

ANNUAL REPORT 2018

Photo: Palle Dahlstedt



**Nordic Summer
University**

15-2-2019

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1. Introduction

Founded in 1950, Nordic Summer University (NSU) is an independent, non-profit organization that supports the development of cross-national networks and interdisciplinary research initiatives in the Nordic region. NSU is a unique international forum based on participant-driven, democratic and explorative work that fosters scholarly and cultural conversations in the Nordic-Baltic region and beyond. NSU provides an arena that (a) offers open access to scholarly activities and conversations that transcend institutional hierarchies and geographical borders, (b) strengthens topics with particular relevance for the Nordic and Baltic context, and (c) facilitates research experience for persons from different parts of society, including university scholars and students, artists, independent researchers, and other professionals.

NSU builds on the Nordic values of equality, inclusion, and sustainability. The organization strives to combine two traditions: the continental ideals of learning and cultivation of the self and the Nordic heritage of *folkbildning* and self-organization, with its investments in open-access education and active citizenship. NSU aims for a contemporary understanding of these values by providing infrastructures that further knowledge inquiries, cultural and intellectual exchange, and community building. NSU thus contributes towards the expansion of the understanding of Nordic values in an international context.

2. Overview of Study Circle Symposia

Please see the appendices for detailed descriptions of the winter and summer symposia held by the eight study circles during 2018.

In 2018 NSU organized a total of 19 symposia, 8 of which were Winter Symposia organized individually by the study circles, 8 parallel symposia taking place during the joint Summer Session and 3 ad hoc symposia, that is symposia organized outside the regular study program, for example in preparation for a new study circle. The symposia were organized in collaboration with the institutions and networks listed below:

Universities: University of Agder (NO), Centre for Anthropological, Political and Social Theory (CAPS) at University of Copenhagen (DK), Department of Nordic Studies and Linguistics at University of Copenhagen (DK), European Humanities University (LT), Malmö University (SE), Warsaw University (PL) Institutt for filosofi, ide- og kunsthistorie og klassiske språk at Oslo University (NO), Zirgu Pasts / Latvian Academy of Culture (LV), University West (SE), University of Gothenburg/ Chalmers University (SE), University of Gdansk (PL), Department of Comparative Literature and the Department of Media Studies at the University of Turku (FI).

Other: Mellempøkeligt samvirke (DK), Trampolinhuset (DK), IIPC: International Institute of Popular Culture (FI), Turku City Library (FI), The Polish Psychoanalytic Society (PL).

The symposia took place in the following locations:

Kristiansand (NO), Copenhagen (DK) (4 winter symposiums), Oslo (NO), Riga (LV), Trollhättan (SE), Turku (FI), Gothenburg (SE), Gdansk (PL).

The 8 parallel symposia of the Summer Session were held in Fårö (SE) in July/August 2018.

The winter symposia were attended by a total of 231 participants and 19 coordinators. The 3 ad hoc symposia were attended by a total of 98 participants and 7 coordinators. The Summer Session, comprising of all the 8 study circles, was attended by a total of 126 participants, 18 coordinators, 5 Board members and 5 people responsible for the organisation.

3. Organisation

In this section NSU describes the activities done in the organisational level in 2018. The Board chose to structure this part of the annual report 2018 differently than in the past two years; this was done in order to better reflect the organisational structure of NSU and work done than what was possible with the narrower focus on the 2014 evaluation follow-up. Footnotes have been included to highlight areas where we are addressing a concern that pertains to items in the evaluation.

3.1. General

NSU is conceptualized in a tripartite structure: Networking, research and folkbildning.¹ In 2018, the Board strove to strengthen the awareness of this conception among coordinators and participants, and in the external communication. Through a participant questionnaire, we made an effort to document and make explicit the aspects of networking and folkbildning. The conceptualization was also important in the development of the new publishing strategy, which outlines the publications of NSU in terms of research and folkbildning. See below.

3.2. Study program

In 2018, the NSU study program has consisted of the following study circles:

- 1 Understanding Migration in Nordic and Baltic Countries (2017-2019).
- 2 Appearances of the Political (2016-2018).
- 3 Feminist philosophy: Time, History, and the Transformation of Thought. (2017-2019).
- 4 Narrative and Memory: Ethics, Aesthetics, Politics (2017-2019).
- 5 Patterns of Dysfunction in Contemporary Democracies (2018-2020).
- 6 Critique in the Age of Populism (2018-2020).
- 7 Practicing Communities: Transformative Societal Strategies of Artistic Research (2016-2018).
- 8 Learning and Bildung in Times of Globalisation (2018-2020).

¹ This conceptualization was developed in 2017, based on the new statutes adopted in 2016.

Following a recommendation from the NSU Board the General Assembly 2018 expanded the study program from eight to nine study circles for the year 2019. Thus three new circles were accepted at the General Assembly 2018:

Circle 2: Cybioses: Shaping Human-Technology Futures (2019-2021).

Circle 7: Artistic Research: Performing Heterotopia (2019-2021)

Circle 9: Comics & Society: Research, Art and Cultural Politics (2019-2021)

Scholarly quality of the NSU Study Program

In 2018 the Board continued to implement the criteria for the internal evaluation of existing study circles as well as the assessment of proposals for new study circles and ad hoc events that were developed in 2016 and 2017. Extra efforts went into disseminating the call for new study circle proposals systematically. A full account of the application procedure and assessment of the proposals is included in the 2018 Annual Report as appendix 4.4.

The Board received seven proposals.² Out of the seven proposals received, three came from already existing or previous networks in NSU. Four proposals were submitted by networks with no prior participation in NSU. To NSU this indicates that our strategies to disseminate information about the organization are successful; in particular the four applications by external networks should be emphasized as an important achievement.

Two circle applications had received funding to organize ad hoc symposia during the spring of 2018, one with previous representation in NSU and one external. To the Board, this indicates that information about our ad hoc program is available and attractive to scholars within and without NSU; the fact that both ad hoc networks proceeded to submit applications to start three year circles suggests that the networks are satisfied with the structure NSU provides.

All proposals were sent to at least one peer reviewer respectively, which were selected based on their expertise in the field and their knowledge of NSU.³ Their reports were sent to the coordinators of the prospective circles in April. Deadline to submit revised proposals was June 4. The Board's recommendation for study program in 2019 was discussed and decided on during a Skype meeting 22 July 2018.

In assessing the quality of the proposals, the Board applied the following criteria:

² A) Artistic Research: Performing Heterotopia, B) Health in the Baltics: Medical Anthropology and Sociology Network C) Psychoanalysis in Our Time: The Unconscious and the Everyday D) Multilingual Literatures around the Baltic Sea E) Comics and Society: Research, Art and Cultural Politics F) Critical Social Work G) Cybioses: Shaping human-technology futures.

