

NEWS AND NOTES
***Tradition and Discovery* 46:3**
October 2020

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 David Stewart, Editor of *Tradition and Discovery*, at contact@davidjamesstewart.com.

Note from the Polanyi Society President

Covid-19 brought insurmountable problems to the Society’s process of printing and mailing copies of TAD. The last two issues of this volume have therefore not been printed but have been sent to members’ e-mail addresses as a digital template with links. Hopefully, you earlier received an e-mail apology from the Society for this abrupt end to the life of the printed *TAD*. We have, however, been discussing for some time a shift to a digital-only format. Members living in the United States have for several years, in addition to the printed *TAD*, received the e-mail with links to articles and reviews in the new issue. Even without a pandemic, it is, these days, increasingly difficult to sustain producing a printed journal. The Society has therefore decided that it will not return to the production of a printed journal after the pandemic.

We hope, however, that members will continue to support the Society with dues and gifts. Our dues payment cycle normally operates in the final three months of the calendar years. Certainly, there are still expenses associated with producing a digital journal. However, what we hope will emerge over the next year or two is a richer Polanyi Society program of events. We have just made a transition to the new *TAD* editor and some discussions are underway about how to set up a new website focused specifically on *TAD* but tied to the Polanyi Society website. This will perhaps become a way to make new issues of the journal more interactive. Due to the pandemic, the Society has recently also been setting up Zoom events, including sessions with some papers from the cancelled Nashotah conference and five sessions on Polanyi’s 1964 Duke Lectures. These have drawn a surprising number of participants from a wide range of locations into lively discussions and we are recording these for anyone who wished to consult them at a later time (see below). It seems likely that additional online events will also be planned for the future. If you have ideas for programming, please send them along to me by e-mail.

Phil Mullins
mullins@missouriwestern.edu

Information on Online 2020 Polanyi Society Annual Meeting

Due to COVID-19, the American Academy of Religion (who has historically provided meeting space for Polanyi Society annual meetings) in July cancelled its November 2020 in-person Boston, MA meeting. The 2020 Polanyi Society annual meeting, originally scheduled for Friday and Saturday, November 20 and 21 in Boston, is now being planned as an independent set of Zoom sessions to be held on Thursday, November 19, Friday, November 20, and Saturday, November 21, 2020.

Final plans for these Zoom sessions are presently being worked out. Please check the link for the annual meeting on polanysociety.org after early October 2020 for details about scheduled times for annual meeting Zoom sessions and how to sign up to receive a link allowing you to participate in a session. As in past Polanyi Society annual meetings, the focus in these online sessions will be on discussion. Papers, listed below, will not be read but will be available for downloading on polanysociety.org in early November.

A brief business meeting will follow the discussion of the last paper on the Saturday, November 21, 2020 session. The brief business meeting is required by the Polanyi Society Bylaws for the purpose of informing the general membership of any actions taken in the October 17, 2020 online Board of Directors' meeting.

The list of papers annual meeting Zoom sessions follows:

Jessica Schroeder, "Beyond Confirmation: Expanding Beauty in Polanyi's Epistemology"

Stan Scott, "The Poetics of Discovery: Bergson, Wallace Stevens and Polanyi"

Robert Frazier, "Polanyi on Nihilism and the Political Authority"

Richard Moodey, "Confronting or Denying the Minotaur: 'Moral Inversion' Today"

Charles Lowney, "Three Freedoms and an Emergentist's Hope for Social Progress"

Esther Meek, "Subsidiary-Focal Integration, Things, and a Metaphysics of Liberty"

Joshua Gilliland, "The Silent Knowers: Implications of a Polanyian Account of Knowing and Being for the Computer-Information Model"

Future Polanyi Society-Sponsored Conferences: In-Person and Online

Due to the dangers and complications associated with the on-going COVID-19 pandemic, the Nashotah House conference "Post-Critical Philosophy and Social Theory" scheduled for June 9-11, 2020 was cancelled. The option for a 2021 in-person conference at Nashotah House in early June is now being explored. The Polanyi Society Board of Directors is having an online meeting October 17, 2020 and will consider options. At the present time, it seems unlikely that the

Society will sponsor an in-person meeting in June 2021, although a zoom conference may be sponsored in June 2021. Such a zoom conference will likely include 6 or 8 presentations that are spread over two or three days. Sessions of the June 2020 zoom version of the cancelled Nashotah conference were spread over three days. Information and a call for papers for a June 2021 Zoom conference will be posted as soon as it is available on polanyisociety.org and will be advertised on the Polanyi Society discussion list (polanyi_list@yahoo.com).

At the present time, the American Academy of Religion (AAR) annual meeting is scheduled for an in-person conference November 20-23, 2021 in San Antonio, TX. The AAR has in past years provided space for the Polanyi Society annual meeting. If the Society does have an annual meeting in conjunction with the AAR in 2021, it likely will be November 19 and 20. A call for papers for this meeting will be in the February 2021 *TAD* "News and Notes" section and will be posted on polanyisociety.org.

