

# Dr. Gábor István BÍRÓ

Associate professor



An award-winning (Craufurd Goodwin Best Article in the History of Economics Prize, 2021) historian of economic thought who specialized in the economic ideas of Michael Polanyi. A high-achieving young expert with 4 academic degrees, several research articles in top journals (*Journal of the History of Economic Thought*, *History of European Ideas*, *Global Intellectual History*, *Journal of Evolutionary Economics*) and two Routledge volumes (*The Economic Thought of Michael Polanyi*; *Humanity and Nature in Economic Thought*). An enthusiastic teacher who has been teaching economics and history of economic thought for more than fourteen years and who is an active member of several scholarly networks from *NOUS: Network for Constitutional Economics and Social Philosophy* to *The Polanyi Society*. A regular reviewer for multiple prestigious academic journals (*History of Political Economy*, *Journal of the History of Economic Thought*, *Journal of Institutional Economics*, *Cambridge Journal of Economics*) and a dedicated popularizer of economics and philosophy.

## I. RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

10 years total

### Research fellow

2022-present

'Values and Science' Momentum (*Lendület*) Research Group (2022-2027)

Hungarian Academy of Sciences/Eötvös Loránd Research Network

- studied the role of values in Michael Polanyi's economic thought
- published research articles in top journals (history of economic thought)
- organized international scientific events
- worked as an editor for academic books

### Research fellow

2019-2022

'Morals and Science' Momentum (*Lendület*) Research Group (2017-2022)

Hungarian Academy of Sciences/Eötvös Loránd Research Network

- studied the role of values in Michael Polanyi's economic thought
- published research articles in top journals (history of economic thought)
- organized international scientific events
- worked as an editor for academic books
- published *Humanity and Nature in Economic Thought* (Routledge, 2021)

### Associate professor

2024-present

Dept. of Philosophy and History of Science

Budapest University of Technology and Economics

- made inquiries into the history of spontaneous order theories and *ordoliberalismus*
- published research articles in top journals (history of economic thought)

### Assistant professor

2017-2024

Dept. of Philosophy and History of Science

Budapest University of Technology and Economics

- made inquiries into the social contexts of Michael Polanyi's economic film
- published *The Economic Thought of Michael Polanyi* (Routledge, 2019)

### New National Excellence Program (16-3) PhD Research Grant

2016-2017

Dept. of Philosophy and History of Science

Budapest University of Technology and Economics

- studied Michael Polanyi's economic policy proposals
- published research articles

### PhD Research Grant

2014-2017

Dept. of Philosophy and History of Science

Budapest University of Technology and Economics

- studied Polanyi's economics enlightenment project
- completed my thesis titled *Projecting the Light of Democracy: Michael Polanyi's Efforts to Save Liberalism via an Economics Film, 1933-1948*

## II. TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**14 years total**

### Associate professor

**2024-present**

*Dept. of Philosophy and History of Science*

Budapest University of Technology and Economics

- taught history of economic thought, introductory social sciences and philosophy classes in BA/BSc and MA/MSc programs

### Assistant professor

**2017-2024**

*Dept. of Philosophy and History of Science*

Budapest University of Technology and Economics

- taught history of economic thought, introductory social sciences and philosophy classes in BA/BSc and MA/MSc programs

### PhD student

**2014-2017**

*Dept. of Philosophy and History of Science*

Budapest University of Technology and Economics

- taught introductory social sciences and philosophy classes in BA/BSc and MA/MSc programs

### Assistant professor

**2014-2015**

*Dept. of Economics*

Budapest Business School

- taught history of economic thought, economics and economic history classes in BA/BSc and MA/MSc programs

### Teaching assistant

**2010-2014**

*Dept. of Civil law and Economics*

Corvinus University of Budapest

- taught economics for BA students
- organized public events popularizing economics
- mentored talented students

