

# Tradition & Discovery

## The Polanyi Society Periodical

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# The Polanyi Society

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## Preface

This issue was guest edited by Walter Gulick who put together the program for a Polanyi Society meeting held at the American Philosophical Association in December of 2008. Some of the papers presented at this meeting are included in this issue. On page 6, Walter provides a brief introduction to these papers so I will say no more. Also you will find, after the APA papers, a memorial essay about Marjorie Grene who died last March. Grene was the philosopher who worked closely with Polanyi from 1950 until the 1958 publication of *Personal Knowledge* and who edited the collection of late Polanyi essays, *Knowing and Being*, published in 1969. She was an influential and formidable figure, and Polanyi acknowledged his appreciation for her help with *Personal Knowledge* (xv). There are three reviews of interesting books, some by folk who have in the past written for *TAD*.

The program for the annual meeting on Nov. 6 and Nov. 7 in Montreal is set; see the listing on page 5 and remember that papers for the meeting should be posted by late October.

Please note that this is the first issue of *TAD* in the new 2009-2010 academic year and that means annual membership dues should be paid. As I explained in the July 2008 issue, you now get a self-addressed envelope in the October and February issues of *TAD*. Dues remain \$35 (\$25 for libraries and \$15 students) and you are encouraged to make a tax deductible contribution to the Society. You can also still simply send me an e-mail (mullins@missouriwestern.edu) with credit card information and authorization to debit your account. With luck, I will this fall learn how to put a dues payment form on the Polanyi Society web site that you can complete on-line and e-mail to me.

Phil Mullins

*Tradition and Discovery* is indexed selectively in *The Philosopher's Index* and *Religious and Theological Abstracts* and is included in the EBSCO online database of academic and research journals.

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# NEWS AND NOTES

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## Polanyi Society Travel Fund

For students and others requiring assistance to attend the Society's meetings limited funding may be available. Society members are urged to inform worthy candidates that this assistance is available. Those interested in this funding, as well as those who know of potential candidates, should contact **Walter Mead** ([wbmead@comcast.net](mailto:wbmead@comcast.net)) and see the information on the Polanyi Society web site. Contributions to this Fund in any amount will be gratefully received by Wally Mead, 4 Kenyon Court, Bloomington, IL 61701. They are tax-deductible.

## *Appraisal*

The March 2009 (v. 8, n. 1) issue of *Appraisal: The Journal of the Society for Post-Critical Philosophy and Personalist Studies* should be published about the time that this issue of *TAD* is published. The following articles will be in the issue: (1) **Maben Poirier**, "Eric Voegelin's Immanentism: A Man at Odds With the Transcendent? Pt II." (2) **Bob Doede**, "Transhumanism, Technology, and the Future: Posthumanity Emerging or Sub-Humanity Descending?" (3) **Wendy Hamblet**, "Jacques Rancière: The Philosopher and His Poor on the Shores of Democratic Politics." (4) **Walter Gulick**, "Who Are the Persons of Michael Polanyi's *Personal Knowledge* and John Macmurray's *Persons in Relation*?" (5) **Phil Mullins**, "Polanyi on Agency and Some Links to Macmurray." *Appraisal* editor Richard Allen anticipates the October 2009 issue focusing on personal identity will be published in November or December 2009. This is the first of three issues that will have papers from the recently concluded Tenth International Conference on Persons. **Tihamér Margitay**, **Endre Nagy**, **Stefan Fothe**, **Yu Zhenhua**, and **Norman Sheppard** give papers and **Richard Allen** provided a comment on Polanyi's unique personalist account of science.

The revamped *Appraisal* website at <http://www.spcps.org.uk/> has the table of contents of all issues going back to volume 1 in March 1996. You can order a CD with all back issues, volumes 1 through 6. Payments can now be made via the website, making things much easier for subscribers outside UK.

