



4<sup>th</sup> EMES-Polanyi International Seminar

# From the great transformation to the eco-social transition. New solidarities in action

## CALL FOR PAPERS

**19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> of March 2020**

EHESS – 105 Boulevard Raspail, 75006 Paris, France

Co-organizers:

**Collège d'études mondiales - Fondation Maison des sciences de  
l'homme**

**EMPOWER-SE COST Action**

**EMES International Research Network**

**Karl Polanyi Institute of Political Economy**



COST Action 16206  
"Empowering the next generation  
of social enterprise scholars"  
(EMPOWER-SE)



# From the great transformation to the eco-social transition. New solidarities in action

## 1. Context

Following the 2018 seminar which explored how a Polanyian framework may contribute to identify a possible way forward for the welfare state in an international perspective, the 4<sup>th</sup> EMES-Polanyi seminar will address the emergence of transition as a new paradigm. When the welfare states matured in the wake of the Second World War, they seemed to provide a horizon of emancipation. However, in recent decades it has become clear that another notion of transition is needed. Built upon representative democracy and the assurance of social progress through the decommodification of activities such as healthcare, social democracy faced two limits by the end of the century : regulations designed at a national level by experts transformed citizens from partners in a social contract (social citizenship) to subscribers or clients and political redistribution linked social justice to economic growth.

The welfare state, undermined by a deficit in citizen expression, and its dependency on the market economy, reduced its capacity to face the growing attacks by advocates of free market ideology. Theories of Friedrich Hayek and Milton Friedman were popularized by the media. Neoliberalism challenged the values of social democracy and the post war social contract.

Both social democracy and neo liberalism fail to cope with global issues. The challenge of the early XXI<sup>st</sup> century is to formulate a new conception of transformation aimed at integrating the movements of an ecological transition and egalitarian solidarity. Without such integration, transformation may once again lead to a reinforced market society or to statism and passive citizens. The challenge is to pave the way towards a society equipped to enjoy the innovative and collective capacity of a citizenry engaged in transitioning toward new social and environmental paradigms based on solidarity and epistemological justice. Academic disciplines dissecting our world into specialized research, face limits when working towards ecological and social transitions in practice. Principles of ecologies as living interactions and inter-connectedness provide crucial orientations for scientific and real world practices towards new solidarities and eco-social transition. To do so Polanyi's contributions are essential. Let us recall two of his main observations :

- To address the crucial issue of the links between economic and political spheres, their separation imposed by disciplinary specializations must be overcome. Considering how these two spheres intersect will avoid fragmented microsocial descriptions and deterministic macrosocial interpretations.
- It is essential to include other economic principles, such as reciprocity and householding, as well as deliberative and participative dimensions of democracy to go beyond state-market redistribution.

Two epistemological options may be relevant in the research program suggested by Polanyian frameworks:

- The epistemologies of the South (Santos, 2014) plead for an analysis of absences and emergences. The analysis of absences consists of recuperating and valorizing alternative systems of production, popular economy organizations, workers' cooperatives, self-managed enterprises, ecological alternatives networks, solidarity economy, agroecology, conceptions of property beyond private individual property and conceptions of nature beyond its exploitation by humans which have been hidden or discredited by the monopoly of capitalistic productivity. The analysis of emergences is the inquiry into the alternatives that are contained in the horizon of concrete possibilities. It enlarges the present by adding to the existing reality the realistic possibilities and future expectations it contains.
- Pragmatism, linking knowledge production and democracy (Dewey, 1954, 1960) in making democratic practice an experimental process, allows for a reciprocal determination of ends and meanings. This « social survey », according to Dewey, builds values into action by those who are involved. The researcher does not have to distance himself or herself from the actors who are mobilized for their reflexive practices.

A new social science is emerging from these epistemological choices. When the existence of humanity is threatened by the excesses of capitalism, traditional critical sociology fails to live up to the challenges. The key is to move towards an emancipatory social science in the words of Erik Olin Wright (2010), i.e identifying as a central objective “the elimination of oppression and the creation of conditions promoting human fulfillment”.

