



## Speakers and Abstracts

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

**Andreas Novy** is the Head of the Institute for Multi-Level Governance and Development and Associate Professor at the Department of Socioeconomics at the Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU). He has been engaged in numerous research projects and published widely on urban development and development research with a focus on political and socio-ecological transformation, socioeconomics, social innovation, and transdisciplinarity. Additionally, he has been involved in many initiatives for theory-practice dialogues; in particular, he is co-organizer of the Good Life for all-congresses, chairman of the supervisory board of ÖFSE (Austrian Research Foundation for International Development), and one of the proponents of the founding of the International Karl Polanyi Society.

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

„Karl Polanyi and the socio-economic transformation in the 21st century“

**Kari Polanyi Levitt** was born in Vienna in 1923 as the daughter of Karl Polanyi and Ilona Duczynska. She is a Canadian economist and Emeritus professor of economics at McGill University in Montreal. In addition to her achievements for her father's oeuvre, Professor Polanyi Levitt can look back on many years of independent research and publication on questions of economic development. In particular, her work on the role of multinationals and the problems of economic development in the Caribbean region is internationally known. After her retirement at McGill University, Prof. Polanyi Levitt taught at the University of the West Indies in Jamaica as a George Beckford professor until 1997. In 1998, she received an honorary doctorate from the University of the West Indies, as well as the prestigious John Kenneth Galbraith Prize of the Progressive Economics Forum.

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

„Right-wing populism - a Polanyian counter-movement?“

The presentation deals with the imaginary revolt of the New Right, interpreting ethno-nationalist, or völkisch populism as a protest movement of the Polanyian type. This movement, which resonates particularly well among workers, feeds off the problem raw material of contemporary post-growth capitalism and portrays itself as a democratic project. The revolt remains imaginary, then, because it ultimately conforms to existing forms of authority, pursuing the restoration of conditions which cannot possibly be restored. Corresponding empirical findings often prove too bulky for mono-causal explanations, but they do point to a suppressed class problematic. Given that it appears highly unlikely that distributional relations ‘enforced by the market’ and perceived as unjust will be fundamentally corrected in the near future, wage earners tend to spontaneously reinterpret disputes between the top and the bottom as conflicts between inside and outside. The tendency towards exclusive solidarity is taken up and reinforced by organised right-wing populism – a challenge for democratic civil societies, trade unions and the academic world alike.

**Klaus Dörre** is professor of sociology at the Friedrich Schiller University in Jena. He is the spokesperson (alongside Hartmut Rosa) of the German Research Foundation's Center for Advanced Studies “Post Growth Societies”, Co-Editor of the Berliner Journal für Soziologie and (together with Brigitte Aulenbacher) Co-Editor of the journal Global Dialogues.

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**Bob Jessop & Ngai-Ling Sum** (Lancaster University, United Kingdom):  
„Karl Polanyi as a proto-Cultural Political Economist“

**K**arl Polanyi's work ranged very widely across time and space and he was a harsh critic of formal economics, with its inability to explain the complexities of material provisioning in different contexts. The embedding of material provisioning in wider sets of social practices invited concern with "moral economy" and the consequences of disembedding the economy from its broader social and moral integument. In turn, his critique of liberalism for its destructive effects and his analysis of how the market economy is (or should be) re-embedded in a market society lead to new insights into the moral/amoral/immoral economy of capitalism. These points suggest that Polanyi can be construed as a proto-cultural political economist. In our paper, we indicate how cultural political economy (CPE) can be deployed to deepen and strengthen Polanyi's work without reducing or assimilating his arguments to CPE. Accordingly, we comment on three topics: his analysis of fictitious commodities, the governmental and disciplinary aspects of liberalism [and neo-liberalism], and struggles over hegemony in the double movement. We also illustrate how Polanyi's work can be linked in these respects to that of Marx, Foucault, and Gramsci.

**Bob Jessop** is Distinguished Professor of Sociology and Co-Director of the Cultural Political Economy Research Centre at Lancaster University, UK. He is best known for his contributions to state theory, critical political economy, critical governance studies, and, most recently, cultural political economy. His most important books include *The Capitalist State* (1982), *Nicos Poulantzas* (1985), *Thatcherism: A Tale of Two Nations* (1988), *State Theory* (1990), *The Future of the Capitalist State* (2002), *Beyond the Regulation Approach* (with Ngai-Ling Sum, 2006), *State Power* (2007), *Towards a Cultural Political Economy* (with Ngai-Ling Sum, 2013), and *The State: Past, Present, Future* (2015). He has also published extensively in German.

