
NEWS AND NOTES

Conference to Honor Poteat

Planning is underway for a conference honoring the life and legacy of William Hardman Poteat (1919-2000) to take place June 7, 8, and 9 (Friday through Sunday), 2014, at Yale University. A graduate of Yale's School of Divinity, where his unpublished papers are now archived, Bill Poteat taught religion and philosophy at Duke University from 1960 to 1987, led in introducing the post-critical philosophy of Michael Polanyi to U.S. academia, and challenged in a radical way the self-abstracting ways of thinking and discourse that now prevail.

An online conversation (email group) about Poteat's ideas, open to all, is now in process.

Donations are welcome to help with up-front costs and travel for young scholars to attend the conference. A means of making donations and early registration online will be available on the Polanyi website soon.

Persons interested in joining in the online conversation, learning more about the conference, being put on the mailing list for the conference, donating to, and/or participating in the conference should contact Dale Cannon, co-director with Walter Mead, at can-nodw@wou.edu.

Recent Publications

Yu Zhenhua has recently published a revised and expanded version of his dissertation in Chinese: "The Tacit Dimension of Knowledge."

In addition, his article, "The Expansion of Epistemology: The Metaphysical vs. the Practical Approach," was published in *Dao: A Journal of Comparative Philosophy*, 11 (2012):83–100. DOI 10.1007/s11712-011-9259-5.

Abstract: From the perspective of world philosophy, one phenomenon of the 20th Century is quite intriguing. Certain philosophers in China as well as in the West, finding the traditional conception of epistemology too narrow-minded, argued that its scope should be expanded. The Chinese way of expanding epistemology might be called the metaphysical approach, and the Western way the practical approach. In this article, I will first give an outline of both approaches and then try to demonstrate that a substantial dialogue can be created between them. By focusing on the problem of the articulation of what we know, I will make the metaphysical approach and the practical approach engage each other and thus prove to be mutually complementary.

Peter M. Hopsicker, Associate Professor of Kinesiology at Pennsylvania State University, Altoona, recently published "'The Value of the Inexact': An Apology for Inaccurate Motor Performance," *Journal of the Philosophy of Sport*. DOI 10.1080/00948705.2012.725895.

Abstract: Philosophic inquiry into the mental states of elite athletes during skilled motor performance continues to grow. In contrast to the bulk of these works that focus almost exclusively on skillful performance, this paper examines athletic motor behavior from a point of inexactness—or even failure—in athletic performance. Utilizing the works of Michael Polanyi, who believed that both ideas of achievement and failure were equally necessary to understand the behavior of living things and their physical actions, I examine the notion of failure as a framework to scrutinize the cognitive processes occurring during the development and performance of skilled motor behavior. After reviewing Polanyi's conceptions of personal knowing to locate the source of inaccuracy in human activity, I present Polanyi's distinction between two kinds of mistakes and apply each to inaccurate sport performance. I then suggest that mistakes in sport should be reconceptualized

beyond their current negative connotations. Instead, conceptions of mistakes should also include respect for “man’s most distinguished act”—the production of knowledge. From this expanded perspective, the value of inexact motor performance can be found in addition to notions of uncertainty and skill development in what Polanyi calls “metaphysical implication of a groping for reality.” In some final thoughts, I suggest future implications of the value of the inexact on broader sport issues.

John V. Apczynski published “The Impact of Benedict XVI’s Resignation on Papal Politics” in the on-line journal, *e-International Relations* on April 23, 2013. It can be accessed at <http://www.e-ir.info/2013/04/23/the-impact-of-benedict-xvis-resignation-on-papal-politics/>.

Abstract: I apply Polanyi’s insights into the way the scientific community functions to offer a critique of the official Vatican orthodoxy in light of the actual practice of the majority of the Catholic faithful.

Travel Assistance For Younger Scholars Attending Polanyi Society Annual Meeting

For students and other young scholars planning to attend the Polanyi Society Annual Meeting in Baltimore in November 2013 limited travel funding is available. Society members are urged to inform worthy candidates about this assistance. Candidates and anyone who wants to nominate a potential candidate should contact Walter Mead (wbmead@ilstu.edu) who administers the travel fund.

Contributions to the travel fund are, of course, always welcome. Those who wish to contribute should e-mail Walter Mead. Send checks directly to Charles Lowney, the Polanyi Society Treasurer (Department of Philosophy, Baker Hall 213, Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA 24450). Donations can also be made using the link for the Pay Pal Dona-

tion Form on the membership page on the Polanyi Society web site (<http://polanyisociety.net/register/join-renew.php>).

All donations are eligible for an IRS letter certifying a charitable deduction. Related information about travel funds is available on the Polanyi Society web site (www.polanyisociety.org).

Dues Payment and Address Changes

The Oct. and Feb. issues of *TAD* always include a membership flyer and an addressed envelope to be used to mail annual academic year dues and/or to make donations to the Polanyi Society.

This is because US postage regulations require that **EVERY** copy of *TAD* mailed in the postage class used must weigh exactly the same. Thus, even if you pay your annual dues in October, you will, nevertheless, receive these membership materials in your February copy of *TAD*.

Dues remain \$35 (\$25 for libraries and \$15 students), a bargain in the academic journal world.

Except for those residing outside the USA, members should pay dues with a check. The Society can no longer easily and inexpensively process credit cards.

For those living outside of the U.S., there is a Pay Pal payment option on the Polanyi Society membership web page (<http://polanyisociety.net/register/join-renew.php>).

Dues and donations are handled by the Polanyi Society Treasurer, Charles Lowney (Dept. of Philosophy, Baker Hall 213, Washington and Lee University, Lexington, VA 24450. USA).

Paul Lewis (lewis_pa@mercer.edu) should be contacted directly for *TAD* address changes.