

Kari Polanyi Levitt is Emerita Professor of Economics at McGill University. Born in Vienna, educated in England, she obtained a BSc (Econ) from the London School of Economics with First Class Honours and the Farr Medal in Statistics in 1947. Following ten years of engagement in trade union research and publication in Toronto, she returned to university and obtained an MA from the University of Toronto in 1959 and an appointment in the Department of Economics at McGill University in 1961. She taught a variety of courses, but her special interests were Techniques of Development Planning and Development Economics.

Her major research was in the construction of input-output tables of the Atlantic provinces of Canada published by Statistics Canada in 1975. Concurrently she studied the effects of Foreign Direct Investment on host countries published as *Silent Surrender: The Multinational Corporation in Canada*; Macmillan of Canada, 1970, many times reprinted, most recently in 2002 by McGill-Queen's Press; also translated to French, *La Capitulation Tranquille*, 1972.

Since her first contact with the University of the West Indies (UWI) in 1961 and as a founding member of McGill's Centre for Developing-Area Studies in 1963, she maintained a continuous relationship with graduate students and faculty of UWI, including collaboration with Alister McIntyre in *Canada-West Indies Economic Relations* (1967) and with Lloyd Best in developing the Plantation Economy paradigm at McGill from 1966 to 1968 published as *Essays on the Theory of Plantation Economy: A Historical and Institutional Approach to Caribbean Economic Development*; UWI Press, Jamaica, 2009.

On the basis of her experience in multi-sectoral economic accounting, and her familiarity with Caribbean economies, she was appointed as national income advisor on the construction of a system of National Accounts for Trinidad and Tobago (1969 to 1973). She undertook a study for the United Nations Economic Commission on Latin America on bargaining with transnational bauxite/aluminium companies (1976); a review of Haiti's National Accounts for the World Bank (1986); and a review of Canada-Caribbean relations for the Canadian Parliamentary Sub Committee on Foreign Affairs (Hansard, July 1982).

In 1974 she served as Visiting Professor at the Institute of International Relations at UWI- St Augustine; Visiting Professor at the Department of Economics, UWI- Mona 1978-1980; taught Theories of Economic Development at the Consortium Graduate School of Social Sciences at UWI- Mona from 1989-1995; appointed the first George Beckford Professor of Caribbean Economy, 1995-1997, where she compiled *The George Beckford Papers*, Canoe Press, Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, 2000. Public lectures and research papers published were published as *Reclaiming Development: Independent Thought and Caribbean Community*, Ian Randle, Jamaica, 2005.

Professor Levitt is a founding member of the Canadian Association for the Study of International Development (CASID), recipient of the J. K. Galbraith Prize from the Progressive Economics Forum of Canada (2008), and an honorary doctorate from The

University of the West Indies. Professor Levitt is Honorary President of the Karl Polanyi Institute of Political Economy at Concordia University, established in 1987; she edited *The Life and Work of Karl Polanyi: A Celebration*, Black Rose Books, Montreal, 1988; co-edited with Kenneth McRobbie, *Karl Polanyi in Vienna*; Black Rose Books, Montreal, 2000; and manages the literary legacy of her father, Karl Polanyi. She was inducted into the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in 2004.

Her early interest in Development Economics has extended to the History of Development Thought in the context of the evolution of capitalism and its impact on the non-European world from the era of Mercantilism to the present. *From the Great Transformation to the Great Financialization: on Karl Polanyi and other essays*, Zed Books, 2013, includes a tribute essay to the economist Surendra Patel in the form of a trajectory of capitalism from its origins in mercantilist trade and conquest to neoliberal globalization and the financial crises of 2008.

In 2014, she received the Order of Canada for her work on Caribbean and other issues of economic development. In recent years, she has participated in conferences on the life and work of Karl Polanyi. Her latest contribution addresses *Karl Polanyi's vision of a socialist Transformation*, in a collection of essays on Karl Polanyi under the same title, published by Black Roses Book, 2018.