New Repository for Recordings of Zoom Sessions

There is a new link (Links for Recordings of Polanyi Society Zoom Presentations/Discussions) on polanyisociety.org for a website area where recordings of Society- sponsored online sessions will be available for anyone interested. Already posted there are the materials and recordings for the six presentations in the June 9, 10 and 11 Zoom sessions from the cancelled Nashotah House conference. The recordings of sessions are unedited, but it is possible to "fast forward" through the tapes. Listed below are the sessions, each 1 to 1.5 hours in length, in these June 2020 sessions.

1. Discussion of Michael Polanyi's "Economics Education" Film with Gabor Biro
2. Jon Fennell, "Michael Polanyi and the Theologico-Political Problem"
3. Robert Hyatt, "Trauma, Metaphor and Meaning"
4. Charles Lowney, "Body-Knowing and Neural Networks: Is a Computer's Ability to Learn Human Skills a Victory for Reductionism?"
5. Phil Mullins, "Michael Polanyi's 'Social Capitalism'"
6. Discussion of Michael and Karl Polanyi with Walter Gulick, Gus Breyspraak, and Phil Mullins,

Recent Recordings of Zoom Sessions on Polanyi's Duke Lectures

The Polanyi Society sponsored five consecutive Saturday zoom meetings (beginning August 29, 2020) focusing on discussion of each of Michael Polanyi's unpublished 1964 Duke Lectures

(which are online on the Polanyi Society website [here](#)). About 40 people from across the world signed up and participated in one or more sessions. The link for the recordings on the Zoom cloud (available until the end of October 2020) is listed under the Duke Lectures Zoom Sessions link on the Polanyi Society website (polanyisociety.org). After October 2020, these recordings will be available under the new link (Links for Recordings of Polanyi Society Zoom Presentations/Discussions) discussed above on the home page of the Polanyi Society.

Additions to the Polanyi Society Website

Michael Polanyi's 1947 essay "What to Believe" which was included in July TAD issue (46:2) has now been added to the list of primary Polanyi materials on the Polanyi Society website. Thanks go to Matt Sandwisch for adding this material to the online collection.

There is now a website link available for Polanyi's 1940 collection titled [The Contempt of Freedom: The Russian Experiment And After](#).

Thomas S. Kuhn interviewed Michael Polanyi on February 15, 1962, in Berkeley, CA, when Polanyi was in Berkeley to give the McEnerney Lectures. This interview was part of a large-scale project to interview about 100 scientists who were prominent between 1900 and 1930. A transcript of this interview is now available on the web through the American Institute of Physics at <https://www.aip.org/history-programs/niels-bohr-library/oral-histories/4831>. This link has been added to the list of links for primary Polanyi materials on the Polanyi Society web site. Below is the generic abstract for the full set of approximately 100 interviews now available.

Abstract: This interview was conducted as part of the Archives for the History of Quantum Physics project, which includes tapes and transcripts of oral history interviews conducted with ca. 100 atomic and quantum physicists. Subjects discuss their family backgrounds, how they became interested in physics, their educations, people who influenced them, their careers including social influences on the conditions of research, and the state of atomic, nuclear, and quantum physics during the period in which they worked. Discussions of scientific matters relate to work that was done between approximately 1900 and 1930, with an emphasis on the discovery and interpretations of quantum mechanics in the 1920s. Also prominently mentioned are: Niels Henrik David Bohr, Max Born, Louis de Broglie, Albert Einstein, Walter M. Elsasser, Emil Fischer, James Franck, Johannes Hans Wilhelm Geiger, Walter Kossel, Otto Laporte, Frederick Lindemann (Viscount Cherwell), Walther Nernst, Carl Ramsauer, Ernest Rutherford, Erwin Schrodinger, Leo Szilard, Otto Warburg, Eugene Paul Wigner; Kaiser Wilhelm-Gesellschaft, Kaiser-Wilhelm-Institut für Physikalische Chemie, Physikalische-Technische Reichsanstalt (Berlin), Prussian Academy, and University of Manchester.

A few additional changes to the Polanyi Society website have recently been made to the collection of Polanyi materials. Henry Zhu, a software engineer who participated in the Duke Lectures Zoom sessions, suggested that it would be helpful to have a machine-searchable version of the [Duke Lectures](#) available. The posted lectures now are a machine-searchable pdf version,

although this is not a perfect searchable version since the quality of the Duke Library 1964 copy of the original typed lectures was not very good. The posted version of Polanyi's 1965 [Wesleyan Lectures](#) also is now machine-searchable, but it also is not a perfect searchable version. The [Gelwick microfilm collection](#) (*Collected Articles and Papers of Michael Polanyi*) with approximately 120 Polanyi articles written from 1935-1963 can now be directly downloaded as a zipped file from the primary materials section of the Polanyi Society web site.

