

# Gala Event

FOUNDATION OF THE  
INTERNATIONAL KARL POLANYI SOCIETY

MAY 8 AND 9, 2018

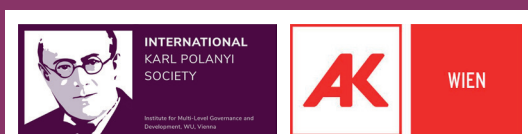
CHAMBER OF LABOUR VIENNA | THERESIANUMGASSE 16 - 18, 1040 VIENNA, AUSTRIA

In recent years, there has been a Karl Polanyi (1886-1964) revival. Scholars all over the world are referring to his masterpiece „The Great Transformation“ to understand and explain the development and changes of contemporary capitalism, of market fundamentalism and the rise of new reactionary forms of authoritarianism.

Karl Polanyi promoted an integrated analysis of complex, conflict-laden phenomena that did not resort to dogma. Engagement with and criticism of his concepts and predictions have inspired new research fields – be it in transformation studies, socioeconomics or cultural political economy.

The International Karl Polanyi Society – founded May 8, 2018, in Vienna – will take up this intellectual legacy as well as the huge international interest. It will aim at promoting and broadening the research inspired by Karl Polanyi to understand the contradictions inherent in contemporary capitalism.

In the age of the climate crisis, rising illiberal democracies, social polarization and looming geopolitical confrontation, his writings inspire us to engage with the multiple contradictions of economic growth and technological progress („improvements“) on the one hand and threats to ecological sustainability and sociocultural well-being („habitation“) on the other.



# MAY 8, 2018, CHAMBER OF LABOUR, VIENNA

Chair: **Andreas Novy** (Vienna University of Economics and Business, Austria)

## 18.00 Welcome Address

**Markus Marterbauer** (Chamber of Labour, Vienna, Austria), (in German language)

**Armin Thurnher** (Falter, Vienna, Austria) (in German language)

**Marguerite Mendell** (Concordia University, Montreal, Canada) (Video in English language)

## 18.45 Opening Speech

**Kari Polanyi Levitt** (McGill University, Montreal, Canada):

„Karl Polanyi and the socio-economic transformation in the 21<sup>st</sup> century“ (in English language)

## 19.15 Keynotes

**Klaus Dörre** (Friedrich-Schiller-University Jena, Germany):

„Right-wing populism - a Polanyian counter-movement?“ (in German language)

**Bob Jessop & Ngai-Ling Sum** (Lancaster University, United Kingdom):

„Karl Polanyi as a proto-Cultural Political Economist“ (in English language)

## 20.45 Outlook

**Brigitte Aulenbacher** (Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria):

„On the future of the International Karl Polanyi Society“ (in German language)

## 21.00 Reception

# MAY 9, 2018, CHAMBER OF LABOUR, VIENNA

(All keynotes on May 9 in English language)

## 09.00 Keynote and Discussion

**Marcus Gräser** (Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria):

„Karl Polanyi and the Origins of his Time“

Chair: **Brigitte Aulenbacher** (Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria)

## 10.15 - 10.45 Coffee Break



### 10.45 Keynotes and Discussion

**Michael Brie** (Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, Berlin, Germany) & **Claus Thomasberger** (HTW, Berlin, Germany):

„Karl Polanyi and the double transformation“

**Maria Markantonatou** (University of the Aegean, Lesvos, Greece):

„Karl Polanyi and Eurozone Liberalism – the antidemocratic virus revived?“

Chair: **Andreas Novy** (Vienna University of Economics and Business, Austria)

### 13.00 - 14.00 Lunch

### 14.00 Keynotes and Discussion

**Sabine Frerichs** (Vienna University of Economics and Business, Austria):

„Karl Polanyi and the Law of Market Society“

**Ernst Langthaler & Elke Schüßler** (Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria):

„Karl Polanyi and Interdisciplinary Commodity Studies“

Chair: **Maria Markantonatou** (University of the Aegean, Lesvos, Greece)

### 15.30 Outlook

**Veronika Heimerl & Hendrik Theine** (Society for Plural Economics, Vienna, Austria):

„Karl Polanyi and young scholars' perspectives“

### 16.00 - 16.15 Break

### 16.15 Book Lounge

„Karl Polanyi's Vision of a Socialist Transformation“ (edited by Michael Brie & Claus Thomasberger)

A Conversation with :

**Kari Polanyi Levitt** (McGill University, Montreal, Canada)

**Michael Brie** (Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, Berlin, Germany)

**Claus Thomasberger** (HTW, Berlin, Germany, co-editor)

**Fabienne Décieux** (Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria)

Chair: **Brigitte Aulenbacher** (Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria)

### 17.30 Closing Remarks

**Andreas Novy** (Vienna University of Economics and Business, Austria)

## KARL POLANYI (1886 - 1964): A BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Karl Polanyi was born in Vienna on October 21, 1886. He died on April 23, 1964, in Pickering, Ontario. He was the son of a Hungarian engineer and entrepreneur, Michael Pollacsek, and a Russian mother, Cecile Wohl, who was a familiar figure in Hungarian intellectual society. Karl Polanyi studied at the Universities of Budapest and Kolozsvár, earning a doctor of law degree in 1909. At the university, he participated in the foundation of the liberal Galilei Circle in 1908 and served as the first President of this Hungarian cultural movement of radical students. From 1915 onwards he served as an officer in a cavalry regiment of the Austro-Hungarian army on the Russian front during the First World War, until being severely hurt in 1917. In 1919, after the overturn of the republican government, he moved to Vienna. From 1924 to 1933, Karl Polanyi was senior editor of ‚Der Österreichische Volkswirt‘, a leading Central European economic and financial weekly. In 1933, the rise of fascism forced him to resign, and he emigrated to London.

In 1935, Karl Polanyi received an offer from the International Institute of Education for a lecture tour at US-American universities and colleges. In 1940, he took up a position at Bennington College, Vermont, where ‚The Great Transformation“ was written and published in 1944. In 1947, Karl Polanyi was appointed Visiting Professor of Economics at Columbia University, New York. Until retirement in 1953, he lectured on General Economic History, especially on the „Origins of Economic Institutions“ and dedicated himself increasingly to anthropological problems.

„To allow the market mechanism to be the sole director of the fate of human beings and their natural environment (...) would result in the demolition of society.“ (Karl Polanyi)

### ON THE KARL POLANYI INSTITUTE OF POLITICAL ECONOMY (CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY, MONTREAL, CANADA)

The Karl Polanyi Institute of Political Economy is an international research platform, established at Concordia University in 1988. The centerpiece of the Institute is the Karl Polanyi Archive. This rich and vast collection of material includes unpublished papers, drafts of manuscripts (published and unpublished), notes, lecture notes and outlines, published articles, papers by others, correspondence with important European and North American intellectuals, political figures, some of whom were former students of Karl Polanyi, and memorabilia.

Please register at: <http://veranstaltung.arbeiterkammer.wien/polanyi/anmeldung>