**Craig Scandrett-Leatherman's** essay "Anthropology, Polanyi, and Afropentecostal Ritual: A Scientific and Theological Epistemology of Participation" was published in *Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science*, v. 43, n.4 (December 2008): 909-923. Below is the abstract for the essay:

The 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis sponsored both an International Congress of Arts and Sciences aimed at unity of knowledge and an anthropology exhibit of diverse peoples. Jointly these represented a quest for unifying knowledge in a diverse world that was fractured by isolated specializations and segregated peoples. In historical perspective, the Congress's quest for knowledge is overshadowed by Ota Benga who was part of the anthropology exhibit. The 1904 World's Fair can be viewed as a Euro-American ritual, a global pilgrimage, which sought to celebrate the advances and resolve the challenges of modernity and human diversity. Three years later Afropentecostalism dealt with these same issues with different methods and rituals. This ritual system became the most culturally diverse and fastest growing religious movement of the twentieth century. I suggest that the anthropological method of Frank Hamilton Cushing, the postcritical epistemology of Michael Polanyi, and the Afropentecostal ritual movement initiated by William J. Seymour are all attempts to develop a postmodern epistemology that is simultaneously constructive, focused on discerning

reality, and broad enough to allow for human consciousness and diverse human communities. I explore this confluence of scientific and participatory epistemology through six theses.

## **Yale Divinity School Collection Of William Poteat Papers**

As noted in earlier issues of *TAD*, a collection of William Poteat's papers is being established at the Yale Divinity School Library. This project is now moving into its final stages. Soon Walter Mead will deliver materials to YDS. If you have not heard about this project and have materials that you think would be of value to this Poteat Collection, please inform Wally Mead ([wbmead@comcast.net](mailto:wbmead@comcast.net)).

## **Electronic Discussion List**

The Polanyi Society supports an electronic discussion group that explores implications of the thought of Michael Polanyi. Anyone interested can join. To join yourself, go to the following address: [http://groups.yahoo.com/group/polanyi\\_list/join](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/polanyi_list/join). If you have difficulty, send an e-mail to Doug Masini ([Douglas.Masini@armstrong.edu](mailto:Douglas.Masini@armstrong.edu)) and someone will see that you are added to the list.

## **WWW Polanyi Resources**

The Polanyi Society has a World Wide Web site at <http://www.missouriwestern.edu/orgs/polanyi>. In addition to information about Polanyi Society membership and meetings, the site contains the following: (1) digital archives containing all issues of *Tradition and Discovery* since 1991; (2) a comprehensive listing of *Tradition and Discovery* authors, reviews and reviewers; (3) the history of Polanyi Society publications, and information on locating early publications not in the archive; (4) information on *Appraisal* and *Polanyiana*, two sister journals with special interest in

Polanyi's thought; (5) the "Guide to the Papers of Michael Polanyi," which provides an orientation to archival material housed in the Department of Special Collections of the University of Chicago Library; (6) photographs of Polanyi; (7) links to a number of essays by Polanyi as well as audio files for the McEnerney Lectures (1962) and Polanyi's conversation with Carl Rogers (1966).

# 2009 Polanyi Society Annual Meeting

## Montreal, Quebec

The Polanyi Society will hold its annual meeting November 6-7, 2009 in conjunction with the AAR annual meeting in Montreal. To attend any of the sessions of the the Polanyi Society annual meeting, it is not necessary to register for the AAR meeting. For additional information about the AAR meeting, go to the American Academy of Religion Annual Meeting site: [http://www.aarweb.org/meetings/Annual\\_Meeting/Current\\_Meeting/default.asp](http://www.aarweb.org/meetings/Annual_Meeting/Current_Meeting/default.asp) . The information below will be posted, along with any updates and papers to be downloaded (by the end of October) on the Polanyi Society web site (<http://www.missouriwestern.edu/orgs/polanyi/>). Information will also be listed under Additional Meetings in the AAR annual meeting program.

### **Friday, 6 November 2009** Fairmont Queen Elizabeth Hotel-Chaudière

9:00-11:00pm Panel: “Toward a Polanyian Science of the Virtues”  
Walt Gulick, Montana State University, Billings  
Paul Lewis, Mercer University  
Diane Yeager, Georgetown University

### **Saturday, 7 November 2009** La Centre Sheraton Hotel-Garcia Lorca.

8:00to9:00am A Celebration of *The Tacit Dimension* Re-Publication  
Light breakfast

Reflections on *The Tacit Dimension*  
Phil Mullins, Missouri Western State University  
Wally Mead, Illinois State University

9:15to10:10am “Of One Mind? Merleau-Ponty and Polanyi on the Reduction of Mind to Body”

Florentien Verhage and Charles Lowney, Washington and Lee University

Response: David Rutledge, Furman University

10:20to11:15am “Is the Pope Catholic? Polanyian Reflections on Continuity and Authority”

John Apczynski, St. Bonaventure University

Response: Joe Kroger, St. Michael’s College

11:15to11:30am Business Meeting