³ Proposals A, C, F, G had one peer review respectively; proposal D received two peer reviews; proposals B and E received three peer reviews each. The number of peer reviews is not related to the Board's estimation of the proposals, but to the availability of qualified peer reviewers.

a) Nordic and Baltic plurality is a minimum requirement based on the rules of the Nordic Council of Ministers; in order to be eligible to become a study circle, the proposal has to have attracted interest from participants representing at least three Nordic and/or Baltic countries.

b) Scholarly quality is the most important qualitative criterion, where the peer reviewers' reports are the main source for the Board's assessment. The extent to which the suggestions by the reviewers had been incorporated in the revised proposals was also taken into account.

c) External relations is qualitative criterion where the Board encourages the circles to establish relations to external collaborating partners, such as academic or cultural institutions, research groups, funding bodies or publishing houses. Although not a requirement, it is considered an asset when a prospective circle can show evidence of such connections already in the planning phase.

d) Form of activity encourages circles to take creative approaches to planned modes of working and forms of activity.

e) Renewal of existing networks means that if an already existing circle or former circle submits a proposal, it is deemed desirable that the new proposal demonstrates a re-orientation in the work of the circle so that it is a new project, rather than a mere continuation.

f) Theme and content relates to factors like relevance to the Nordic-Baltic regional context and the composition of the NSU study program as a whole. For example, the Board would not recommend a circle whose topic is close to an already existing circle.

These criteria have guided the Board in the work with the received proposals for new study circles and the preparation of the Board's proposal for study program for 2019, including the written recommendations to each proposal.

3.3. Communications

Communication platforms

NSU operates two websites, the main website (<http://nordic.university>), and the support-site (<http://support.nsuweb.org>) with guides and templates for internal use for NSU functionaries. NSU sends out five newsletters every year through our mailing list of approximately 150

people, announcing calls, programs and information from the Board.⁴ NSU has a centrally administered Facebook page, and some circles operate their own Facebook pages and groups.

On an internal level, NSU was working to make the communication more efficient and transparent, and a new working tool Trello was introduced to the internal communication of the Board in the autumn 2018.

From 2016, the task of keeping the content and structure of the website up to date was left to the Board. In 2018, the Board made an open call for the web editor tasks and selected board member Kristian Guttesen to work as the web editor, for which he was compensated an honorarium of 10 000 SEK.

During 2018, the web editor assumed regular and recurring tasks, maintaining both websites and updating content. This included work through the web content management system, front end programming, editing and updating information about coordinators and board members on an Structured Query Language (SQL) database platform, communicating with the NSU web officer, and preparing and managing flow of information, before, during, and after the 2018 General Assembly. Additionally, the web editor worked on gathering and making accessible various content about the history of the organisation. This included both newsletters from previous Summer Sessions and information about the Summer Sessions. Thus, in December 2018, the full history of NSU as an organization was made available to scholars and the public for the first time. The web editor continued to develop the nordic.university homepage, as well as the internal support page support.nsuweb.org. This consisted in both updating the content of and assisting the circle coordinators with their circle page on the main website. To further assist the circle coordinators, a FAQ page was put up on the support page. The goal is henceforth to add to this page answers to questions that keep coming up. In the beginning of 2019, NSU will be recruiting a new web editor.

Participant Survey Questionnaire

In 2018 NSU started a new tradition of asking participants to fill out a questionnaire to gain more insight into the background of the participants as well as their experiences during the NSU activities. This was introduced during the 2018 Summer Session. Participants in the Summer Session apply for one circle, but have the opportunity to visit all circles during the week.

Out of the 126 participants, 54 questionnaires were returned. This number is low due to the way it was distributed (on paper) and some got lost in the mail. In 2019 the aim is to collect the results online to get an even higher response rate.

⁴ As of 25 May 2018, the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) came into effect. At that point, anyone wishing to continue to receive the NSU newsletter was required to renew their subscription. Currently 150 people have opted to subscribe to the newsletter, in comparison the previous number of 2000. NSU will strive to increase the number of subscribers in 2019.

Questions included how long they had been involved with NSU (ranging from 16 years (1 participant) to being new to NSU (28 out of 54)). The average of the respondents was being involved with NSU for three years. Most knew about NSU through colleagues (26) and the call for papers (12). As NSU tries to foster an interdisciplinary environment, participants are encouraged to visit the programs organised by the different study circles. From the questionnaire we saw that most visited one circle beside their own for which they had registered, with some visiting as much as three other programs. It was also asked how many languages people spoke, with an average of 3.7 we can conclude we had a very international and intercultural mix of people attending, with a low of speaking only 1 language (1 participant) and a high of eight languages (1 participant).

Another area of the questionnaire concerned the outcomes of the study circle program. Most noted the value of networking and friendship and new collaboration partners for exchanges and collaborative projects like exhibitions, teaching projects, writing projects, workshops and research proposals.

3.4. Networking, participation and outreach

Participation in the NSU networks⁵

A central aim of the NSU activities in 2018 was to ensure broad participation with regard to geography, generation, professional status, socioeconomic conditions and gender. One strategy for achieving this was via travel and participation fee subsidies, to enable those who would otherwise not have been able to participate to do so. Following requests by coordinators the Board 2017 decided to increase the winter symposium grant with 10.000 SEK per circle in 2018, to be used exclusively for travel support for those in need of it. All of the 8 circles used the 10 000 SEK for this purpose.

Similarly, the number of scholarships and grants given for participation in the Summer session was increased. In 2018 the number of grants (offered/accepted) was 21/21 and the number of scholarships (offered/accepted) was 21/18.

In addition to this, NSU maintained a scholarship and grant program targeted especially towards West-Nordic and Baltic participants and their travel. This program is supporting the aim of ensuring the wide Nordic and Baltic participation in the activities. In 2018 NSU received one student from Greenland and two from the Baltics participating in the Summer Session in Fårö.

⁵ Towards the aim of “Ensuring Nordic and Baltic participation” and “Outreach to peripheral areas in the Nordic region”.

Outreach and increasing visibility⁶

In 2017 the Board announced an open call for outreach projects, with a possibility of giving grants to groups or individuals within the organisation who want to present and promote the NSU as an organisation in a concrete institutional setting or at a conference. One such project took place in 2018, where NSU was presented at the Université Laval during the TransCultural Exchange Conference in Québec City February 22-24, 2018.

A presentation about NSU was held in a segment of the conference designed to inform international artists and academics about potential research activities and opportunities that may be new to them. The aim of the presentation was to draw new participants, presenters, and future circle proposals to the NSU. TransCultural Exchange acknowledged NSU on their website and also in the conference brochure.