Academic Papers, Blogs, Dissertations, and Publications

Gabor Biro's "Michael Polanyi's Neutral Keynesianism and the First Economics Film, 1933 to 1945" (DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1053837219000476>) has been published on the First View website of the *Journal of the History of Economic Thought* [here](#) and should be available in the printed journal later in 2020.

Abstract: This paper explores the history of the first economics film, made by Michael Polanyi. It traces the evolution of the film from the first idea to the latest version. It portrays Polanyi's motives for making the film, the contexts in which the film was embedded, and its perception by various individuals and communities. The paper demonstrates the novelty of both the content and the presentation of Polanyi's economic ideas through the eyes of his contemporaries. It discusses why it was important for Polanyi to make a film about the circulation of money and the principle of neutrality, and comments on what historiographers of economic thought might learn if they put a stronger emphasis on visual representations in their pursuit.

Walter B. Gulick's "Machine and Person: Reconstructing Harry Collins's Categories," was recently accepted by *AI and Society* (doi.org/10.107/s00146-020-01046-3) and is now available online at <https://rdcu.be/b6D7y>. A printed will follow later in a 2020.

Abstract: Are there aspects of human intelligence that artificial intelligence cannot emulate? Harry Collins uses a distinction between tacit aspects of knowing, which cannot be digitized, and explicit aspects, which can be, to formulate an answer to this question. He postulates three purported areas of the tacit and argues that only "collective tacit knowing" cannot be adequately digitized. I argue, first, that Collins's approach rests upon problematic Cartesian assumptions—particularly his claim that animal knowing is strictly deterministic and, thus, radically different from human knowing. I offer evidence that human linguistic intelligence depends upon embodied forms of animal intelligence. Second, I suggest the development of deep-learning algorithms means that Collins's mimesis assumption (that successfully realized explicit instructions to machines are needed to confirm human-artificial intellectual equivalence) is no longer appropriate; equivalent accomplishment of goals is what counts (as he also concedes). However, persons must realize and integrate many goals and also deal with failures; a general-purpose AI capable of integrating all the needs and goals of human existence resists development. Third, I explain how Michael Polanyi's understanding of tacit knowing, quite different than Collins's concept of the tacit, exemplifies features that are missing in contemporary AI. I make use of evolutionary theory, studies of animal intelligence, biological

insights, individual construction of meaning, and notions of human responsibility to argue for the existence of three categories that distinguish human from artificial intelligence.

Keywords: Artificial intelligence, Harry Collins, AI vs. human intelligence, Michael Polanyi, Tacit knowing, Meaning construction, Embodiment, Responsibility.

Walter Gulick's essay "Michael and Karl Polanyi: Conflict and Convergence," originally published in *The Political Science Review* (2008, 13-43), now is available online in the archive of the Intercollegiate Studies Institute at <https://isi.org/intercollegiate-review/michael-and-karl-polanyi-conflict-and-convergence/>.

Walter Gulick's "Whither Religious Naturalism?" was published in *The Routledge Handbook of Religious Naturalism*, Donald A. Crosby and Jerome A. Stone, eds. (New York: Routledge, 2018), 317-329.

Dale Cannon's review of Esther Meek's 2017 book, *Contact with Reality: Michael Polanyi's Realism and Why it Matters* (Cascade Books), has been published in *Soundings: An Interdisciplinary Journal* v.103:3 (2020) 399-403.

Tim Simpson and Jon Fennell will present "Epistemological Foundations of Liberal Education for Democratic Life" at the fall meeting of the North American Association of Philosophers of Education (NAAPE). In these times of COVID-19, the specific date for the presentation has not yet been determined.

Michael Polanyi's interesting April 1940 lecture "Collectivist Planning" became the second chapter of his 1940 collection titled *The Contempt of Freedom: The Russian Experiment and After* (London: Watts and Co). These days, this book is quite rare, even in the 1975 reprinted edition in the History, Philosophy and Sociology of Science series by Arno Press. The complete book is now available [here](#) on the Polanyi Society website. But "Collectivist Planning" and a five-page "Editorial Introduction" by Geoffrey M. Hodgson was recently included in *Journal of Institutional Economics* (December 2019), vol.15, no. 6: 1055-1074. DOI: [10.1017/S17441374190000377](https://doi.org/10.1017/S17441374190000377).

Abstract: After an esteemed academic career as a chemist, Michael Polanyi switched to the social sciences and made significant contributions to our understanding of the nature and role of knowledge in society. Polanyi's argument concerning knowledge led him to emphasise the vital importance of decentralised mechanisms of adjustment and coordination, including markets. His article 'Collectivist Planning' (1940) enters into debates about the possibility (or otherwise) of centrally planning scientific and economic activity. This early article also foreshadows post-war debates within the Mont Pèlerin Society (formed in 1947) concerning the economic role of the state and the future of liberalism.

Donations: Travel, Grants, and Projects Fund and the 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. 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://polanyisociety.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 printed 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 through 46:1 (the final printed issue) 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.