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SERIES**

Polanyian Protective Countermovements: The Case of Organic Producers in Canada

Monday November 25th, 2019 @ 12pm CST

To Register Click: <https://bit.ly/2QbNcZd>

Questions: [Munzaleen Sajjad](#), 204-721-0484

ABSTRACT

Models of sustainable agriculture are a reaction to perceived negative consequences arising from the current industrial agricultural paradigm considered as “externalities” by economists. Organic certification systems are market instruments that prohibit certain agricultural practices and inputs that organic proponents consider harmful for society and the environment. The dynamic of the free market creating harmful consequences and social actors trying to reduce those consequences has been conceptualized as a “double-movement” by Karl Polanyi. For Polanyi the double-movement involved an appeal by social actors to governments to regulate the market to reduce its negative effects. Recently analysts have suggested that the double-movement may reject policy implementation and embrace other means to reduce perceived negative effects like expansion of market institutions. This thesis asks whether Canadian certified organic producers show a Polanyian reaction to the negative economic, social and environmental impacts of agricultural markets. Data was collected from certified Canadian organic farmers through an online survey to explore their perception of negative effects of agriculture, their motivations for obtaining organic certification and their attitudes towards policies. The analysis shows that surveyed organic producers participate in a variety of double-movement and have different Polanyian reactions to different identified consequences.

PANELISTS



Marc-Antoine Larrivée is a Master student in Rural Planning and Development at the University of Guelph. Building on his experience from his baccalaureate in Agricultural Economics at Laval University and driven by a natural curiosity and a passion for agriculture and social sciences, he oriented his research topic at the intersection of those fields. The Polanyian approach was a natural choice for his thesis, offering a stimulating perspective of issues related to market regulations, resource use and social acceptability.



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