

Polanyian Protective Counter-movement: The Case of Organic Producers in Canada

Marc-Antoine Larrivée, University of Guelph

Background

- Polanyian scholars have identified the organic movement as a “counter-movement” to perceived negative effects of agriculture
- However there are many contradictions in the actions of counter-movement participants.

Objective

- To identify if Canadian certified organic producers show a Polanyian reaction to negative economic, social and environmental impacts of agricultural markets.

Results

- Many dimensions of agriculture are identified as problematic
- The organic certification is perceived as reducing some problematic elements of agriculture
- Surveyed organic producers are looking for more governmental interventions on social and environmental dimensions

Discussion

- Policies that directly offer protection and regulate market should be specifically developed to be coherent between the various dimensions of a problematic aspect in agriculture

Obtaining an Organic certification is a protective reaction to the perception of many negative effects of agriculture.

