

PROPOSITIONS
attached to the thesis

**THE STRATIFIED EMERGENTIST POLANYIAN PERSPECTIVE:
A RELATIONAL APPROACH FOR THE STUDY OF THE ECONOMY OF THE FAMILY**

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1. Proposition. This thesis contributes to an ontological, conceptual and methodological shift in the social sciences. Being part of such a shift is like “rebuilding the house, foundations, walls, fittings and all, while continuing to live in it” (Polanyi, Arensberg and Pearson, 1957: 242).
2. Proposition. This thesis draws on the realist, emergentist and stratified ontology of Critical Realism in combination with Donati’s relational sociology and this results in a relational perspective that transcends the common transactional approach to relations. The understanding of society here ‘as relation’ is preferable to an understanding of society as an arena for relations or as containing relations (Donati, 2015a: 87).
3. Proposition. Most research on the economy of the family is based upon a flat ontology and is focused only at the empirical level. These works can be classified as built either on methodological individualism or methodological holism, and in both approaches the picture of the human being is impoverished and family relations are too often understood merely as transactions. This thesis contributes to the re-emergence of attention to the human being.
4. Proposition. The approach in this thesis gives meaning to the family as a social form and emergent entity constituted by relations. Relations are themselves emergent entities and part of the same process of the emergence of the social form, the family.
5. Proposition. The approach understands the economy as an instituted process (Polanyi, 1957). Understanding the economy in this way transcends transactional approaches, giving place for an intermingling of forms of integration: reciprocity, redistribution and exchange.
6. Proposition. The emergence of reciprocity is a crucial contribution to the development of a dignity-oriented civil economy.
7. Proposition. The thesis helps us to explain the remarkable diversity of families’ economies. Contrasting realities of Bogotá families are fruitful cases to be illuminated.
8. Proposition. The existing forms of Bogotá lower income families’ integration into the economy and society resolve the short-term needs of the family rather than providing medium and long-term justice.
9. Proposition. In a market-led configuration of the economy, reciprocity is present but subordinated to the binomial market/state. The problem with the market economy as the dominant form of integration is that the social interactions that it generates can result in the persistence and deepening of inequality. Where Bogotá lower and middle income families did not have access to care services through redistribution from the state or through market exchange (in what is possibly the most economically unequal country in the world), the extended family provided care in a relation of reciprocity, supported by and supporting ‘indoor’ bonds of mutuality and solidarity.
10. Proposition. Polanyi’s thoughts and reflections on the freedom of individuals within society can be complemented and expanded by Bhaskar and Archer’s work on freedom and emancipation, where individuals are conditioned but not determined. Contextual conditioning from culture and structure, activated/mediated by the human being, can be heart breaking if it denies our individuality.