Outreach events and meetings are organized in connection to the Board meetings and also in other suitable occasions where NSU is invited. Such efforts include both open meetings at universities and meetings with individual researchers and institutions. In 2018 Latvian Dance Information Center invited Annemari Autere and NSU's chair Disa Kamula to discuss dance and artistic research and the Nordic Summer University's activities to Riga. The Latvian National TV's Culture News interviewed the organizer Inta Balode, Annemari Autere and Disa Kamula on 26th of March 2018. Nordic Council of Ministers' Latvian office was hosting the event. The link to the news is here:

<https://www.facebook.com/simtsgramikulturas/videos/1313373528764027/UzpfSTMyNzM3NzUwMDYwOTc3NDoyMDgyNjQwMTk4NDE2ODIw/>

Thursday 2 August 2018, during the Summer session in Fårö, vice chair Johanna Sjöstedt was interviewed for 10 minutes on Swedish Radio about the activities of NSU on the show Morgon, Radio Gotland P4.

3.5. Publishing strategy⁷

The Board and the circle coordinators agreed on a publishing strategy on October 15, 2018. The publishing strategy was shared with the Nordic Council of Ministers in the Activity plan for 2019. The purpose of the publishing strategy is to define the publishing activities of NSU as an organization, while taking into account the great diversity in the study circles of NSU. Some options that will be investigated are a deeper collaboration with Aarhus University Press, who currently distribute the books of NSU Press, and a funding program to support circles that choose to publish with external publishers, to be used for copyright, translation, language review, and printing fees.

NSU related publications 2018

⁶ Towards the aim of "Increasing visibility".

⁷ Towards the aim of 'Developing NSU publishing activities'.

- *Psychoanalysis and Femininity* (eds.) Agnieszka Piotrowska and Ben Tyrer, London: Routledge 2018.
- Hanna Meretoja: *The Ethics of Storytelling: Narrative Hermeneutics, History, and the Possible* Oxford University Press, 2018.
- *Storytelling and Ethics: Literature, Visual Arts and the Power of Narrative*, (eds.) Hanna Meretoja & Colin Davis, Routledge, 2018.
- Colin Davis: *Traces of War: Interpreting Ethics and Trauma in Twentieth-Century French Writing* Liverpool University Press, 2018.
- *Being There: Exploring the local through artistic research* (eds.) Luisa Greenfield, Myna Trustram and Eduardo Abrantes. Aarhus: NSU Press 2017. The book was presented during the Summer Session 2018.
- Sjöstedt, Johanna, "Kritiken mot kritiken - Att utgå från det vardagliga", *Respons* vol. 7 nr 6, pp 40-43.

Ongoing NSU related publishing projects

- Hanna Meretoja and Colin Davis are editing *The Routledge Companion to Literature and Trauma*, to which several of the members of circle 4 contribute. The book is due to be published in 2020.
- Circles 2, 'Appearances of the Political', are planning to publish a special issue on Appearances of the Political in the online journal *Popular Inquiry* (<https://www.popularinquiry.com/>) in 2019.
- Circle 3, 'Feminist Philosophy' is planning an anthology based on the work of the circle in collaboration with Södertörn University in Sweden, host of the circle's winter symposium in 2019.
- Circle 4, 'Narrative and Memory', has proposed a special issue after their winter symposium for the leading journal in the field *Memory Studies*. A collective volume is planned after the third winter symposium in 2019 to be published at one of the top presses.
- Circle 7, 'Artistic Research', will publish an anthology by 2020 titled 'Functions, fissures and failures - Strategies of Artistic Research' with Lamb Publications, edited by Lucy Lyons, Ami Skånberg Dahlstedt, Catherine Dormor & Joanna Sperryn Jones.
- Circle 6, 'Critique in the Age of Populism', decided to work together with Lund university to plan a winter symposium, which will result in a planned publication in *Ideas in History* 2019.

Archive

Over many years, NSU accumulated archival material that was stored at Aarhus University library and the Danish National Library in Aarhus. Following a contract with the Danish National Archive signed in late 2017, in 2018 the archive was moved to the Danish National Archive in Copenhagen, who organized the material and made it accessible. The project was completed 22 January 2019. Together with the material already stored at the archive, this means that a large portion of the history of NSU is now publicly available. The final report from the archive is included as an appendix 4.5. in the annual report.

NSU also held a meeting with Danish national archive representative Jacob Halvas Bjerre to discuss how to archive the digital and physical material that is currently being produced by the circles and the Board, in order to secure the legacy of NSU for the future. The archive wishes to have copies of the google drive platform that the Board operates, all email correspondence, classified into different categories, in addition to all formal documents produced by the organization. The material should be submitted to the Archive every five years. Based on this meeting, the Board will develop and implement structures that correspond to the recommendations from the archive in 2019.

3.6. Economy

External funding⁸

During 2018, working toward increasing the amount of external funding for NSU was a priority of the Board. The Board began the work by identifying which activities would be suitable for external funding. Different strategies were considered as NSU was looking into possibilities for finding external funding on the levels of a) individual participants, b) thematic three year study circle projects and the coordinators, c) the overall organisation on the local national level by the arrangement committee of the Summer Session, and d) overall organisational applications on the international level by the Board. The Board began the work for evidencing the accountable documentation for the external funding during 2018. Based on the aforementioned work of the Board, a strategy plan for evidencing and increasing the extent of external contributions was formulated and implemented over the course of the year 2018, and was subsequently included in the activity plan 2019.

NSU identified a need to develop the fundraising know-how of the organisation, and in 2018 the Board was first gathering resources (information, contacts) through the NSU network. In 2018, the Board was unable to secure the services of an external funding advisor, but began the fundraising on the organisational level for the upcoming 70th Anniversary of NSU in 2020. The Board was able to make a successful application for “The Nordics” call, thus securing the funding for the project “*Tracing the spirit of the Nordic Summer University from 1950 to the present and the future*” in 2019 and 2020. The grant amounts to 250 000 DKK.

The need for the circles to identify and make use of opportunities for external funding themselves was communicated to the coordinators in 2018. Four circles and one ad hoc were successful in raising external funding for their winter symposia and two of the circles raised external funding for their summer symposia during 2018. Six of the circles and two ad hoc projects were also supported with venues by an external collaborator. The Board looked into how to provide all the coordinators resources to support them in reaching this goal. This is an ongoing dialogue with the coordinators and the Board, and was discussed in the coordinator meetings during 2018. Finding external funding is encouraged, but it is not a criteria for a circle to be included in the NSU study program.

⁸ Towards the aim of “Evidencing and increasing the extent of external contributions”.

