

**Karl Polanyi Institute of Political Economy
Concordia University**



**Karl Polanyi Institute of Political Economy
COVID-19 Update**

Dear friends and colleagues,

We are sending you this brief newsletter to provide summary information about the work of the four sister Polanyi Institutes during these last several months. Our personal and working lives have been dramatically transformed in ways no one could have imagined, calling upon all of us to adapt to a reality that unfortunately includes many cancellations but it also includes even more opportunities for urgently needed dialogue, helped by the availability of technology. Paradoxically, our ability to communicate with each other has never been greater even if there is no replacement for personal contact. Hopefully these times will allow us to think about how to strike a balance in the future.

For many, social distancing has meant long periods of confinement that continue. For others, recent de-confinement has quickly restored familiar ways of living and working. For those of us in Montreal, the universities remain closed and will not open before January 2021, at the earliest. In other parts of the world, our friends and colleagues are back in their university offices and will be back in classrooms in the fall. And so the uncertainty about Covid-19 is reflected in the asymmetry of how countries and regions are addressing the situation.

This newsletter is a snapshot provided by Polanyi Institutes in Montreal, Budapest, Vienna and Seoul of their activities during these last few months and plans for the near future. For more detailed information, please go directly to the websites of each Institute. We have also provided links for financial contributions. These are always welcome and especially now given the anticipated cutbacks in university funding. Despite these

difficult times, the Institutes are actively organizing events and opportunities for dialogue. We invite you to participate.

KARL POLANYI INSTITUTE OF POLITICAL ECONOMY

Concordia University has been closed since March 16th. The Institute continues to function remotely, and to cope the best we can under the circumstances.

Due to the pandemic, **15th International Karl Polanyi Conference** in December 2020, has been rescheduled to **April 22-24, 2021**. We will be issuing a call for papers over the summer months. For now, we ask you to **save the date**.

The Institute is planning to organize **webinars** in the **fall and winter semesters 2020-2021**, leading up to the April international conference. We will send details over the summer.

We wish to remind researchers that the [Karl Polanyi Digital Archive](#) is available for consultation. Adding new material to the archive is on hold during this time but will resume immediately once the university opens. Please [contact](#) the Institute should you need assistance accessing material.

We invite [financial contributions](#) to support the work and activities of the Institute. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

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INTERNATIONAL KARL POLANYI SOCIETY (IKPS), VIENNA UNIVERSITY OF ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS, AUSTRIA

The IKPS in Austria was launched two years ago, in May 2018, in Vienna. Our aim is to contribute to the debate on current transformations of the 21st century - by using an approach influenced by Karl Polanyi, who was born in Vienna and spent a decisive part of his life living and working in Red Vienna.

Reading Polanyi's work for today, we arrange conferences and workshops (e.g. the International Karl Polanyi conference 2019 in Vienna and Budapest), hold local events and release publications. This year, we started our [debates on contemporary policy challenges](#). Each month, we choose a topic and invite different researchers, authors and other interested people from our community to write a short essay about the topic. This way, we want to initiate an international exchange with our Polanyian community and gain deeper knowledge in current transformations of our complex society. Have a look at our first two debates on [Brexit](#) and [Deglobalization!](#)

We also started our column [Polanyi all over the World](#) this year, where we introduce different Polanyian working groups from all around the globe on our website and our newsletter. To stay up to date with our activities, you can subscribe to our [newsletter](#). If you want to support us financially or become a member of IKPS, you can do so [here](#).

KARL POLANYI RESEARCH CENTER FOR GLOBAL SOCIAL STUDIES, CORVINUS UNIVERSITY OF BUDAPEST, HUNGARY

Our Center was established in 2014 at Corvinus University of Budapest. It promotes comparative and interdisciplinary studies with a global perspective at the intersection of economics, sociology and international relations, analyzing global and local dynamics and their interconnectedness. Our aim is to scrutinize historically evolving transnational linkages, persistent inequalities and conflicts among social groups and communities all over the world. We are committed to practicing research and education that averts Eurocentrism and all other forms of racism and essentialization in the social sciences and the humanities. Our work takes a stance critical to entrenched ideas that justify established regimes of global governance that perpetuate inequalities. We are also committed to future-oriented scholarship, oriented toward possible alternatives to prevailing economic and political practices on all scales. Our Center has organized major events since its establishment in 2014 including the fifth Congress of the European Network of Universal and Global History in 2017, and an international Polányian conference in 2019. We have an active network of more than 220 critical scholars of all ages and academic ranks from all over the world, interpreting the work of Karl Polányi or use a Polányian critical framework in their analysis.

Visit our [Website](#)

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Donations to the Polanyi Center may be made to:

Name of owner of account: Ars Longa Alapitvány

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KARL POLANYI INSTITUTE ASIA COOPERATIVE, SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

Established in 2014, KPIA has been committed to further Polanyi studies as well as the popularization of Karl Polanyi's thought, to the promotion of the social and solidarity economy both theoretically and in practice, and to contribute to the P2P/commons movement. Its activities include translation/publication of works by or on Karl Polanyi, an annual "Global Commons Forum," international conference, production of numerous lectures on video, and the creation of a "knowledge commons." In addition, KPIA aims to widen the network of researchers/activists in Asian countries such as Japan and China who are interested in the work and spirit of Karl Polanyi. We are proud to have successfully hosted the 2017 International Karl Polanyi Conference in Seoul.

In 2020, KPIA is focusing on prospects for an alternative system of political economy that can replace the "business as usual" in yesterday's world of market fundamentalism. For this purpose, KPIA is trying to widen its range of conversation. An attempt is being made to create a "policy platform" that invites input from those engaged in various ideas and initiatives such as Green New Deal, "quantitative easing for the planet", universal basic income, job guarantee, etc.

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