

## Michael Polanyi's "Science: Observation and Belief"

"Science: Observation and Belief" is a six-page Polanyi essay that appeared in the February 1947 issue of *Humanitas, A University Quarterly* (vol. 1, no. 3, pp. 10-15). *Humanitas* was originally a student-initiated journal project, but Polanyi and other faculty at the University of Manchester supported *Humanitas* and in fact Polanyi was chair of the editorial group for the journal in its final year. "Science: Observation and Belief" apparently was a Polanyi lecture which he was invited by the editors to publish.<sup>1</sup>

This essay is made available for non-commercial use by scholars and students.

[Michael Polanyi, "Science: Observation and Belief"](#)

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<sup>1</sup> For additional details about *Humanitas*, Polanyi's work on this journal and a short comment on "Science: Observation and Belief" (pp. 45-47) see Phil Mullins, "The Journal *Humanitas* As An Incubator of Polanyi's Ideas," [\*Tradition and Discovery\* 48 \(1\): 39-51](#). There is a recording of a Zoom discussion that focused in part on this 1947 essay posted [here](#) in Polanyi Society web materials.