6TH CLASSICS REVISITED CONFERENCE
MAX WEBER PROGRAMME

THE EMBEDDEDNESS OF MARKETS TODAY: RETURNING TO POLANYI TO RETHINK DEVELOPMENT, MARKETS & THE FINANCIAL CRISIS

MAY 2, 2012

*** DRAFT PROGRAM ***

SUMMARY

In the context of the extended economic crisis in western capitalism that has crowned two decades of economic growth with worsening income inequality, Karl Polanyi's work has gained new prominence.

This conference seeks to bring together Max Weber Fellows, EUI faculty, and PhD researchers with leading scholars from around the world in order to critically assess the work of Polanyi and its economic, political, and normative dimensions in the context of contemporary capitalism and its current crisis.

The speakers will assess Polanyi's historical account of the transition to capitalism, rely on his contributions to reflect on contemporary issues of capitalist development, and theorise about struggles of emancipation that complement his framework. We expect that speakers' multi-disciplinary origins in law, political science, history and political theory will provide for a lively critical discussion of Polanyi's framework and help us to understand its contemporary relevance.

9.30 Coffee & Biscuits

9.45 Introduction

10.00 Opening Lecture

Chair, Alex Street

Nancy Fraser, The New School, "Can society be commodities all the way down? Polanyian reflections on capitalist crisis"

Discussant, Inés Valdez

Q&A, 20'

10.45 coffee

11.00 Panel I: Polanyi's Thought on Capitalist Development

Chair, Stefan Malthaner

Dorothee Bohle, Central European University, "A New Great Transformation? Polanyi's Relevance for Eastern Europe and Beyond"

Diogo Coutinho, Universidade de São Paulo, "Roles of law in development Policies - a Polanyian Perspective"

Discussants, Zsofia Barta & Sheila Neder Cerezzeti

Q&A, 30'

12.45 Lunch

14.00 Panel II: Polanyi in Theory and History

Chair, Chris Colvin

Gareth Dale, Brunel University, "The 'grim realities of Nature': cui bono? Polanyi, Malthus, and the limits of ecological economics"

Felicity Heal, University of Oxford, "Does Polanyi's concept of embeddedness adequately describe the relationship between English society and economy before industrialization?"

Discussant, Emanuela Grama-Neamtu & tba

Q&A

15.45 Coffee Break

16.00 Closing Roundtable

Chair, Birgit Apitzsch

17.00 End of Conference

20.00 Dinner for Speakers, Chairs, Discussants, and Organizers