

## Public Lecture and Book Launch

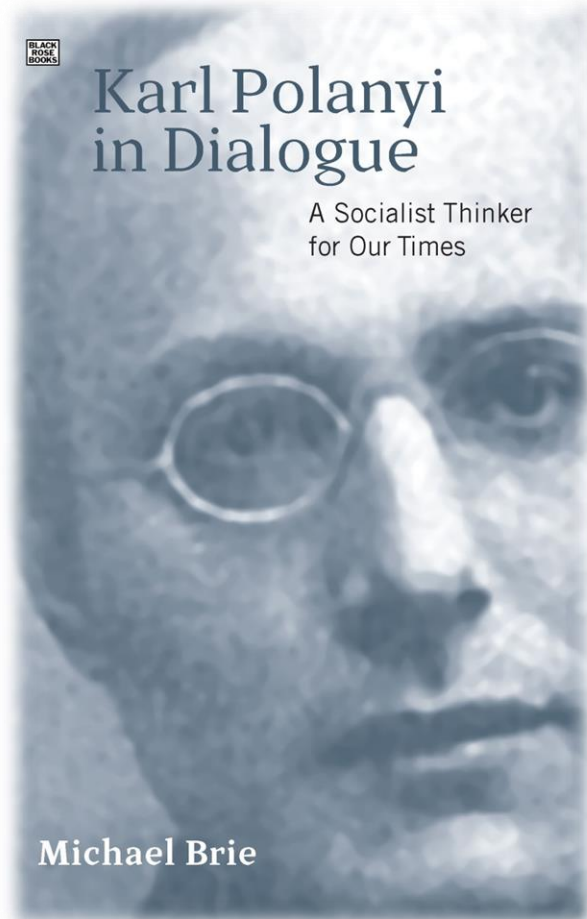
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### Michael Brie

Institute for Critical Social Analysis, the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, Berlin, Germany

on

### Karl Polanyi in Dialogue: A Socialist Thinker for Our Times



“...The contemporary left fights its political battles on various fronts: protesting the crippling structural inequalities that sustain neoliberal economic policy; developing sustainable, community-based alternatives to the consumerism and short-termism that exacerbate the environmental crisis; and advocating for the cultural recognition, emancipation and celebration of the diversity and pluralism of human identity. But despite this versatility the left appears to be in worldwide retreat whilst an aggressive new ‘Alt-Right’ is taking to the streets and internet, regurgitating a regressive and patriarchal vision of society that has already won startling political victories in the US and Europe.

Amid the vertiginous tension of such a crisis **Michael Brie** argues for an urgent theoretical and practical reorganisation of the left. Developing the work of philosopher and social theorist Karl Polanyi, Brie advocates an alliance of socialist liberals and libertarian ‘commonists’ that unites contemporary campaigns for recognition, difference and human dignity with more traditional struggles for social welfare and economic democracy. Starting from **Nancy Fraser’s** critical reappraisal of Polanyi in her article “A Triple Movement? Parsing the Politics of Crisis after Polanyi” (included), Brie powerfully reinterprets Polanyi’s thought for present times, developing concrete proposals for a Polanyian political response to neoliberalism, an ascendant authoritarian right and the ongoing threat of global ecological disaster. Also included are two articles by Polanyi translated into English for the first time and **Kari Polanyi-Levitt’s** Rosa Luxemburg lecture “From the Great Transformation to the Great Financialisation.””

**Wednesday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017 - 5h00 pm – 7h00 pm**

**School of Community and Public Affairs, Concordia University**

**2149 Mackay (metro Guy-Concordia)**

**Organizers: Karl Polanyi Institute and Black Rose Books, Montreal**

**INFO: [polanyi.institute@concordia.ca](mailto:polanyi.institute@concordia.ca) / 514-848-8707**

**RSVP: Event is FREE. Attendees must [register](#) prior to the event.**

**“THE GREAT TRANSFORMATION” & CONTEMPORARY CRISES”  
Call For Papers**

The 14<sup>th</sup> International Karl Polanyi Conference will be hosted by the Karl Polanyi Institute Asia (KPIA) in Seoul, South Korea, October 12-14, 2017.

Colleagues at the KPIA are issuing a call for papers on the following wide ranging themes. As this is the first International Karl Polanyi conference to be held in Asia, the many themes proposed will provide an important occasion to bring together numerous perspectives, disciplines and practice inspired and influenced by Karl Polanyi. This conference will provide an opportunity for dialogue between scholars, students, practitioners and government representatives across continents with a large participation from Asia, for the first time.

As in previous conferences, we invite individual abstracts and/or proposed panels on a selected theme. In all cases, please provide name, title, university, association or organization, and department or division.

Please send your abstract form to [kpolyasia@gmail.com](mailto:kpolyasia@gmail.com) with a copy to [polanyi.institute@concordia.ca](mailto:polanyi.institute@concordia.ca) by May 31, 2017.

**THEMES**

**I. MACROECONOMICS & CONTEMPORARY CRISES**

- Post-Keynesian Economics and Polanyi
- Polanyian Perspectives on “Secular Stagnation”
- Market Fundamentalism & Inequality
- Polanyi and the Ecological Crisis
- Economic Crisis, Social policy and Welfare

**II. DOUBLE MOVEMENT AND POPULISM**

- Anti-globalization Movements – Seattle, Occupy Movement, Anti-FTA, etc.
- New Right Populism: Brexit, Trump, Europe
- Candle Demonstration in Korea
- Polanyian Progressive Movements (labor movement, social movements, environmental movement, etc.)

