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## IKPS Solidarity Newsletter

**Dear friends of the International Karl Polanyi Society,**

First of all, we would like to dedicate this newsletter to our esteemed colleague **Ayşe Buğra**, who has been recently verbally attacked by the president of the Republic of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. After that we have some information about our current projects (including the **Vienna Karl Polanyi Visiting Professorship with Nancy Fraser** and **the 15th International Karl Polanyi Conference**), our new member **Rada Pantelić** and the search for a **Supervisor of a Polanyian PhD-Proposal from Sweden**.

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## # 1: Letter in Support of the most renowned scientist Ayşe Buğra

Karl Polanyi is considered to be a leading 20th century scholar who always aimed at fostering collaboration beyond borders in favor of peace, promoting the co-existence of the West and the East in the Cold War and of different world regions with their respective cultures and institutions in general. And Karl Polanyi has always been a fierce defender of human rights, individual dignity as well as national sovereignty. It is this spirit that has inspired the International Karl Polanyi Society (IKPS) and the large community of scholars working in the tradition of Karl Polanyi.

Professor Ayşe Buğra has for many decades been an important and authoritative voice in this international research community, contributing to the dissemination of the work of Karl Polanyi in Turkey and worldwide. Her work always centered on dialogue and the search for a dignified life in a complex world dominated by the market logic.

The International Karl Polanyi Society had the honour of welcoming Ayşe Buğra at the official inauguration of the Viennese part of the transnational Karl Polanyi Conference 2019 that was organized in cooperation with the Karl Polanyi Research Center for Global Social Studies at Corvinus University in Budapest. This event, with the presence of representatives from the mayor of Vienna and the rector of Vienna University of Economics and Business, took place at Radiokulturhaus in Vienna on May 3rd, 2019. Ayşe Buğra discussed 'Globalization's Wrong Turn' together with Harvard professor Dani Rodrik and Kari Polanyi Levitt, president of honour of IKPS. Ayşe Buğra's valuable, and widely discussed contributions – at this and other events - focused on the tension of cultural differences and universal human values and rights, a crucial issue for global peaceful conviviality.



'Karl Polanyi and Globalization's Wrong Turn': Dani Rodrik Lecture with Comments from Ayşe Buğra and Kari Polanyi (2019)  
(Watch Ayşe's Comment at Minute [01:25:00](#))

Therefore, it is with great astonishment and anxiety that we heard about the pronouncements by the president of the Republic of Turkey, Recep Tayyip Erdoğan, referring Ayşe Buğra as “a woman who is among the provocateurs” of the protests at Boğaziçi University in Istanbul, protesting against the appointment of Melih Bulu as rector. The IKPS is far away from judging about the concrete events, but it can fully endorse what has been written in a letter by Ayşe Buğra’s students, describing her as “a source of inspiration for thousands of students she has taught and mentored. (...) She is a treasure for both Boğaziçi University and Turkey” ... and to the international scientific community and academic discourse – we would add.

We therefore ask Turkish authorities in general and president Recep Tayyip Erdoğan in particular to take the high esteem into account that professor Ayşe Buğra has obtained in Turkey and the world in the academic community, when judging this outstanding scholar. Respecting personal dignity is a key precondition for national and global co-existence. This is of key importance for the Turkish scientific community, as Turkey’s good international reputation and its ongoing integration in international research networks depends on scholars like Ayşe Buğra.

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## # 2: Vienna Karl Polanyi Visiting Professorship with Nancy Fraser

We are beyond excited to announce that the [Vienna Karl Polanyi Visiting Professorship](#) will start in March - with none other than Nancy Fraser!



The Visiting Professorship is a cooperation project of University of Vienna, Vienna University of Economics and Business (WU), Central European University (CEU), IKPS and Volkshochschule Wien. By inviting renowned international scholars with an interdisciplinary outlook it aims at exploring pathways to put the economy in its place.

In this Summersemester, Nancy Fraser will hold a PhD-seminar, give two public lectures (May 4th and May 5th) and participate in an internal workshop at CEU, accompanied by a public debate (May 6th). PhD and Master Students from Uni Vienna, WU and CEU can **still apply for the PhD-Seminar until February, 26th**. For more information, [go to our Website](#).