## III. SERVICE & ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

**8 years total**

### Board member

**2022-2024**

*Board of Directors*

The Polanyi Society, USA

### Vice head of department

**2018-2021**

*Department of Philosophy and History of Science*

Budapest University of Technology and Economics

### International relations officer

**2011-2014**

*Faculty of Public Administration*

Corvinus University of Budapest

## IV. EDUCATION

### PhD in History and Philosophy of Science - summa cum laude

**2014-2017**

Budapest University of Technology and Economics

### MSc in Teacher of Economics (entrepreneurial studies)

**2011-2013**

Corvinus University of Budapest

**MA in European and International Administration**

**2010-2012**

Corvinus University of Budapest

**BA in Administration Management**

**2007-2010**

Corvinus University of Budapest

**V. PUBLICATIONS AND CITATIONS**

**55 and 305 total**

1. "Ordines ab Ordo: Revising Spontaneous Order Theory for the Twenty-first Century," (submitted to a **Q1 journal**), 1-29.
2. "Against Discrimination, Discretionary Action and Direct Intervention in Economic Policy: On the Commonalities of Euckenian and Polanyian Economics, 1935 to 1950," (submitted to a **Q1 journal**), 1-34.
3. "The Case of the Missing Potatoes: Reconsidering Michael Polanyi's Spontaneous Order," **Global Intellectual History** (2023), 1–25. <https://doi.org/10.1080/23801883.2023.2193704>.
4. "The Enlightenment is Dead, Long Live the Enlightenment! Towards a Post-critical Age of Reason" In *Science, Faith and Society: New Essays on the Philosophy of Michael Polanyi* (Eds.) by Péter Hartl, Cham: **Springer** (2024), 165-184.
5. "Polanyi's Razor: The Tacit Antithesis of the Veil of Ignorance," **Tradition and Discovery: The Polanyi Society Periodical** (2023), 49(3): 29-38.
6. The obituary of AI. A Review of *The Myth of Artificial Intelligence: Why Computers Can't Think the Way We Do* by Erik J. Larson. **Metascience** (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11016-022-00824-7>
7. Fireworks of AI. A Review of *The New Fire: War, Peace, and Democracy in the Age of AI* by Ben Buchanan and Andrew Imbrie. **Metascience** (2022). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11016-022-00821-w>
8. Book Review: Calculation and Morality: The Costs of Slavery and the Value of Emancipation in the French Antilles by Caroline Oudin-Bastide and Philippe Steiner, **Journal of the History of Economic Thought**, 44(3): 477-479. doi:10.1017/S1053837221000596.
9. Book Review: Calculated Values: Finance, Politics and the Quantitative Age by William Deringer, **History of European Ideas**, 48:6 (2022): 865-867. doi: 10.1080/01916599.2021.2012322.
10. From Red Spirit to Underperforming Pyramids and Coercive Institutions: Michael Polanyi Against Economic Planning, **History of European Ideas**, 48:6 (2022): 811-847. doi: 10.1080/01916599.2021.2009359. 2 citations.
11. Humanity and Nature in Economic Thought: Searching for the Organic Origins of the Economy (editor and contributor), London: **Routledge**, November 2021.
12. Introduction in eds. *Humanity and Nature in Economic Thought: Searching for the Organic Origins of the Economy*, London: **Routledge**, November 2021, 1-2.
13. The Politics of Naturalizing the Economy: Organic Aspects in the Economic Thought of Karl and Michael Polanyi in eds. *Humanity and Nature in Economic Thought: Searching for the Organic Origins of the Economy*, London: **Routledge**, November 2021, 171-194.
14. Caught in the Crossfire: Michael Polanyi's Economic Thought Between Socialism and Liberalism, **Tradition and Discovery: The Polanyi Society Periodical** 47:3 (October 2021): 44-50