One track of the strategy plan is to provide the circles with resources that would support them in acquiring external funding. These resources were not available for NSU in 2018. In 2018 the Board did not find external funding for the recurring expenses such as those for the keynote speakers of the Summer Session or external support for the participation of students and others with limited means. For 2018, the aim was to raise external funding also for the Summer Session. This task was unsuccessful.

In-kind contribution⁹

The major resource that makes the activities of NSU possible, is the large amount of voluntary work by the individuals involved in the organising and managing of NSU activities. In 2018, NSU included the in-kind contribution in its budget and report.

In addition to maintaining the renewed in-kind contribution documentation procedure for the work of Board, coordinators and editors, which were implemented by NSU already in the Annual Report 2017, the Board was working on improving documentation procedures for material contributions, like the venues of the symposia.

For example, seminar spaces housing winter symposia, staff and rental fees that are often paid for/waived by collaborating partners. These are important contributions that NSU wants to make visible. The Board began the process of evidencing and documenting these material contributions and in collaboration with the accountant and auditors, has worked on creating a standardized template for this purpose in 2018, with the aim of making the material contributions visible in the 2019 financial report.

Universities that provided venues as in-kind contribution for NSU in 2018 were: University of Agder (NO), Centre for Anthropological, Political and Social Theory (CAPS) at University of Copenhagen (DK), Department of Nordic Studies and Linguistics at University of Copenhagen (DK), European Humanities University (LT), Malmö University (SE), Warsaw University (PL) Institutt for filosofi, ide- og kunsthistorie og klassiske språk at Oslo University (NO), Zirgu Pasts / Latvian Academy of Culture (LV), University West (SE), University of Gothenburg/ Chalmers University (SE), University of Gdansk (PL), Department of Comparative Literature and the Department of Media Studies at the University of Turku (FI).

Other institutions that provided venues as in-kind contribution for NSU in 2018 were: Mellempøkkelig samvirke (DK), Trampolinhuset (DK), IIPC: International Institute of Popular Culture (FI), Turku City Library (FI), The Polish Psychoanalytic Society (PL).

Accounting services

NSU has made an agreement with its accounting services provider FNF to assist NSU in doing a quarterly cash flow analysis, to maintain an overview of the financial liquidity

⁹ Towards the aim of “Evidencing and increasing the extent of external contributions”.

situation. NSU also requested some assistance to produce financial forecasts quarterly, in order to prevent unnecessary deviations from the budget in the future. An additional cost of 15.000 SEK for these tasks was added to the contract sum for 2018.

Legal organisational status

The change of legal organisational status from Swedish to Danish, which has been recommended by our auditors, was accepted by the General Assembly in 2018 and was effectuated from 1.1.2019. In 2018 NSU made an agreement with our accounting services provider FNF, to take the necessary measures with regard to changes in accounting procedures. An additional cost of 10.000 SEK was added to the contract sum for 2018.

3.7 The Board

In the beginning of the year 2018 the members of the NSU Board were Disa Kamula (*Finland*) Chair, board member representing Finland, Johanna Sjöstedt (*Sweden*) Vice-Chair and Secretary, board member representing Sweden, Kristian Guttesen (*Denmark*) board member representing West Nordic Region and Denmark, Eret Talviste (*Estonia*) board member representing the Baltic States, and Ben Tyrer (*United Kingdom*) board member representing the International participants.

Due to the stepping down of one of the board members (Ben Tyrer, the International board member) after the Summer Session in September 2018, the Board decided during the September Board Meeting that the incoming 2019 International board member Nicole des Bouvrie would be asked to take his place. This was decided in order to insure the continuation of the work of the Board, and to allow for pressing matters to be resolved by a Board at full capacity.

4 Appendices

Appendix 4.1. Winter symposia self-evaluations

Study Circle 1 | Understanding Migration in the Nordic and Baltic countries

Winter Symposium

Dates | February 2-4, 2018

Place | Copenhagen, Denmark

Local partner | University of Copenhagen

Theme | Representing migration

The symposium will address contemporary migration through the lens of representation. Representations of migration—from scholarly and journalistic accounts, to films and photography, to official discourses emerging from policy makers and institutions—serve in various ways capture, contextualize, interpret, and define migration, and the people involved. At different levels of scale, the concept of representation encompasses not only the tangible products of these efforts, but also the practices and processes involved.

Statistics:

- Number of Participants: 24 (6 men, 18 women, 0 other)
- Number of Countries: 11 (Denmark, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Estonia, Lithuania, Poland, Italy, Germany, UK, France)
- Number of newcomers: 18 (18 new to Circle, 14 new to NSU)

Public Dissemination: <http://nordic.university/study-circles/1-understanding-migration-in-nordic-and-baltic-countries/winter-symposium-2018-copenhagen-denmark/>

Outcomes: Established contacts and made plans for future sessions.

Program: <http://nordic.university/study-circles/1-understanding-migration-in-nordic-and-baltic-countries/2591-2/>

Coordinators of the Study Circle:

Bremen Donovan, University of Virginia, bremen.donovan@gmail.com

Stéphanie Barillé, University of Iceland, stbarille@gmail.com

Concluding Remarks:

We had a great diversity of participants, both geographically and thematically, and most Nordic and Baltic countries were represented. The discussions evolved both around ‘traditional’ research and visual research and we intend to carry on this path which we found very appropriate.

For more information about this Study Circle see:

<http://nordic.university/study-circles/1-understanding-migration-in-nordic-and-baltic-countries/>

Study Circle 2 | Appearances of the Political

Winter Symposium

Dates | 2–4 February, 2018

Place | University of Copenhagen/Copenhagen, Denmark

Local partner | University of Copenhagen

Theme | Political Art and the Aesthetics of Everyday

Those in power, whether in the recognized forms of established institutions and regime interests, or more oblique manifestations of structural inequality, have always had an alliance with art, defining and supporting art as an official appearance of the ruling ideology. This is no less the case today; the powers simply have transposed, from kings to consensual ideologies in the representative democracies. At the same time, a whole margin of contemporary art considers itself actively activist, insisting on arts ability to impact both politics and the art world. Last summer we convened to speak about activism as such. This winter, we would like to continue those investigations by looking specifically at the political arts. What are the tactics of political arts? What notion of politics is active in such an approach and what are its limitations? Does the move towards social practice art on the one hand and everyday aesthetics on the other, share a horizon of politics?

The circle would very much like to encourage artists, artistic researchers, and those with experimental work to join the already cross-scientific work of the circle, so that we may engender new, alternative ways of looking at the subject.

Statistics:

- Number of Participants: 24 (7 men, 17 women)
- Number of Countries: 10 (Finland, Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Poland, France, Italy, Portugal, USA, UK)
- Number of newcomers: 16 (16 new to Circle, 16 new to NSU)

Public Dissemination: The Symposium was advertised on the Circle's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/915094715217628/> and the NSU webpage.