**Ngai-Ling Sum** is a Reader in Cultural Political Economy in the Politics, Philosophy and Religion Department and Co-Director (with Bob Jessop) of the Cultural Political Economy Research Centre in Lancaster University. She has research and teaching interests in regulation approach, cultural (international) political economy, Marx, Gramsci and Foucault; globalization and competitiveness, corporate social responsibility, new ethicalism and Wal-Mart, BRICs and financial crisis, land-based accumulation, internationalization of the Renminbi (Chinese currency); and Hong Kong and Pearl River Delta region in Southern China. She was awarded (with Bob Jessop) the Gunnar Myrdal Prize by the European Association of Evolutionary Political Economics (EAEPE) for their co-authored book, *Beyond the Regulation Approach* (2006). In 2013, she co-authored with Bob Jessop a companion volume titled *Towards a Cultural Political Economy*. She publishes in journals like *Economy and Society*, *Critical Policy Studies*, *Development Dialogue*, *New Political Economy*, *Critical Asian Studies*, *Competition and Change*, *Capital & Class*, *Urban Studies*, *Journal of Knowledge Economy*, and *Language and Politics* as well as book chapters many edited collections.

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**Brigitte Aulenbacher** (Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria):  
„On the future of the International Karl Polanyi Society“

Under the auspices of the economic liberalization since the 1970s, the globalization after 1989 and the crisis of finance 2008/9 there is an ongoing and increasing interest in Karl Polanyi's oeuvre. Especially his masterpiece "The Great Transformation", published in 1944, draws new attention (Polanyi 2001). The outlook pleads for a re-reading of Karl Polanyi's insights in the "double movement" around the commodification and decommodification of the "fictitious commodities" land, labor and money as well as his critique of the "industrial civilization" for the analysis of contemporary capitalisms. The International Karl Polanyi Society encourages research and discussion in science and the dialogue between science and civil society to understand the deep going and far reaching transformations of societies in Europe and beyond, today. It invites to reflect about alternative visions and pathways in a Polanyian perspective as well as a pluralist setting of scientific discourses addressing academic and non-academic audiences.

**Brigitte Aulenbacher** is a Professor of Sociological Theory and Social Analysis, the Head of the Department for the Theory of Society and Social Analyses at the Institute of Sociology, Johannes Kepler University Linz/Austria, and the co-editor (with Klaus Dörre) of Global Dialogue – the Magazine of the International Sociological Association ISA. Her fields of research are the analysis of contemporary capitalism, sociology of work, sociology of care, gender studies. She co-chairs (with Helma Lutz and Karin Schwiter) the project "Decent care work? Transnational Home Care Arrangements". Recent publications are: Global Sociology of Care and Care Work, Current Sociology Monograph, co-edited with Helma Lutz and Birgit Riegraf, Sage, 2018; Öffentliche Soziologie, Wissenschaft im Dialog mit der Gesellschaft, co-edited with Michael Burawoy, Klaus Dörre and Johanna Sittel, 2017, Campus; Leistung und Gerechtigkeit, Das umstrittene Versprechen des Kapitalismus, co-edited with Maria Dammayr, Klaus Dörre, Wolfgang Menz, Birgit Riegraf, Harald Wolf, 2017, Beltz Juventa.

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**Marcus Gräser** (Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria):  
„Karl Polanyi and the Origins of his Time“

Today, Karl Polanyi's book on the "Great Transformation" is regarded as a scientific work analyzing the emergence of market societies. Nevertheless, he has written his book as a historically informed diagnosis of his time, as a contribution to the intellectual debate surrounding the crises of capitalism and liberal democracy in the interwar period, the chances of revitalizing democracy in the face of fascism and the post-war order. Only the clarification of the specific entanglement of a sociologically informed diagnosis of time and science in the work of Polanyi can clarify how his book became what it was (and is) and what it may mean to us today in a re-reading against the background of contemporary capitalism. The lecture thus simply wants to situate Polanyi in his time - specifically in the American 1940s.

**Marcus Gräser** is Head of Department and Professor of Modern and Contemporary History. He studied history, sociology, and political science at Frankfurt and received his PhD in 1993. From 2010 until 2011 he served as Deputy Director of the German Historical Institute in Washington, DC. From 1996 until 2009 he occupied positions as Research Fellow and Research Associate at the University of Frankfurt's Center for North American Studies. In 2005 he completed his Habilitation. He has taught at Frankfurt and Heidelberg and was a Visiting Scholar at the University of Chicago several times. In 2002/03 he was a Research Fellow at the Internationales Forschungszentrum Kulturwissenschaften; in 2006 he was a Fellow at the Ludwig Boltzmann Institut for European History in Vienna. He is presently preparing the volume on North America in the series "Neue Fischer Weltgeschichte".

