

ABSTRACT SUBMISSION FORM

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ABSTRACT

5. Theme (Choose one of the Themes in the list on the Call for papers.)

Polanyian Thought and the Social Economy (V. Polanyi and the Social Economy)

6. Title

Towards a "philosophy of soil": A critique of industrial civilization in the history of economic thought of the late 20th

7. Abstract

The aim of this paper is to examine the possible significance of Karl Polanyi's economic thought from the perspective of 'economy and ecology' raised by Yoshiro Tamanoi (1918-1985). Polanyi's critique of the market society, especially his idea of the fictitious commodities has given the essential point of view the discussions on the theme of 'economy and ecology' from the early 20th century to the present. Tamanoi's *Economy and Ecology* (1978) was its remarkable case in Japan. As the environmental pollution problems such as Minamata disease had become serious through the 1960s, Tamanoi started to investigate thoroughly the problems on 'economy and ecology' or 'economy of the living system' based on his study on Polanyi's substantive view of human economy as well as Nicholas Georgescu-Roegen's attempt to apply the concept of entropy to economics. Tamanoi al

so tried to relate physical dimensions to cultural ones and to grasp the human economy as the culturally shaped one within a concrete and local eco-system (i.e. the water-soil matrix). In other words, he clearly associated the entropic theory of living-system with Polanyi's economic anthropological view. Tamanoi named his own approach 'regionalism', and later Ivan Illich who was his close friend characterized it as a 'philosophy of soil'. Tamanoi, after his retirement of Tokyo University in 1978, taught at Okinawa International University and committed himself to concrete problems of Okinawa. It was his practice of regionalism as well as of his vision of 'economy and ecology'. By rethinking Tamanoi's works, we will show a theoretical and practical development of Polanyi's economic thought in Japan.