Outcomes:

Other activities are planned outside the NSU framework for summer 2019 in Latvia.

External Funding:

In kind funding: the University of Copenhagen provided rooms/space for activities.

Program:

<http://nordic.university/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Circle-2-Programme-14.01.pdf>

Coordinators of the Study Circle:

Laine Kristberga, Latvian Art Academy, laine.krista@gmail.com

Raine Vasquez, University of Helsinki, raine.vasquez@gmail.com

Concluding Remarks:

The Circle has sadly come to the end of its three year cycle at NSU and does not wish to continue under the current title and thematic bloc. However, it is known that some participants of the Circle will propose a new circle and some of the participants will continue

to organise symposiums outside the NSU. The Circle has attracted Baltic participants (2 at the moment).

For more information about this Study Circle see:

<http://nordic.university/study-circles/2-appearances-of-the-political/>

Study Circle 3 | Feminist Philosophy: Time, History and the Transformation of Thought

Winter Symposium

Dates | 8-10 March 2018

Place | Oslo, Norway

Local partner | Department of Philosophy, Classics, History of Art and Ideas, Oslo University.

Theme | Rethinking Public Space

Public space is under rapid transformation today. Material, political, and historical developments as well as conceptual reconfigurations work together to profoundly affect what public space is and how we conceive of it. The question of the meaning of public space surfaces for example in relation to recent protests in Stockholm by paperless migrants and the increasing right wing populist activity throughout Europe, both online and on the streets. Recent verdicts in the EU court of justice regarding the wearing of the veil in the work place reveal the need for critical research on the notion of public space in connection to categories such as gender and religion. The #metoo campaign, where social media is used to speak out about experiences of sexual abuse and harassment, calls attention to questions of gender, sexuality, and digital public space. Drawing on the rich tradition of feminist philosophy and other critical bodies of knowledge, this symposium aims to provide a space for multifaceted discussions of notions of the public in historical and contemporary perspectives. How should the changing material and conceptual conditions and their implications for feminist theory be formulated? What can feminists contribute to the project of rethinking public space, the political and the common? What do categories such as gender, sexuality, and race have to do with public space, historically and today? How can historical examples unsettle current understandings of what public space is?

Invited Keynote Speakers:

PhD Line Cecilie Engh, Senior lecturer, Department of Philosophy, Classics, History of Art and Ideas, UiO.

Professor Jorunn Økland, Norwegian Institute in Athens.

Docent Cecilia Rosengren, Head of Department, Department of Literature, History of Ideas, Religion, University of Gothenburg.

Statistics:

- Number of Participants: 28 (3 men, 25 women)
- Number of Countries: 9 (Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Brazil, Israel, Ukraine, USA)
- Number of newcomers: 18 (18 new to Circle, 18 new to NSU)

Public Dissemination:

Information about the symposium was distributed on the Oslo University website:

<http://www.uio.no/studier/program/europeisk-kultur-master/beskjeder/velkommen-til-konferanse-cfp-rethinking-.html>

<http://www.uio.no/studier/program/europeisk-kultur-master/beskjeder/cfp-rethinking-public-space.pdf>

<https://www.uio.no/studier/program/europeisk-kultur-master/beskjeder/feminist-philosophy--rethinking-public-space-symposium-oslo-18.pdf>

Information was also disseminated on the circle website (see below) and in the Facebook group of the circle, which currently has 300 members:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1056103344402285/>

Outcomes: The organization of the symposium in Oslo made it possible to establish contact with Norwegian institutions and to recruit new members from Norway, which has previously proven difficult through email only. As a result, several Norwegian participants have signed up for the Summer Session, including Tine Antonsson, Associate Professor at the The Arctic University of Norway and Chair of their feminist philosophy research group.

External Funding: Our local partner Department of Philosophy, Classics, History of Art and Ideas, Oslo University, provided us with rooms for the conference. They also paid for the trip and the hotel for keynote speaker Professor Jorunn Økland, Norwegian Institute in Athens.

Program: <https://www.uio.no/studier/program/europeisk-kultur-master/beskjeder/feminist-philosophy--rethinking-public-space-symposium-oslo-18.pdf> The program is also available in the archive on our website:

<http://nordic.university/study-circles/3-feminist-philosophy-time-history-transformation-though-t/>

Coordinators of the Study Circle:

Synne Myrebøe, PhD candidate Department of historical, philosophical and religious studies, Umeå University, Sweden. synne.myreboe@umu.se

Valgerður Pálmadóttir, Department of historical, philosophical and religious studies at Umeå University, Sweden. valgerdur.palmadottir@umu.se

Johanna Sjöstedt, Department of literature, history of ideas and religious studies, University of Gothenburg, Sweden. johanna.sjostedt@gmail.com

Concluding Remarks:

2018 is the second year of the network's three-year cycle. Over the first three conferences, more than 120 people from the Nordic and Baltic countries, other European countries, Asia and North and South America have attended. Our events are popular and attract a lot of prospective participants. Among those who do participate, many express explicitly that our interdisciplinary platform at the intersections of philosophy, the history of ideas, and feminist theory is an important initiative in general and important for them personally.

The circle is planning an anthology based on the work of the circle in collaboration with Södertörn University in Sweden, host of the circle's winter symposium in 2019.

For more information about this Study Circle see:

Study Circle 4 | Narrative and Memory: Ethics, Aesthetics, Politics

Winter Symposium

Dates | 17-19 March 2018

Place | University of Agder, Kristiansand, Norway

Local partner | University of Agder

Theme | Fiction and Facts in Narratives of Political Conflict

Narratives in literature, audiovisual arts, social media and oral testimonies addressing historical events call for a critical reflection on the relationship between fiction and facts. When related to real experiences of political conflicts such as war, terror, ethnic cleansing, and imperialistic violence, narratives are frequently constructed by means of artistic conventions and patterns on the one hand, and by discourses and images associated with documentary genres on the other. The combination of these two kinds of representation demands readings that are sensitive both to their claims of being true, real and trustworthy, and to their fictional and imaginative qualities. The symposium addressed the fiction-fact dichotomy in narratives of various kinds that deal with twentieth-century European conflicts and political atrocities.

