Call for Papers: 14th International Karl Polanyi Conference

“The Great Transformation” & Contemporary Crises

The 14th International Karl Polanyi Conference will be hosted by the Karl Polanyi Institute Asia (KPIA) in Seoul, South Korea, October 14-16, 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 abstracts to kpolanyiasia@gmail.com with a copy to polanyi.institute@concordia.ca by April 15, 2017. Confirmations will be sent to panelists by June 15, 2017. A preliminary program for the conference will be available in late August.

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 Perspective 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

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**The Present Age of Transformation by Karl Polanyi**

Five lectures delivered by Karl Polanyi in Bennington College, Vermont, in late 1940, addressed the collapse of the 19th century liberal economic order in the Great Depression, and the Age of Transformation which followed. We express our thanks to the librarian of Bennington College who recovered them, and to Ann Pettifor and Jeremy Smith, who transformed the original type to easily readable electronic text, together with an excellent commentary and a brief note by myself. They are posted on the site for PRIME, an organization dedicated to the diffusion of an alternative approach to macroeconomics.

Lecture 1: The Passing of 19th Century Civilization
Lecture 2: The Trend towards an Integrated Society
Lecture 3: The Breakdown of the International System
Lecture 4: Is America an Exception?
Lecture 5: Marxism and the Inner History of the Russian Revolution
(The Karl Polanyi Archive contains the first two of these lectures).

The first three lectures present an outline of *The Great Transformation*. For reasons explained in my brief note included on PRIME, the subject matter of the fourth and fifth lectures was not developed. Among the projects that mortality did not permit Polanyi to undertake was a text addressed to an American audience expanding on issues raised in Lecture 4. Only a few sketchy comments on the subject matter of Lecture 5 can be found in the last chapters of *The Great Transformation*.

The publication of these lectures four weeks into the Trump administration, and shortly before important elections in Europe following the earlier Brexit vote, invites a comparison of Polanyi’s Age of Transformation with our disordered world. Not the Gold Standard this time, but four decades of neoliberal globalization has fractured societies in the heartlands of capitalism. The failures of the liberal left have permitted nationalist, populist politics to capture the revolt of excluded populations.

Kari Polanyi Levitt
The Institute offers open access to the Karl Polanyi Archive in an effort to facilitate the production of literature on or influenced by Karl Polanyi. Professor Gareth Dale, Brunel University, UK has written extensively on the life and work of Karl Polanyi, drawing from archival material consulted on his many visits to the Karl Polanyi Archive.

KARL POLANYI. THE HUNGARIAN WRITINGS

Karl Polanyi’s writings span a period of 57 years (1908 – 1964). To better comprehend his world of thought, one must look at his writings from the formative years of his youth in Hungary and Vienna (1909-1933). Karl Polanyi. The Hungarian Writings compiles a selection of essays and articles from this period, never before available in the English language.

The book is organized thematically around four main themes: religion, metaphysics and ethics; political ideologies; world politics and philosophy of history; Hungarian politics; and includes selected correspondence between Karl Polanyi and political and intellectual Hungarians, dating from 1908 to 1964.

The articles included in this volume were mostly published in three Hungarian publications. In 1908 Karl Polanyi co-founded a progressive university movement, the Galilei Circle, in response to the social, political and cultural backwardness of Hungary at the beginning of the century. The Galileists established the periodical Szabadgondolat (Free Thought), with Polanyi as Editor and contributor. The book includes a selection of essays originally published in this periodical. Polanyi also contributed to the leading sociological journal of the times, Huszadik Század (Twentieth Century), launched by the Hungarian social scientist, Oskár Jászi, and devoted to scientific study and reform of society. In 1919 Karl Polanyi migrated to Vienna, and from 1921 to 1923 was employed by the Bécsi Magyar Újság (Hungarian News in Vienna), an important newspaper for Hungarian exiles and emigres following the White Terror and the trials of the communists in Hungary. A selection of articles from these two sources is also included in the volume.

In his introductory essay, the editor provides an overview of Polanyi’s early life, his engagement with émigré politics throughout the years, and discusses the political and intellectual contexts in which the essays were written.

RECONSTRUCTING POLANYI: EXCAVATION AND CRITIQUE

“Karl Polanyi was one of the most influential political economists of the twentieth century and is widely regarded as the most gifted of social democratic theorists. In Reconstructing Karl Polanyi, Gareth Dale, one of the foremost scholars of Polanyi, provides a sweeping survey of his contributions to the social sciences. Polanyi’s intellectual and political outlook can best be summarised through paradoxical formulations such as liberal socialist and cosmopolitan patriot. In exploring these paradoxes, Dale draws upon a wide array of primary sources to reconstruct Polanyi’s views on a range of topics that have been neglected in the critical literature, including the history of antiquity, the evolution and dynamics of Stalin’s Russia, McCarthyism and his critical dialogue with Marxism. Dale also analyses Polanyi’s relevance to current issues, notably the clash between democracy and capitalism, and the nature and trajectory of European unification. This is an essential and original study for anyone interested in the formation and application of social democracy.” (Book description by Pluto Press).
**Post- Doctoral Fellowship 2017-2019**

Matthieu Charbonneau, Ph.D. Carleton University & Université Paris-Sorbonne (Paris IV) will spend his SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellowship at the Institute from January 2017 to December 2019. Using a Polanyi framework, Dr. Charbonneau will produce original research on the political and legal construction of cyber-insurance markets in Canada and the United States. He will be supervised by Professors Fred Block from the University of California at Davis and member of the Institute’s Executive Committee and Advisory Council and Margie Mendell, the Institute’s Director. On February 16th, the Institute hosted a Brown Bag Discussion on to introduce Dr. Charbonneau to the research community in Montreal.

**Public Lectures**

**Dimitrios Roussopoulos**
Black Rose Books, Montreal

**The Kurdish Situation in Turkey**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 23**th, 2017
5-7 pm
Karl Polanyi Institute
Atrium, Samuel Bronfman Building
1590 Dr. Penfield

*In collaboration with the School of Community and Public Affairs*

**Professor Sandor F. Striker**

Institute of Research on Adult Education and Knowledge Management
Faculty of Education and Psychology
Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest, Hungary

**Transition into the Past - Pre-Modern Socio-Cultural Methods and Patterns Re-Introduced In Contemporary Hungary**

**THURSDAY, MARCH 30**th, 2017
5-7 pm
School of Community and Public Affairs
2149 Mackay, Basement

*In collaboration with the School of Community and Public Affairs*
Recent Books and Articles on / or influenced by Karl Polanyi


Reviews of Books by Gareth Dale


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