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## Home Page

**The Karl Polanyi Institute of Political Economy** was founded in 1987 in response to the growing recognition of the relevance of Karl Polanyi's work to contemporary society. *The Great Transformation*, published in 1944, has long been recognized as a twentieth century classic. Karl Polanyi's far-reaching critique of the philosophical and historical foundations of economics liberalism and technological determinism opens important avenues of investigation in scholarly and policy research. The Institute is dedicated to the memory of [Karl Polanyi](#) and its principal mission is to encourage dialogue and new intellectual work inspired by his legacy. The Institute is housed in the Samuel Bronfman Building of Concordia University, Montreal, Canada.

### Statement of Purpose

**I.** Methodological contributions to the study of the place of the economy in society, embracing the philosophical, ethical and scientific aspects of the search for a purposeful existence in modern society.

**II.** The extension of economics beyond the narrowly defined study of the laws of market exchange to embrace redistribution (the role of the state) and reciprocity (the role of the community) as organizing mechanisms of economic activity, with special emphasis on the relevance of Polanyi's approach to modern mixed economies, including socialist and third world variants; the exploration of the relevance of Polanyi's work in economic anthropology to the contemporary world.

**III.** In recognition of Polanyi's concern for the peaceful coexistence of differing social, political and economic formations, to develop a political economy approach to the study of international economics relations; to encourage the search for international institutions which can reconcile the growing interdependence of the world with its cultural diversity and the need of societies to maintain and protect control over their economic and social priorities.

**IV.** In recognition of a life spent as an educator - in adult education, in journalistic analysis of economic, political, and financial affairs, and in the university - to develop his concern for working class and citizen education as an essential condition of participatory democracy.

**V.** In recognition of the Central European origins of his world of thought, his explicit wish to contribute to "East-West" coexistence, and his ultimate place of rest in Hungary, to maintain a special relationship with the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (which organized the Centenary Memorial Conference in Budapest in 1986) and to sponsor research into the particular contribution of intellectuals of Central European origin.

*The Karl Polanyi Institute wishes to acknowledge the generous financial support of the International Development Research Centre for the enhancement of the Karl Polanyi Institute Web site.*

## Highlights

### Public Forum

Manfred Bienefeld on *China's Role(s) in the Current Financial Crisis: Cause, Facilitator and / or Solution?* Thursday, March 19th, 2009

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### 11th International Karl Polanyi Conference

#### Conference Program

Int. Karl Polanyi Conference  
" The Relevance of Karl Polanyi for the 21st Century",  
Concordia University,  
December 9-11, 2008.

[more ...](#)

### Request for Research Collaboration

Request for Research Collaboration on Karl Polanyi and Edward Palmer Thompson.

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### New Publication

*Essais de Karl Polanyi.* Introduction par Michele Cangiani et Jérôme Maucourant.

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### Institute News

**SASE Meeting** San Jose, Costa Rica July 21-23, 2008. The theme of the SASE meeting is suggested by Karl Polanyi's *The Great Transformation*.

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2002. Karl Polanyi Institute of Political Economy.  
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**Professor Jean-Louis  
Laville Coordinator of  
European activities of  
the Karl Polanyi  
Institute**

[more..](#)

### Become a Friend

Your financial contributions are required to sustain and expand the work of the Institute.

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### Selected Papers from Conference:

**" Access of Women  
to the Economy at the  
Time of the  
Integration of the  
Americas: What Kind  
of Economy?"**

Concordia University /  
Université du Québec à  
Montréal  
23-26 April, 2003

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