Invited Keynote Speakers: Alison Langsberg, George Mason University, USA
Timotheus Vermeulen, University of Oslo, Norway

Statistics:

- Number of Participants: 40 (13 men, 27 women)
- Number of Countries: 12 (Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Estonia, Lithuania, UK, USA, Czech Republic, New Zealand, Brazil, China)
- Number of newcomers: 25 (25 new to Circle, 25 new to NSU)

Public Dissemination: <https://narrativeandmemory.com/winter-symposium-2018/>

External Funding: University of Agder

Program: <https://narrativeandmemory.com/winter-symposium-2018/>

Coordinators of the Study Circle:

Eneken Laanes, Tallinn University, elaanes@tlu.ee

Hanna Meretoja, University of Turku, hailme@utu.fi

Concluding Remarks:

It was a very successful symposium. The circle has proposed a special issue for the leading journal in the field Memory Studies. A collective volume is planned after the third winter symposium in 2019 to be published at one of the top presses. The circle would like to continue its fruitful work. Individual members of the network have recently published various monographs based on the research done in the framework of the circle.

For more information about this Study Circle see:

<https://narrativeandmemory.com>

Study Circle 5 | Patterns of Dysfunction in Contemporary Democracies

Winter Symposium

Dates | 2–4 February 2018

Place | Copenhagen University/Copenhagen, Denmark

Local partners | Department of Nordic Studies and Linguistics, Mellemfølkeligt Samvirke

Other partners | European Humanities University, Wrocław University

Theme | Populism and Democracy

The reason for populist movements are many and we have probably not understood these movements properly yet. Reasons vary from country to country, but there seems to be some standards such as hostility to globalization and distrust of the so-called establishment. There is a strong wish to be heard, that one's vote count, and a feeling that they have been forgotten. In many countries populism has been fuelled by fear of immigration and social instability. It is often seen as a challenge to representative democracy. This was clearly illustrated by the Brexit referendum, where a parliamentary majority to remain was defeated by a popular vote to leave. Lately populism has surged as a consequence of the migration crisis. Elections in Austria and Germany have given very high scores to populist anti-immigration parties. Support for these parties is also high in Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Holland and France. What are the ideological suppositions of these parties? How should we understand them? It is puzzling that Mecklenburg-Schwerin, which receives so few refugees and experience an economic upturn (though still one of the poorer parts of Germany), is so anti-immigration? Are the Media responsible or should we look for some other reason?

Invited Keynote Speakers: Yves Charles Zarka, Paris University 5 Descartes, Professor.

Statistics:

- Number of Participants: 24 (15 men, 9 women, 0 other)
- Number of Countries: 10 (Sweden, Denmark, Lithuania, France, Poland, United Kingdom, Slovenia, Ukraine, Belarus, The Philippines)
- Number of newcomers: 3 (3 new to Circle, 2 new to NSU)

Public Dissemination: NSU website, Facebook, Email list

Outcomes: We had a side-event about the Muslim community in Copenhagen organised by Lars Erslev Andersen (DIIS):

<http://nordic.university/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Guided-tour-to-Muslim-Copenhagen.pdf>

– Through Circle 5, NSU is an official partner to the 5TH INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON LAW AND IDEOLOGY – VILNIUS 2018:

<http://clest.pl/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/5th-Law-and-ideology-workshop-2018-Vilnius.pdf>

External Funding: Local partners provided rooms for activities.

Program:

<http://nordic.university/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Patterns-of-Dysfunction-in-Contemporary-Democracies-Program-Winter-2018.pdf>

Coordinators of the Study Circle:

Oleg Bresky, European Humanities University, oleg.bresky@ehu.lt

Mogens Chrom Jacobsen, chrom.jacobsen@gmail.com

Concluding Remarks: We plan to have the next winter session in Saint Petersburg in collaboration with Saint Petersburg State University and the Gagarin Institute for Human Rights. The event will be co-funded by our partner.

For more information about this Study Circle see:

<http://nordic.university/study-circles/patterns-of-dysfunction-in-contemporary-democracies-im-pact-on-human-rights-and-governance/>

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/groups/1872868496063628/?ref=group_header

Study Circle 6 | Critique in the age of Populism**Winter Symposium**

Dates | 23–25 January, 2018

Place | Copenhagen, Denmark

Local partner | Centre for Anthropological, Political and Social Theory (CAPS), Uni. Copenhagen

Theme | Contemporary problems and possibilities of social critique

Contemporary social development, such as strong populist movements gaining power, the discredit of science in the public sphere, paired with a shift towards technological rather than ideological solutions, have created a situation in which societal critique needs to re-invent itself in order to be effective. The symposium aimed at making multi-disciplinary descriptions of problems and possibilities of social critique within different political areas. Furthermore, we discussed if there is anything that could be learnt from populist movements.

Invited Keynote Speakers [if applicable]: Martin Sarr, Institut für Politikwissenschaft, University of Leipzig. Axel Andersson, Kritiklabbet. Miriam Rasch, Institute of Network Cultures, Amsterdam University of Applied Sciences.

Statistics:

- Number of Participants: 24 (19 men, 5 women, 0 other)
- Number of Countries: 6 (Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Netherlands, Germany, Latvia)
- Number of newcomers: 14 (14 new to Circle, 12 new to NSU)

Public Dissemination: The study circle facebook group, as well as the calender of the University of Copenhagen, Centre for Anthropological, Political and Social Theory.

Outcomes: The meeting was the first meeting of the study circle, and a plan was established for the continuation of the study circle. Some of the members will take part in a cooperation with the Institute of Network Cultures, in a new project called The art of Criticism: a European Network for Experiments in Art Criticism.

External Funding: Centre for Anthropological, Political and Social Research, provided funding in kind of lecture rooms, as well as monetary funding by paying for accommodation and travelling for Martin Sarr, as well as coffee and lunch for all participants.

Coordinators of the Study Circle:

Peter Aagard, Roskilde University, peteraa@ruc.dk

Karolina Enquist Källgren, University of Gothenburg, karolina.enquist.kallgren@lir.gu.se

Anders Ramsay, Mid Sweden University, anders.ramsay@miun.se

Concluding Remarks: The network around the study circle 6 is pivotal for the internationalisation of national critical theory in the Nordic countries, as well as for having base to reach out to other nationalities. We hope to be able to enlarge our activities by tying into similar groups in Netherlands, as well as Italy. Tying researchers together on a larger international scale is very difficult to do, unless there is an already existing platform in the Nordic countries. The circle also plays an important role in tying together people working with critique within different disciplines in the Nordic countries. The study circle will want to continue, and are planning for future joint publications.

For more information about this Study Circle see:

<http://nordic.university/study-circles/6-critique-age-populism/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/326750707684775/>

Study Circle 7 | Practicing Communities: Transformative societal strategies of artistic research

Winter Symposium

Dates | 02–04 March, 2018

Place |Latvian Academy of Culture/Riga, Latvia

Local partner | Latvian Academy of Culture

Theme | reActivate and reVisit

Things we have considered and examined:

- issues of restoring (something) to a state of activity; bringing back into action
- considering what it means to come back to or visit again
- exploring a situation or problem again or from a different perspective
- what strategies and practice/research can we develop from reactivating & revisiting?
- how do notions of returning and reactivating affect and form distinct ways of knowing between artists, and non-artists, and artists and environments?
- what tools and methods can we develop to chronicle and critique these?

