

Colin Duncan recalls the meetings as being quite long in duration while at the same time never remotely boring or tiresome. Indeed they were relaxing, which is odd for such a level of discussion of complex, often abstruse points. Even odder perhaps, the group enjoyment went up as the seriousness increased. Whenever some member got unusually earnest about some point, everyone, especially Tom, would start to smile, and we all would lean back in our chairs to savour the moment! One always looked forward to the meetings. And it must be said the diversity of persons attending was substantial, both as to temperament and cultural background, not to mention angle of specific expertise/interest. The point of attending was to broaden one's mind while arguing in a friendly way over whatever was in the unfamiliar material someone had suggested we grapple with. That we all shared a willingness to step back from our shared basic theories kept it always fresh and yet stress-free. It can be said that a similar diverse and yet united group developed around the work of Karl Polanyi under the auspices of Concordia University in Montreal which organized several decades worth of international conferences held all over the globe. It is an apt comparison because Professor Sekine always said he was amazed by the coincidence between Uno's approach and Polanyi's to the most complex world historically important twists in the history of both the theory of political economy and what actually unfolded as people tried to put various ideas into practice in ever-changing circumstances. And it was a complete coincidence as Uno and Polanyi never met or corresponded as they worked away before and during the Second World War as well as after they started to publish their deep reflections and duly attained lasting international fame.