15. The Social Life of the First Economics Film: A Response to Geoffrey M. Hodgson and Stephen Turner, ***Tradition and Discovery: The Polanyi Society Periodical*** 47:1 (February 2021): 17-22. 1 citation.
16. A Response to Erwin Dekker, ***Journal of the History of Economic Thought***, 42(4), 590-592. doi:10.1017/S1053837220000504. 1 citation.
17. Michael Polanyi's Neutral Keynesianism and the First Economics Film, 1933 to 1945, ***Journal of the History of Economic Thought***, 42:3 (2020): 335-356. 6 citations. [Craufurd Goodwin Prize]
18. Book Review: Network Origins of the Global Economy: East vs. West in a Complex Systems Perspective by Hilton L. Root, ***LSE Review of Books***, September 23rd, 2020.
19. Toward a Postcritical Economics: Comment on Michael Polanyi's "What to Believe", ***Tradition & Discovery: The Polanyi Society Periodical***, 46:2 (2020): 29-35. 2 citations.
20. Szabadság és Társadalmi Tudatosság Polányi Mihály Gazdaságpolitikájában [Liberty and Social Consciousness in the Economic Thought of Michael Polanyi], ***Polanyiana*** 29:1-2 (2020): 73-93.
21. Contagiare e Curare le Epidemie Narrative: Una Nuova Responsabilità degli Economisti, ***OIKONOMIA***, 19:3 (2020): 36.
22. The Economic Thought of Michael Polanyi (Routledge Studies in the History of Economics), London: **Routledge**, 2019. 21 citations.
23. Plagueonomics and the Rise of Economancers, ***Metascience***, 29 (2019): 159-162.
24. Gazdaságpolitikai Diskurzusok és Politikai Tétjeik: A Közgazdász Polányi Mihály Színre lépése [Discourses of Economic Policy and Their Political Stakes: The Appearance of the Economist Michael Polanyi], ***Polanyiana*** 27:1-2 (2018): 3-21.
25. Changing knowledge in the early economic thought of Michael Polanyi, ***Journal of Evolutionary Economics***. 28:2 (2018): 207-223. 4 citations.
26. Where the pasts and futures of science and technology studies meet, ***Metascience***. 27:1 (2018): 169-172.
27. Projecting the Light of Democracy: Michael Polanyi's Efforts to Save Liberalism via an Economics Film, 1933–48, **PhD disertation**, Budapest University of Technology and Economics (BME, 2017). 9 citations.
28. Vanishing Points of Representation: How They Change and Why (A Review of Representation in Scientific Practice Revisited by Catelijne Coopmans, Janet Vertesi, Michael E. Lynch and Steve Woolgar (eds.)), ***The Berlin Review of Books***, January 2017.
29. A Keynes-Hayek-vita gazdaságpolitikai alapvonalai [The Economic Principles of the Keynes - Hayek Debate] (Review of Keynes Hayek: The Clash that Defined Modern Economics by Nicholas Wapshott), ***Hungarian Science: Journal of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, est. 1840*** 177:3 (2016): 367-370.
30. Phallacies of the Phree Market (Review of Phishing for Phools: The Economics of Manipulation and Deception by George Akerlof and Robert Shiller), ***The Berlin Review of Books***, (2016): 1-2.
31. Az identitás gazdaságpszichológiája vagy a gazdaságpszichológia identitása? [The Economic Psychology of Identity or the Identity of Economic Psychology?] (A Review of 'Why We Need Economic Psychology, Anyway?' by László Garai), ***Közgazdasági Szemle [Economic Review]*** 62:11 (2015): 1217-1221.

32. Ösztönző gondolatok (Stephen J. Dubner - Steven D. Levitt: Agyament gondolkodás) ['Incentive Thoughts' (Review of Think Like a Freak by Stephen J. Dubner and Steven D. Levitt)], **Közgazdasági Szemle [Economic Review]** 62:9 (2015): 990-993.
33. A Review of Dreamscapes of Modernity: Sociotechnical Imaginaries and the Fabrication of Power by Sheila Jasanoff and Sang-Hyun Kim, **The Hong Kong Review of Books**, 2015.
34. Michael Polanyi and the Limits of State Intervention in the Economy: Towards a New Approach to the Keynes-Hayek Debate, **Tradition and Discovery: The Polanyi Society Periodical** 41:3 (October 2014): 42-49.
35. Didactics 2.0: A Pedagogical Analysis of Gamification Theory from a Comparative Perspective with a Special View to the Components of Learning, **Procedia-Social and Behavioral Sciences** 141 (2014): 148-151. 137 citations.
36. Some Notes on The Early Economic Thought of Michael Polanyi, **Polanyiana** 23:1-2 (2014): 53-55.
37. Ready, Study, Share: An Inquiry Into the Didactic Approach of Gamification With a Special View to the Possible Application in Higher Education, **European Scientific Journal** 9:19 (2013): 341-345. 28 citations.
38. Didactics 2.0: A Pedagogical Analysis of Gamification Theory from a Comparative Perspective with a Special View to the Components of Learning, **4th World Conference on Learning, Teaching and Educational Leadership Conference Proceedings** (2013): 148-151.[also published in *Procedia*]
39. Ready, Study, Share: An Inquiry into the Didactic Approach of Gamification with a Special View to the Possible Application in Higher Education, **1st Annual International Interdisciplinary Conference (AIIC 2013), Conference Proceedings** (2013): 341-345.[also published in *European Scientific Journal*]
40. Nemzetközi Gazdasági Integráció a Karib-térségben [International Economic Integration in the Caribbean Area], In *Több Síkon [On Multiple Plains]*, **Corvinus University of Budapest**, (2012): 161-175.
40. A politikai alkotmány története.(Szente Zoltán: Európai alkotmány- és parlamentarizmus-történet, 1945–2005) ['History of the Political Constitution' (Review of A History of European Constitutions and Parliamentarism, 1945-2005 by Zoltán Szente)], **Politikatudományi Szemle [Review of Political Science]** 20:3 (2011): 157-166.[co-authored with Richard Szentpéteri Nagy, 50-50%]
42. Az alkotmányos politika tana (Kukorelli István:Tradíció és modernizáció a magyar alkotmányjogban) ['The Doctrine of Constitutional Policy' (Review of Tradition and Modernisation in Hungarian Constitutional Law by István Kukorelli)], **Politikatudományi Szemle [Review of Political Science]** 20:1 (2011): 145-154.[co-authored with Richard Szentpéteri Nagy, 50-50%]