## # 3: IKPS at 15th International Polanyi Conference in Montreal

The 15th International Karl Polanyi Conference “[The Role of the State in the post COVID-21<sup>st</sup> Century](#)”, organized by the [Karl Polanyi Institute of Political Economy](#) in Montreal / Canada, is going to take place from **April 21<sup>st</sup>** (due to the high amount of submissions, one day earlier than initially scheduled) to **April 24<sup>th</sup>**. The preliminary Program will be circulated in early March. We can already confirm though, that:

- a. our plenary session “**From the Globalization Trilemma to the Political Trilemma of Social-Ecological Transformation**”,
- b. our panel “**Care and Care Work: The COVID-19 Pandemic, the Limits of the Market and the Questions of Social Responsibility**”,
- c. our book presentation and exhibition: „**Karl Polanyi – The works and life of an epochal thinker**“ and „**Karl Polanyi – Von der entfesselten Wirtschaft zur solidarischen Gesellschaft**“ and
- d. our round table discussion: “**The COVID-19 Pandemic: Putting the Economy in its Place or Putting Democracy at Risk?**” have already been accepted.

More Information soon!

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## # 4: Welcoming Rada Pantelić to IKPS

As the IKPS has been growing for some time and more and more projects are coming in, the amount of work for us naturally grows as well. That's why **Rada Pantelić** takes

over an important job and from now on takes care of organization, administration and communication:

I'm happy to be part of the IKPS and curious about the upcoming projects! At the moment I'm writing my bachelor thesis about the visibility regime behind the neoliberal grammar of regulations. Some publications of Nancy Fraser will play a big part in it, for example. I'm also part of the organization committee of the [Wirtschaftspolitische Akademie](#) (Academy of Economic Policy, WIPOL) and one of the local coordinators at [achtung°liebe](#) Wien which is a project of the Austrian Medical Students' Association (AMSA). Rada

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## # 5: PhD-Proposal: Polanyi in Sweden

IKPS Member **Nils Brandsma** ([read his contribution on Polanyi's work in Sweden here](#)) is pursuing a doctorate in political economy with a particular focus on Polanyi. Right now he is **looking for somebody willing to supervise his PhD-thesis**, related to Polanyi's work. Maybe somebody of our Members is willing to do this? If so, please send a mail to [nils.brandsma@gmail.com](mailto:nils.brandsma@gmail.com). He can send you more information including the complete PhD-proposal.

### **Abstract of the Proposal:**

Sweden has undergone tumultuous change since the credit regulation of 1985. In the post-war era, Sweden arguably had come some way in de-commodifying the Polanyian fictitious commodities of *land*, *labor* and *money*. Polanyi argued that market fundamentalism results in tearing of the social fabric, and a rise of extreme political elements, such as the far-right resurgence in the 21st century. This project aims to operationalize Polanyian concepts to be studied using statistical analysis for the production of generalizable models to be used in further research. It also intends to study the Polanyian theory applied to contemporary Swedish political economy, which saw a massive undoing of the welfare state, initially not through political deliberations but through a central bank coup in the deregulation of credit markets.

Also, if there is someone working on a project and in need of a PhD-student with knowledge of Polanyi or tangential fields, he would be thrilled to be considered as well.

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## # 6: Reminder to pay Membership-Fees

We would like to politely remind you to pay your membership dues. As you can see, we are working hard on new projects, which is only possible with your support. Instructions on how to pay the membership fee can be found here:

### HOW DO I PAY MY MEMBERSHIP FEES?

Paying your fees is very simple: You can pay by using the **PayPal Button on our website**: [Click here](#) and scroll to 'Account Details' for the button. If you don't use PayPal, please transfer the membership fees to the following account:

Name: International Karl Polanyi Society  
IBAN: AT88 2011 1839 6968 4000  
BIC: GIBAATWWXXX

The regular fee amounts to 100€ per year, the reduced fee to 20€ a year. Make sure to include your Name and the year to your payment. Please remember that your support is crucial for us to effectively achieve our objectives and ensure our independence.

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**All the Best,**  
**The International Karl Polanyi Society**

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## How to support the International Karl Polanyi Society



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