



## **Notions of Gratuitousness and Self-gift in Leonardo Polo: Implications for Inclusiveness and Cultural Development**

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### **Abstract**

Globalization, technological evolution and forces of change call us out to seek to develop ourselves and our surroundings so that we may respond to the daily challenges associated with living and working in global communities which cross the boundaries of culture, language and nationality. The transcendental anthropology of Spanish philosopher Leonardo Polo proposes four “anthropological transcendentals”, one of which is the human person’s transcendental love (self-gift). Self-giving love refers to the superabundant and effusive love which, thus, gives of itself. Further, Polo believes that culture is *continuatio naturae*—a continuation of nature—, that is, man’s cultivating the world, thus, producing new things and leading to self-renewal. This cultivation is not merely imitating: it entails concern for, taking care of, fostering, nurturing, growing. This paper weaves together a narrative departing from Polo’s conceptions of gratuitousness and self-gift, and tying them to the requirements of an inclusive mindset as well as to notions of cultural development. It is recommended that an *inclusive education* and the spirit of *gratuitousness* further imbue markets and businesses, for the potential that could be unleashed by cultivating *gratuitousness* and *inclusivity* cannot be underestimated. While the concrete applications are limited to pedagogy and management science, the paper aims at a broad conceptual framework that can have implications for other fields as well.

**Keywords:** Culture, Inclusiveness, Gratuitousness, Self-Giving Love, Transcendental Anthropology

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