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**Michael Brie** (Rosa Luxemburg Foundation, Berlin, Germany) & **Claus Thomasberger** (HTW, Berlin, Germany): „Karl Polanyi and the double transformation“

**K**arl Polanyi's life can be understood as an intellectual endeavor for freedom in its fourfold dimension of "freedom from", "freedom by", "freedom to" and "freedom for" or negative, positive, substantial and popular freedom. In a unique and outstanding way he combined the libertarian, democratic-socialist, romantic and popular critique of capitalism of his time and its politico-ideological currents. In dispute with neoliberal, revolutionist and reformist approaches Polanyi developed several concepts of a contribution to a double transformation in capitalism and beyond it toward socialist societies and civilizations. During the different periods of his life he participated in transformative processes in Hungary, Austria, Great Britain and North America. His conviction that socialist theory is called on to interpret concrete present realities in a socialist spirit and through this to steer them in a socialist direction turned his life into a lifelong search process.

**Michael Brie** is senior fellow at the Institute for Critical Social Analysis of the Rosa Luxemburg Foundation in Berlin in the field of history and theory of socialism and communism. He studied philosophy in Leningrad and Berlin and taught at the Humboldt university. From 1999 he was member of the managing board of the Rosa Luxemburg foundation and later founding director of the mentioned institute. He is chief-editor of the series Contribution to Critical Transformation Research. Most recent his books: On Communism. The ghost does not rest (edited together with Lutz Brangsch) (Hamburg 2016), Karl Polanyi. A socialist thinker for our time (Hamburg 2016, Montreal 2017) and Rediscovering Lenin. Dialectics of revolution and meta-physics of dictatorship (Hamburg 2017, Moscow 2017); Karl Polanyi's Vision of a socialist transformation (edited together with Claus Thomasberger) (Montreal 2018).

**Claus Thomasberger** was Professor of Economics and Foreign Economic Policy at the Berlin University of Applied Sciences until 2017. Research interests: Political Philosophy, History of Economic Thought, European Integration, Main Publications: Chronik der großen Transformation, Artikel und Aufsätze von Karl Polanyi 1920-1947 (3 Bd.), 2002-2005; Der neoliberale Marktdiskurs, 2009; Das neoliberale Credo, 2012; Auf der Suche nach dem Ökonomischen – Karl Marx zum 200. Geburtstag, 2018; Karl Polanyi's Vision of a Socialist Transformation, 2018.

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**Maria Markantonatou** (University of the Aegean, Lesvos, Greece):  
„Karl Polanyi and Eurozone Liberalism – the antidemocratic virus revived?“

The presentation draws on Polanyi's views on the League of Nations program of "financial reconstruction of Austria" (1922) to compare this program to the one implemented in Greece since 2010. Under pressure of the League of Nations and the Troika respectively, both in Austria in the 1920s and Greece since 2010 – thus, in radically different historical conjunctures – the policies imposed were alarmingly analogous (deflation, cutting down of public sector personnel and infrastructure), and so were the outcomes (economic deterioration despite temporary stabilization, unemployment rise, social services deregulation). The paper attaches a particularly "Austrian" background (i.e. one relating to the Austrian program) to Polanyi's economy-society separation thesis. This allows a reading of this thesis as referring not only to a general capitalism-democracy tension, but also more specifically, to a concrete conflict between the liberal demands set by international economic elites or creditors (such as the League's or Troika's liberals), and the society (Austrian or Greek or other). It is finally argued that Polanyi's idea of an "authoritarian interventionism" contributing to the rise of fascism, is crucial for the analysis of the Greek austerity politics and the crisis management in the Eurozone.

**Maria Markantonatou** is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Sociology at the University of the Aegean in Lesvos, Greece. She teaches Political Sociology and in this period she works on the social and political consequences of Greek crisis as well as the work of Karl Polanyi.

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**Sabine Frerichs** (Vienna University of Economics and Business, Austria):  
„Karl Polanyi and the Law of Market Society“

Polanyi started his career as a doctor of law, but came to focus on the sociology of economics rather than the sociology of law in his scholarly work. Nonetheless, his writings offer plentiful inspiration for an 'economic sociology of law', which joins the two perspectives. Developed in a Polanyian spirit, it seems particularly apt to explore and expose the 'law of market society'. Heuristically speaking, this includes all types of law that constitute or regulate the market: be it public or private law; national, international or transnational law; hard law or soft law. Taking off from central ideas in Polanyi's work, law can be conceived as a social institution embedding the economy, but also as a fictitious commodity which itself is subject to market forces. In practice, the law of market society is marked by a tension between its commodifying and decommodifying functions, which helps to explain its own great transformation: from its universalist origins in the nineteenth (or even eleventh) century to its national closings in the twentieth century, and to its transnational openings in the twenty-first century. In this sense, economic law and the respective legal discourse are likewise subject to a double movement.