**III. POLANYI AND DEMOCRACY IN COMPLEX SOCIETY**

- Polanyian Alternatives for Contemporary Crises – Sustainable and Equitable Economy?
- Polanyi and Renewed Socialism
- Polanyi and Direct Democracy
- Basic Income
- Substantivist Economics for Local Economies
- Polanyian Perspectives on the “Transition Economy”
- Polanyian Perspectives on the “Transition Economy”
- Polanyian Perspectives on the “Transition Economy”

**IV. Polanyi and Theory**

- Fictitious Commodities and Contemporary Crises
- Embeddedness of What?
- Polanyi and the Commons
- Polanyi and Marx; Polanyi and Keynes; Polanyi and Ostrom etc.

## V. Polanyi and the Social economy

- Polanyian Thought and the Social Economy
- The Social Economy and Social Innovation
- The Social Economy and an Ageing Problem (including Japan)
- The Social Economy in Practice

## VI. Polanyi in Asia

- The Social Economy in Asia (including economic and social value of the social economy in Korea)
- Polanyi Studies in Asia

## International Conference (Linz, Austria, January 2017) “A Great Transformation? Global Perspectives on Contemporary Capitalisms”

The Johannes Kepler University (Linz, Austria) hosted an international conference on “A Great Transformation? Global Perspectives on Contemporary Capitalisms,” **January 10-13, 2017**. The conference was organized by the Institute of Sociology of the Johannes Kepler University Linz, in collaboration with Department of Political Science, University of Vienna, and the The Research Group on Post-Growth Societies of the Schiller-Universität Jena.



The conference hosted a **pre-conference panel** on “Market Fundamentalism and New Right-Wing Populism,” **sessions** on themes including, Politics of Crisis, The (Neo)Liberal Creed, Theoretical Conversations with Polanyi, (De)Commodification, Degrowth, Transformation and (Counter)Movements, Fictitious Commodities, Transformation, Crisis & Welfare, Alternatives, and Marketization of Knowledge and Science, as well as **plenary sessions** on Polanyi and Marx, Social and Ecological Reproduction: Fictitious Commodities, Marketization and the Imperial Mode of Living, Polanyi Travels South: Global Capitalisms, Neo-liberalism and Social Movements, and Uneven Development and Experiences of (Ex)Commodification: A View from the Global South.

In addition, the conference hosted an **opening address** by Michael Burawoy on Karl Polanyi Today, a **round table discussion** on Crisis, Reform, Transformation? Economy and Democracy in Contemporary Capitalisms in Europe and Beyond; a **book discussion** on *Karl Polanyi: A Life on the Left*, with the author, Gareth Dale, and an **evening lecture** on Forces of Labor Revisited by Beverly Silver.

The highlight of the conference was a **conversation** between **Michael Burawoy** and **Kari Polanyi Levitt**, about the question of socialism throughout Polanyi’s intellectual trajectory.



Professors Burawoy and Polanyi Levitt discussed how Polanyi’s identification with the socialist revolutionaries of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Russia influenced his ideas; the Polanyis’ (Karl Polanyi and his wife Ilona Duczynska) intellectual development, their activism and their sense of social responsibility for the state of the world; the family’s experience in Red Vienna, and how the remarkable experiment in municipal socialism influenced their lives; Polanyi’s involvement with the Christian Left and the Workers’ Education Association, during the years spent in England.

The discussion also touched upon Polanyi’s experience at Bennington College, Vermont (1940-1943), where he took up the position of Resident Scholar, to write *The Great Transformation*, and the eventual move to North America, when in 1947, Polanyi accepted the appointment as Professor of Economics at Columbia University, New York, until retirement in 1953.

The **conversation** was followed by a question period with the audience. Topics raised included, variants of socialism practiced in Hungary and Vienna between 1918 and 1930; Polanyi's perception of the New Deal, considering the state of the economy in the United States at the time; the political dialogue between Karl and Ilona, given their respective strong personalities; how did Polanyi reconcile his pragmatism (speaking to issues affecting the here and now) with his view of grand theories i.e. Marxism; how did his experience working for the financial weekly, *Der Oesterreichische Volkswirt*, influenced his ideas; and how do we explain the shift in his interest, from modern to pre-modern human societies, among others.

To consult the conference program: [The conference program](#)

To access the conference papers: [conference papers](#)

To view videos of conference plenary sessions: [videos of plenary sessions](#)

## Donation of the Karl Polanyi Collection to the Concordia University Library

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The Karl Polanyi Archive had been on loan to Concordia University since the founding of the Polanyi Institute in 1988. On March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Concordia University celebrated the the donation of the Karl Polanyi Collection to the Concordia University Library. On this special occasion, Professor Kari Polanyi Levitt, donor of the Collection, gave a lecture on "Karl Polanyi for Today," to an audience that included university officials, members of the Polanyi family, librarians from McGill University and the Université du Québec à Montréal, invited guests, and members of the Concordia community.

Concordia University and the Karl Polanyi Institute are committed to the preservation and dissemination of the intellectual legacy of Karl Polanyi; the Institute will continue to welcome students, academics, and researchers who wish to consult the Collection, as well as maintain the Karl Polanyi Digital Archive, which provides access to the digital collection to researchers around the world.

[Read: 'He was among the 20th century's most influential economic thinkers'. Concordia receives donation of Karl Polanyi letters and personal papers](#)

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