For the second year we offered the opportunity for a participant to stay on for a one week residency following the symposium, from 4–18 March.

Invited Keynote Speakers: Zane Kreicberga, Latvian Academy of Lecturer and researcher in theory and practice of contemporary theatre

Statistics:

- Number of Participants: 48 (7 men, 41 women, 0 other)

- Number of Countries: 12 (Latvia 5, Iceland 6, Sweden 6, Denmark 3, UK 15, Finland 3, Lithuania 1, Germany 3, USA 2, Norway 1, France 2, Ireland 1)
- Number of newcomers: 18 (1 new to Circle, 18 new to NSU)

Public Dissemination: Advertised on Facebook on Artistic Research group page, other circle group pages, twitter word of mouth and email lists. Latvian Academy of Culture also used their lists to promote the event.

Outcomes: Lucy Lyons and Ami Skånberg Dahlstedt and other participants from Circle 7 became members of LAUKKU – a nonforprofit organization that promotes contemporary art in rural and peripheral areas, building artistic alternatives through challenging urban lifestyles in big cities and centers. Several participants took part in the Society for Artistic Research Conference in Plymouth University in April. Several participants took part in Social Making: Socially Engaged Practice Now and Next conference at Plymouth college of art in May. Jo Neil exhibited at You and I are discontinuous beings at International Project Space in Birmingham School of Art. Joanna Sperry Jones organised Self Scapes an international symposium. Maj Horn was involved in a network meeting Dealing with changing political landscapes. Nathalie Fari is organising a Body Mapping symposium workshop. Lee Smillie was invited to exhibit his photographs in USA and at Prisim gallery Blackburn. Marina Valez Vago organised Displacements virtual conference. Inta Balode organised the Riga Performance festival. Students in Lucy Lyons' and Ami Skånberg Dahlstedts' workshop at Ma Telpa in Riga performed at the Riga Performance festival. Ami Skånberg made two videos at Zirgu Pasts and in Ladezers with Lucy Lyons, Inta Balode and local people. They will be screened in the future.

External Funding: We were supported in kind by [Ma Telpa](#), [LAUKKU](#) and [the Latvian Academy of Culture](#). Ma Telpa organized a full day workshop with a mixed group of professional artists, writers, and people with para-abilities. We worked indoors and outdoors with movements, drawing, interactions with social space, and video.

Program: [Circle 7 Winter Symposium Riga 2018](#)

Coordinators of the Study Circle:

Ami Skanberg Dahlstedt, PhD student at Royal Holloway University amimaisha@gmail.com
 Dr Lucy Lyons, artist, lecturer City & Guilds of London Art School lucylyons68@yahoo.co.uk

Concluding Remarks: Circle 7 has continued to be a large and diverse welcoming group offering critique, support and a platform allowing experimentation and risk taking. Our group is made of a healthy mixture of regular attendees, participants who may have been once before sometime ago and a good number of newcomers. We are made up of practitioners and researchers from different disciplines and from students to professors and professionals.

This symposium was held in Latvian Academy for Culture in Riga. We held our winter session there in 2015 and wanted to continue and develop the relationship with our Latvian partners. This was started with our involvement with Inta Balode and Ginta Zabarovska, who joined the circle in Riga and were instrumental in helping arrange NSU Summer Symposium 2017 in Saulkrasti. This was the first time returned to the same host and had the chance to develop richer relationships with a partner institution. It has allowed us to develop stronger links with Latvian partners and not just use a location to host but for building relationships and sharing research.

We were able to offer a residency to a participant for the second time in the circle's history and the coordinators undertook a residency at the Latvian Academy of Culture and with LAUKKU in Ladezeres. The coordinators gave workshops for free and interacted with people in the university. One Circle 7 participant, Sally Dean stayed for a residency the week after the symposium, during which she taught to the students for free, and developed her own work. She has been invited to come back to teach.

The Circle has just had their anthology published by NSU press.

For more information about this Study Circle see:

<http://nordic.university/study-circles/7-practicing-communities-transformative-societal-strategies-of-artistic-research/>

Study Circle 8 | Learning and Bildung in time of Globalisation

Winter Symposium

Dates | 14-16 March, 2018

Place | Högskolan Väst/University West, Trollhättan, Sweden

Local partner | Interkulturella perspektiv i lärande och utbildning, University West, Sweden.

Theme | The question of Learning and Bildung in time of Globalisation

The aim of this first symposium in the study circle was to present different “state of the art” or “work in progress” perspectives on “learning and Bildung in time of Globalisation”. The Call for Papers invited presentations dealing with one or more of the following subthemes: Global/world citizenship and intercultural and transcultural education; Otherness and difference: education models of alterity; Dialogue with non-western thinkers and thought, developing heterological thinking; Creation of alternative, cultural sustainable and peaceful educational orders.

Since it was the first symposium in the study circle we encouraged participants to present what they aim to work with the next three years in the circle and what they conceive as the main questions, obstacles and challenges. Later we will produce an anthology/book or journal theme on “learning and Bildung in time of Globalisation”. As much research show, education is undergoing constant change under the effects of globalisation and bring rapid developments in technology and communication within learning systems across the world. Ideas, values and knowledge, as well as changing roles of students and teachers within education, are themes we expect to discuss and plan for further explorations and seminars.

Invited Keynote Speakers: Professor Emeritus Bernt Gustavsson, Örebro Universitet.

Statistics:

- Number of Participants: 19 -30 (7 men, 12 women as the “core group”, but about 30 in the regular seminar that was arranged in cooperation with the study circle and University West, Sweden)
- Number of Countries: 3 (Denmark, Iceland and Sweden)
- Number of newcomers: 15 (15 new to Circle, 15 new to NSU)

Public Dissemination:

Newsletter University West as well as on Newsdesk, University West.

Outcomes:

We plan to produce an anthology/book or journal theme on “Learning and Bildung in time of Globalisation”.

External Funding:

Local partner provided rooms for the study circle and coffee at coffee break on Friday the 16 March.

Program:

<http://nordic.university/study-circles/8-learning-bildung-times-globalisation/cfp-winter-session-2018/>

Coordinators of the Study Circle:

Kerstin von Brömssen, Professor Educational Sciences, University West, Sweden.

Michael Paulsen, Associate professor, Department for the Study of Culture, University of Southern Denmark.

Jesper Garsdal, Associate professor, VIA University College, Denmark.

