation of humankind and the future of the planet depend on an objective realist understanding of truth in science and morality. While Richard Rorty's pragmatist break with post-Cartesian philosophy is sound in part, his utopian agenda for 'the conversation of mankind' is weakened by his epistemological behaviorism, which offers no purchase on extra-human reality for universal truth claims. This leaves Rorty committed to an ethnocentric, liberal view promoting 'the best we can be' through persuasion but without an appeal to truth. Michael Polanyi and Hans-Georg Gadamer also turn away from the quest for guaranteed knowledge, but offer a realist alternative.

Chris Mulherin. 2019. *Science and Christianity: Understanding the Conflict Myth*. Melbourne: Garratt. <http://www.iscast.org/SCbook> .

Written for students, teachers, clergy, parish groups and interested lay people, this is an engaging introduction to the relationship between science and Christian faith. Chris Mulherin is an Anglican clergyman who runs Institute for the Study of Christianity in an Age of Science and Technology in Australia. He also teaches philosophy and his research has brought together a Polanyian philosophy of science with the philosophical hermeneutics tradition rooted in Martin Heidegger and Hans-Georg Gadamer.

Mary Jo Nye's "Transforming Economics with a Film Projector," a review of Gábor Bíró's *The Economic Thought of Michael Polanyi*, was published online in October 2019 in *Metascience*. Vol.:(0123456789) <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11016-019-00467-1>.

Adam Tomas Tuboly's "Michael Polanyi and Otto Neurath: An Unplanned Parallel in British Intellectual Life," a review of Gábor Bíró's *The Economic Thought of Michael Polanyi*, was published in online in November 2019 in *History of European Ideas* <https://doi.org/10.1080/01916599.2019.1689655>.

Donations to the Travel, Grants, and Projects Fund and the Polanyi Society Endowment

In 2018 to simplify our accounting, the Polanyi Society consolidated several old funds into the Travel, Grants, and Projects Fund. Particular disbursements from this new fund may, however, be in memory of particular persons. The Travel, Grants, and Projects Fund will continue to support the participation of younger scholars in Society meetings. Some recent Polanyi Society annual meetings have included a session with graduate student papers, and travel awards supported this part of the program. These travel awards will continue under the Travel, Grants, and Projects Fund and possibly some new awards and projects aimed at younger scholars will soon be added. Donations to the Travel, Grants, and Projects Fund are much appreciated.

The Polanyi Society Endowment was established a few years ago with a gift from the late Ann Herbert Scott, the widow of William T. Scott, the original Polanyi biographer. The Walter B. Mead estate recently provided a substantial contribution to the Endowment (see the entry above). Slowly, the Endowment is growing. The eventual aim is to have an Endowment that generates each year some income which can be used to support and expand Polanyi Society programming.

Please support the Travel, Grants, and Projects Fund and the Polanyi Society Endowment by sending a tax-deductible contribution to The Polanyi Society, C/O Charles Lowney, 10 Jordan Street, Lexington, VA, 24450. Bequests and large donations are very important to the Society, but the many smaller donations to the Society, often made in conjunction with dues payment, are also significant and appreciated. Checks should be made out to the Polanyi Society and, if so intended, marked Travel, Grants, and Projects or Endowment. Unmarked donations will go toward general operating expenses. You can also directly access the Polanyi Society PayPal button (with accompanying tutorial) to make a donation:

<http://polanysisociety.org/paypal/donate.html>

All actual PayPal transactions for the Polanyi Society are is handled on the secure PayPal site.

Back 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). For issues from 39:3 to the present, contact Paul Lewis (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.