

Title	Polanyi Symposium: conversation on embeddedness
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Brief Introduction	<p>1. Introduction</p> <p>In April 2002, an interdisciplinary group of scholars gathered at the University of California Davis for a conference on ‘The Next Great Transformation? Karl Polanyi and the Critique of Globalization’. The conference was organized by Fred Block, Nicole Biggart and Sean O’ Riain and was made possible by support from the University of California’s Institute for Global Cooperation and Change, the UC Davis Institute for Government Affairs, and UCD’s Center for History, Society, and Culture. The conference was based on the premise that economic sociology and other contemporary studies of global transformation could be enriched by a more systematic engagement with Polanyi’s thought. Most of the conference was organized around 10 papers, some of which were more empirical and some more theoretical. Three of these papers have been published in revised form in a special issue of <i>Politics & Society</i> in June 2003. The conference organizers decided to devote one session to a more open conversation designed to clarify the embeddedness concept. The choice of topics seemed obvious since there were clear tensions</p> <hr/> <p>between Polanyi’s initial use of the concept and its use today. We invited Greta Krippner to begin the session since she had recently published an article, ‘The Elusive Market: Embeddedness and the Paradigm of Economic Sociology’, that represented a strong critique of how several scholars had deployed the embeddedness concept. The floor was then turned over to Mark Granovetter and Fred Block, both of whom were targets of Krippner’s critique (Krippner, 2001, pp. 775–810). The last pre-arranged speakers were Nicole Biggart and Tom Beamish, who had recently completed a study of the embeddedness of the market for commercial buildings. Then the floor was thrown open for a free-wheeling discussion. The transcript that follows is an edited version of both the prepared remarks and some of the discussion. We are deeply grateful to Matt Keller for transcribing and editing the transcript and to David Marsden for editing and shortening the manuscript.</p>