All the publications and citations are available in the official database of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences: <https://m2.mtmt.hu/gui2/?type=authors&mode=browse&sel=10046805>

## VI.HONORS AND AWARDS

Craufurd Goodwin Best Article in the History of Economics Prize, History of Economics Society	<b>2021</b>
Excellent Researcher Award (junior category), Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences, BUTE (BME)	<b>2020</b>
PhD student of the Year, Department of Philosophy and History of Science, BUTE (BME)	<b>2017</b>
New National Excellence Program (16-3) PhD Research Grant - Ministry of Human Capacities	<b>2016</b>

## VII.REVIEWS

Reviews of my first research monograph, *The Economic Thought of Michael Polanyi* (Routledge, 2019):

"Bíró's work is grounded in the archive, and, in my opinion, paints a fascinating picture of this brilliant scientist/philosopher reacting to the circumstances of his time. In so doing, Biro presents a well written and very deeply researched work on Polanyi's own quest for exact thinking in demented times. I recommend it to all students of society." **Peter J. Boettke, The European Journal of the History of Economic Thought.**

"Bíró certainly succeeds in making clear that there are lots of unexplored connections between economics and the thought of Michael Polanyi. His discussion of Polanyi's film is original and succeeds in moving beyond the realm of what historians of economics typically consider as "their corpus". **Erwin Dekker, Erasmus University Rotterdam, Journal of the History of Economic Thought.**

"Biro's book is thoroughly researched and well worth reading for insights not only into Polanyi's economic ideas, but also into the many facets of economic theory during the 1930's and 1940's." **Mary Jo Nye, Oregon State University, USA, Metascience.**

"Gábor Bíró has told a detailed and less known story about an unorthodox economist and humanist, Michael Polanyi. [It...] is a vivid example of how to put historical excavation in the service of telling grand stories about science and society." **Adam Tamas Tuboly, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, History of European Ideas.**

"As Gábor Bíró (2019) argues clearly in his book, from the 1930s to the 1960s, Michael Polanyi charted a liberal-democratic way forward that differs from both socialism and from laissez faire, minimal state varieties of liberalism or libertarianism." **Geoffrey M. Hodgson, Loughborough University London, Tradition & Discovery: The Polanyi Society Periodical.**

"The great merit of Bíró's book is in his analysis of the epistolary Polanyi—the letters he received and wrote in the 1930s, when he was thinking about the problem of economics, and came to the view that economic education was necessary to create the right kind of social consciousness to serve as the basis of the right kind of interventions." **Stephen Turner, University of South Florida, Tradition & Discovery: The Polanyi Society Periodical.**