**Sabine Frerichs** is professor of economic sociology at the Vienna University of Economics and Business, Austria. Before that, she was assistant professor at the University of Helsinki, Finland, in charge of sociology of law. She holds a PhD degree in sociology from the University of Bamberg, Germany. In her recent work, she focused on developing the economic sociology of law.

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**Ernst Langthaler & Elke Schübler** (Johannes Kepler University Linz, Austria):  
„Karl Polanyi and Interdisciplinary Commodity Studies“

The contribution assesses Karl Polanyi's "Great Transformation" with regard to interdisciplinary studies of commodities in social and environmental contexts. After summarizing Polanyi's notion of genuine and fictitious commodities, the authors focus on two fictitious commodities from their respective field of research: labour and land. They ask if global capitalism since the 1970s has faced another "Great Transformation", comprising marketization as well as state-led and community-led counter-movements. Finally, the program of interdisciplinary commodity studies is outlined from a Polanyian view.

**Ernst Langthaler** is Professor of Social and Economic History at the Johannes Kepler University Linz. He works on global and regional history of the 19th to 21st centuries with an emphasis on agriculture and food. His latest monograph is titled "Agro-Food Studies", co-authored with an agronomist, a sociologist and a geographer.

**Elke Schübler** is Professor of Business Administration at the Johannes Kepler University Linz. She studies global supply chains with a focus on governing labour standards both from a management and a regulatory perspective. She is leading the "Garment Supply Chain Governance"-project funded by the Volkswagen Foundation and investigating the impact of the Rana Plaza factory collapse on labour standards in Bangladesh.

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**Veronika Heimerl & Hendrik Theine** (Society for Plural Economics, Vienna, Austria) with Kai J. Lingnau and Ernest Aigner:  
„Karl Polanyi and young scholars' perspectives“

The "Society for Pluralism in Economics - Vienna" was founded by students in 2014 as part of an international network with the aim of changing economics. Starting from the premise that not only the economy, but also the economic discipline is in crisis, the pluralism movement advocates for an opening up of the field to different schools of thought and methods. Only this way economics can equip students to tackle real world challenges. Thus, the pluralist movement is - just as Polanyi was - concerned with the state and focus of economics. Current research shows that economics is shaped by a narrow conception of the discipline as well as processes of concentration on a small number of journals and research topics. We argue that the work of Karl Polanyi can contribute to a more realistic understanding of the Economy as envisioned by the pluralism movement. There are many aspects of his work that should be picked up, like the re-definition of the economy in a Polanyian sense as "organising the livelihood of man", his research approach as well as the focus on the importance of different kinds of institutions.

**Veronika Heimerl** is currently a Master Student of Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy. Her discontent with the curriculum of her Bachelor's Program in Economics led her to the "Society for Pluralism in Economics Vienna", where she is engaged in advocating Pluralism in economic research and teaching. She is active in university governance as an elected member of the student representatives for Economics, Socioeconomics and SEEP at Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU).

**Hendrik Theine** is a PhD-candidate, young researcher and lecturer at the Institute for Institutional and Heterodox Economics at Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU). His research focuses on various sub-fields of political economy as a post-disciplinary research field: it spans from critical discursive and cultural perspectives on economy and public economic debates to political economy perspectives on social ecological transformation towards post-growth and degrowth societies. He is founding member of the Society for Pluralism in Economics Vienna and part of BEIGEWUM, a think tank on societal, economic and ecological alternatives.



**Kai J. Lingnau** has studied Economics (BSc) and is planning to start the 'Socio-Ecological Economics and Policy' master program at WU. He first became politically active in the field of economics by joining the "Roter Börsenkrach", the student representatives of Economics at University of Vienna and joined the pluralist student movement in 2015. Currently he is involved in pluralist projects pushing for a change in the way economics is done in university on the local, national as well as international level.

**Ernest Aigner** is a PhD candidate at the Department for Socioeconomics at Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU). His interests lie at the intersection of social, ecological and political-economic concerns. Currently he investigates paradigmatic orientations in economics analyzing a bibliographic dataset. He co-authored articles on the state of economics (e.g. 'Six Dimensions of Concentration in Economics') and discussed sustainable work in a working paper on 'Climate and labour market policies in Sweden'.