

**Abstract of "Michael Polanyi's Bioethics of Responsible Science"
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Michael Polanyi, Hungarian native, Austrian, then English citizen is an exemplary transdisciplinary thinker with significant contributions in five fields - medicine, physical chemistry, economics, social thought and philosophy. His multi-disciplinary journey was an engagement with science and society in the upheavals of 20th century Europe. At the peak of his career, he turned from his laboratory at the University of Manchester and spent the remainder of his life developing a philosophy of how humans know and shape their destiny. His effort led to a new philosophy, called "post-critical." Polanyi calls for a reformation of the understanding of science as detached and objective which he saw at the root of the violence of Nazis Germany and Soviet Communism. His new view of knowledge as personal knowledge and as tacit knowing supports a more humanistic medicine and an ecological ethics. He shows that human knowing is "ultra-biological," life reflecting on life. Polanyi's reformation of how scientific knowledge is personal underlines physician Francis W. Peabody's dictum "that the secret of caring for the patient is in caring for the patient." Bioethical medicine and ecology as ways of dealing with planetary health and environmental issues cannot succeed if the scientist or the public thinks that science is just hard impersonal facts detached from the biosphere. Today we do not face Nazism or Soviet Communism but we face lack of adequate health care, enormous human footprints on the earth and misunderstandings of science by the public, making it too easy for self-interest groups and profiteers to prevent needed social and environmental changes. In this situation, Polanyi's philosophy is an important contribution.