"I admired the sweep of Bíró's book, the chutzpah in taking on the entire fate of Western civilization. Commendable also was his use of Polanyi's archive, especially his correspondence, which allowed him to draw into his narrative key public intellectuals, both domestic and emigres, living in interwar and war-time England – George Orwell, Victor Gollancz, Arthur Koestler, Harold Laski, Friedrich von Hayek, John Maynard Keynes, even T. S. Eliot." **Trevor J. Barnes, Contemporary Sociology.**

"This book is a new contribution to Polanyi literature relative to a phase which has not been very much explored and discussed until now." **Eduardo Beira, Tradition & Discovery: The Polanyi Society Periodical.**

"As one who has republished Polanyi's articles on economics, written articles on the subject and edited books containing articles on it, but has been unable to read any of the vast amount of his unpublished work and correspondence about it, I heartily welcome this book which uses those materials to show how his economic thinking developed..." **Richard Allen, Founder of the British Personalist Forum (Appraisal)**

## VIII.FEEDBACK FROM STUDENTS

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**Fall semester, 2020/2021 academic year:**

Subject: history of science: history of economic thought

"He is very interactive professor. Always keeps the lecture interesting."

"The professor of this course is amazing.He was always ready to help,answer all the questions we had...Very interested to listen to us and to know whether we understand the topic or not.I really appreciate all those professors who are motivated to teach and one of them is : Dr. Gabor Istvan Biro."

"A lot of new facts and the life stories of famous people were really interesting. this course is really recommended."

"I enjoyed the course very much, as I gained much knowledge about the economical pioneers of the most known Economical theories and schools. I suggest this course to all other students who are interested in the history and development of the science of the economy."

"Never learned about economics before, so any new information was fascinating. I believe i understand a part of the world better than i have before. Sadly i realised this knowledge seems more valuable in todays world than what my engineering course teaches."

"I enjoyed the way of the lecturer in introducing information, highly recommended."

***Spring semester, 2020/2021 academic year:***

Subject: history of science: history of economic thought

"I recommend every student to take this course in case that economic issues are provoking them."

"The broad areas covered, interesting fun facts, the plus materials e.g. the videos. I've already recommended it as it is an incredible course, my favourite so far."

"I pretty much enjoyed everything from this course since I am always interested in learning something new and indeed I learned a lot from this course."

"I would definitely encourage other students to take the course."

"I really enjoyed the kahoot quizzes, i think it encourage students to be part of the lesson, not just a regular participant."

"I enjoyed class materials the most. Whole materials were given on Moodle and also the teacher was sending an email after each lesson with a short message. It was very useful."

***Fall semester, 2021/2022 academic year:***

Subject: history of science: history of economic thought

"The subject is interesting by itself, you will get acquainted with the views and worldviews of many people of the past centuries."

"I love history and studying history with you was interesting"

"I have learned many philosophical thoughts from known economists. I would like to suggest it"

**IX.SELECTED CONFERENCES**

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Humanity and Nature in Economic Thought: Searching for the Organic Origins of the Economy, Book Symposium, 28-29th January, 2022 *[co-organizer] [contributor]*

Science, Faith and Society conference, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, 21-23th October, 2021. *[co-organizer] [contributor]*

Towards an Organic History of Economic Thought conference, Hungarian Academy of Sciences, 6-7th July, 2020. *[organizer] [editor of conference volume] [contributor]*

Budapest Workshop on Philosophy of Technology, Budapest University of Technology and Economics, 12-13th December, 2019. [*chair*] [*invited speaker*]

Trade, Employment and Public Policy: Polanyi Then and Now workshop, MIT - The Polanyi Society, Boston, 18th November, 2017. [*invited speaker*]

Michael Polanyi's Unemployment and Money - 75 workshop Comments and Questions, BUTE, Dept. of Philosophy and History of Science, 4th September, 2015. [*invited speaker*]

## **X. PEER REVIEWS**

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History of Political Economy, History of European Ideas, Journal of the History of Economic Thought, Journal of Institutional Economics, Cambridge Journal of Economics, Tradition & Discovery: The Polanyi Society Periodical, Polanyiana, Információs társadalom [Information society], Centaurus: An International Journal of the History of Science and its Cultural Aspects.

## **XI. SOFT SKILLS**

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adaptability, active listening, critical thinking, teamwork.

## **XII. TECHNICAL SKILLS**

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ECDL certificate, Prezi, Moodle, Kahoot, web design.