## 2. Seminar thematic approach

The hypothesis for this seminar is that all the research on different issues such as associations, social and solidarity economy, social enterprise, social innovation, social movements, ecological alternatives, sustainable transition studies be integrated into the paradigm of transition.

Contributions may address these issues and their interesections. Based on the two epistemological options described above, they are encouraged to address the uncertainties of the current situation that cast a shadow over democracy and emerging practices aimed at strengthening it.

To foster the reembeddedness of the formal economy in the XXI<sup>st</sup> century, there is a strong need to explore the relationship between the concepts of transformation and transition. Academic papers able to bridge and combine sustainability transitions studies with Polanyian studies are welcome.

### 3. Seminar committees

The Seminar is co-chaired by Jean-Louis Laville (Collège d'études mondiales - FMSH, Karl Polanyi Institute of Political Economy, France) and Lars Hulgård (Roskilde University, Denmark).

The Seminar scientific committee includes:

- **Flor Avelino**, Erasmus University, Netherlands
- **Laetitia Atlani – Duault**, Collège d'études mondiales – FMSH, France
- **Swati Banerjee**, Tata institute of Social Sciences, India
- **Loïc Blondiaux**, University of La Sorbonne, France
- **Marion Carrel**, University of Lille, France
- **Jany Catrice Florence**, University de Lille, France
- **Laurence Cox**, National University of Ireland Maynooth
- **Luciane Lucas dos Santos**, Centre for Social Studies - University of Coimbra, Portugal
- **Jennifer Eschweiler**, Roskilde University, Denmark
- **Jordi Estivill**, University of Barcelona, Spain
- **Philippe Eynaud**, Université Paris I, France
- **Sílvia Ferreira**, Centre for Social Studies - University of Coimbra, Portugal
- **Genauto Carvalho da França Filho**, Universidade federal da Bahia, Brazil
- **Luiz Inacio Gaiger**, Universidade Vale do Rio dos Sinos, Brazil
- **Isabelle Guérin**, Institut de recherche et de développement, France
- **Pedro Hespanha**, University of Coimbra, Portugal
- **Isabelle Hillenkamp**, Institut de recherche et de développement, France
- **Margie Mendell**, Concordia University, Canada
- **Catherine Neveu**, Cnrs - EHESS-Paris, France
- **Andreas Novy**, International Karl Polanyi Society and Vienna University, Austria
- **Marthe Nyssens**, Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium
- **Geoffrey Pleyers**, FNRS – Catholic University of Louvain, Belgium
- **Nicolas Postel**, Institut Polanyi France, University of Lille, France
- **Rogério Roque Amaro**, ISCTE - IUL, Portugal
- **Patrick Savidian**, University of Paris – Créteil, France
- **Julien Talpin**, CERAPS - Cnrs, France
- **Davorka Vidovic**, Faculty of Political Science, Croatia
- **Julia Wittmayer**, Erasmus University, Netherlands

The Seminar organizing committee is composed of **Marie-Catherine Henry**, Collège d'études mondiales FMSH and **Rocío Nogales**, EMES.

## 4. About the organizers and supporters

### **Collège d'études mondiales - Fondation Maison des sciences de l'homme (FMSH) – Research Program Plural democracy and economy**

Founded by Michel Wieviorka in 2011 and led by Laetitia Atlani-Duault, the Collège d'études mondiales is part of the Research Division of the Fondation Maison des sciences de l'homme.

The Research Division encourages multidisciplinary within the human and social sciences, supports the development of new fields of research, and mounts innovative projects on major issue facing the world.

In this context, the Collège d'études mondiales participates in the analysis of global phenomena by offering a stimulating environment for researchers: endowed chairs, scientific project incubator; and dedicated space for collaboration among researchers from various countries and institutional affiliations.

Every year, the College welcomes researchers from around the world and organizes nearly 200 scientific events.

The aims of the research program Plural democracy and economy are:

- ✓ To reach beyond field specialization in the social sciences by studying the economic dimension of social movements and the political dimension of alternative economies simultaneously;
- ✓ To develop knowledge production mechanisms that include the interactions between theoretical and practical knowledge;
- ✓ To move beyond international comparisons, and develop new theories based on North-South dialogue by taking into account the diversity of real-world situations in a globalized world;
- ✓ To envision joint grassroots initiatives and public policies, to design new templates for government actions debated among stakeholders, elected officials, and the research community.

**COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology)** is a pan-European intergovernmental framework. Its mission is to enable break-through scientific and technological developments leading to new concepts and products, and thereby contribute to strengthening Europe's research and innovation capacities. The specific Action 16206 supporting this event is "Empowering the next generation of social enterprise scholars" (EMPOWER-SE).

**EMES International Research Network (EMES)** is a research network of established university research centers and individual researchers whose goal is to gradually build up an international corpus of theoretical and empirical, pluridisciplinary knowledge, and

methodologies, around our “SE” concepts: social enterprise, social entrepreneurship, social economy, solidarity economy, and social innovation. EMES has conducted over 15 international comparative research projects and organized international bi-annual conferences and PhD summer schools. In addition, EMES collaborates with international organizations and governments at all levels to advance the understanding of social enterprise and support evidence-based policy-making around the world. Created in 1996, EMES opened its membership to researchers and PhD students from around the world: there are currently over 300 individual members and 14 institutional members from over 50 countries.

**Karl Polanyi Institute of Political Economy** was established in 1988, dedicated to the memory of Karl Polanyi. Its mission is to preserve his intellectual legacy and to contribute to urgent policy debates on alternative and innovative development strategies, both locally and internationally. The Institute also hosts the Karl Polanyi Archive, a vast collection of material including unpublished papers, drafts of manuscripts, lecture notes, articles, and correspondence. This Archive has been fully digitized. The [Karl Polanyi Digital Archive](#) is available for consultation.

**Karl Polanyi Institute France** provides a francophone space, in line with Karl Polanyi Institute of Political Economy, with the goal of gathering civil society, scholars and public authorities.

## 5. Fees and registration

There are different fees available according to whether participants are EMES members or not:

	EMES member *	Non-EMES member
Regular registration	<b>205€</b>	<b>380€</b>
Student registration	<b>115€</b>	<b>190€</b>

\* Participants registering under this fee need to provide proof of membership.

Scientific Committee members and practitioners can benefit from a 150€ registration fee.

Cancellation policy: Refunds will be possible for cancellations notified by written notice **before 11 March 2020**. A 25 € administrative fee will be charged. There will be no refunds for cancellations made after 11 March 2020.

A limited number of grants (contributing to accommodation and travel expenses) are available under the EMPOWER-SE COST Action for authors with an accepted abstract. If you are interested in applying for this support, please note that in addition to the scientific excellence criterion (evaluation score), abstracts must address the specific objectives described in the proposal description ([Memorandum of Understanding](#), page 3-4). Moreover, the following specific COST criteria apply:

gender balance, ITC<sup>1</sup> origin and ECI<sup>2</sup> stage. If you are interested in being considered for this grant scheme, please indicate so in your abstract by ticking the appropriate box as included in the Application Submission template.

**Abstracts should be sent via this link**  
**(<https://forms.gle/LEzVEP9ufTi9Jgff9>)**  
**by December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019**  
**For further information email [4polanyi@emes.net](mailto:4polanyi@emes.net)**

**The decision of the scientific committee**  
**will be communicated to authors on January 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020.**

**Registration will open on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2020.**

Remember the Seminar hashtags #4EMESPolanyi #EmpowerSE\_EU

## References

- Dewey, J., 1954, *Public and its Problems*, Swallow Press  
Dewey, J., 1960, *Quest for Certainty*, Putnam Pub Group  
Polanyi, K. 1944, *The Great Transformation. The Political and Economic Origins of our Time*. Beacon Press. Second edition 2001.  
Wright, E.O., 2010, *Envisioning Real Utopias*, Verso  
Santos, B. de Sousa, 2014, *Epistemologies of the South*, Paradigm Publishers

[The Karl Polanyi Digital Archive](#) is available for consultation.

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<sup>1</sup> Inclusiveness Target Countries (ITC) are Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Croatia, Hungary, Lithuania, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Slovakia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Republic of Serbia and Turkey.

<sup>2</sup> Early Career Investigators (ECI) are researchers with PhD plus a maximum of 8 years of experience.