Concluding Remarks:

This was the first meeting in this study circle. It was interesting and productive and we will continue our work in this study circle. The aim of the theme is most relevant as education is challenged in many ways in times of globalisation in the Nordic countries. Such challenges are for example marketization, migration, digitalization and neo-liberal regimes concerning curriculum at all levels. The study circle is aiming at continue the discussion concerning these issues and hopefully attract more people from more countries in the field as the circle gets known.

For more information about this Study Circle see:

<http://nordic.university/study-circles/8-learning-bildung-times-globalisation/>

Study Circle Ad hoc | Cybosis

Ad Hoc Winter Symposium

Dates | 07–09 February, 2018

Place | Göteborg, Sweden

Local partner | Chalmers

Theme | Technology and improvisation

The aim of the symposium is to bring together theorists, designers and technologists. Together we want to discuss practices of making and the social and cultural impact of future technologies. How can philosophical questions support the development of technologies? How in turn can technological practices and development inform philosophical and

sociological theories? And how can both making and theorizing help us imagining future technologies and their impact on societies?

Invited Keynote Speakers: Pelle Ehn, Malmö Högskola, Professor Design Studies

Statistics:

- Number of Participants: 41 (31 men, 10 women, 0 other)
- Number of Countries: 11 (USA, Austria, Germany, Sweden, Denmark, Latvia, Lithuania, India, Russia, Netherlands, Rumania)
- Number of newcomers: 30 (30 new to Circle, 30 new to NSU)

Public Dissemination:

Provide details of any publications, websites, blogs or other media that were used to publicise the symposium. The call for paper was circulated on many discussion lists, and got a notice on The Wire website:

<https://www.wired.com/beyond-the-beyond/2017/11/call-papers-technologies-improvisation-tools-theories-uncertain-futures/>

Outcomes:

Application to NSU for a full study circle

External Funding:

Chalmers, free conference venue

Program:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1fo1o0PuODPM16Ew7FJvp8xfsZW4MtdJ4vW58snSvJ_U/edit#gid=304927123

Coordinators of the Study Circle:

Rafael Dernbach, University of Cambridge, rafael.dernbach@gmail.com
Johan Söderberg, Göteborgs Universitet, johan.soderberg@sts.gu.se
Palle Dahlstedt, Chalmers, palle@chalmers.se

Concluding Remarks:

The ad hoc sessions drew together scholars and actors from a wide variety of backgrounds, academic, technical and artistic. In the end-of-session evaluation, the uniqueness of the mixture of people was recognised, and a general, strong interest in continuing this kind of forum.

Notes on the relevance of the work in a scholarly, and a Nordic/Baltic perspective, as well as an overview of future plans – outcomes and potentials. Does the Circle wish to continue?

For more information about this Study Circle see:

<http://nordic.university/study-circles/2-cybiosis-shaping-human-technology-futures/>

Study Circle Ad Hoc | Comics & Society

Winter Symposium

Dates | 16–17 March 2018

Place | Turku (University of Turku & Turku City Library)

Local partner | The departments of comparative literature and media studies at Uni Turku, SELMA Centre for the Study of Storytelling, Experientiality and Memory, and Turku City Library

Theme | Comics and Society

The aim of the seminar was to bring together comics scholars and artists from the Nordic countries and the Baltic region to establish interdisciplinary cooperation. The various relations between comics and society were in the focus of the symposium. We aimed to investigate how comics take part in making sense of societies and societal changes, how they are linked to the economical processes of production and consumption and also what their status is in today's Nordic and Baltic region.

Invited Keynote Speakers: Rebecca Scherr, Associate Professor in English Language Literature, University of Oslo

Statistics:

- Number of Participants: 28 (13 men, 15 women, 0 other)
- Number of Countries: 6 (Finland, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Romania, Brazil)
- Number of newcomers: 28 (28 new to Circle, 22 new to NSU)

Public Dissemination:

<https://comicsandsociety.wordpress.com/>

<https://selmacentre.wordpress.com/2018/02/28/symposium-comics-society/utu.fi>

<https://update.utu.fi/fi/Ajankohtaista/mediatiedotteet/Sivut/sarjakuvatutkijoitten-symposiumis-sa-avataan-nakymia-yhteiskuntaan.aspx>

Student and staff mailing lists

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/femicomix/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/557422654438368/>

https://www.facebook.com/groups/299014340524107/?ref=br_rs

Outcomes:

Publications:

News article on the website of the Finnish Broadcasting Company (YLE):

<https://yle.fi/uutiset/3-10118738>

Radio interview for Radio Suomi Turku (YLE), aired on 16 March, not available on demand

Radio interview (in Swedish) for Yle Åboland: <https://areena.yle.fi/1-4391082>

Conference report written by Laura Antola in *Sarjainfo 2/2018* (Finnish magazine for comics culture)

Conference report written by Katja Kontturi:

<http://kontturi.blogspot.com/2018/03/sarjakuvatutkijat-kokoontuivat-turussa.html>

Plan to carry on as a prospective study circle "Comics and Society: Research, Art, and Cultural Politics" that has been proposed for NSU to start in 2019.

External Funding:

Department of Comparative Literature: Room expenditures at the Uni Turku

Turku City Library: Room expenditures at the city library

Department of Media Studies: Coffee and pastries

SELMA: Honorary for the keynote speaker

Program:

<https://comicsandsociety.wordpress.com/programme/>

Coordinators of the Study Circle:

Laura Antola, University of Turku, lahean@utu.fi

Anna Vuorinne, University of Turku, ahvuor@utu.fi

Concluding Remarks:

The symposium was praised by participants, both for its program and the way the event was organized. By bringing together scholars from several Nordic countries it strengthened the network of comics scholars in the area. One of the defining ideas behind the symposium was to bring together comics artists and comics scholars. We were very pleased to include an artist roundtable organized at Turku City Library, featuring local comics artists, as well as a couple of other presentations by people who make comics themselves.

The symposium made evident two important things: 1) it is fruitful to explore the societal dimensions of comics in a multidisciplinary environment, 2) there is need for international networking and cooperation among the comics community (scholars, artists, other practitioners) in the Nordic area.

All in all, the ad hoc symposium was very successful. The coordinators and the delegates hope that their study circle proposal will be accepted in the coming Summer Session so that they would have the opportunity to continue and develop the cooperation during the next three years.

For more information about this Study Circle see:

<https://comicsandsociety.wordpress.com/>

<http://nordic.university/study-circles/ad-hoc-comics-society/>

Appendix 4.2 Summer Symposia self-evaluations

Study Circle 1 | Understanding migration in the Nordic and Baltic countries

Summer Symposium

Dates | July 29 - August 5, 2018

Place | Fårö, Gotland, Sweden

Theme | Representing migration

Building on momentum generated during our winter symposium in Copenhagen, Denmark, in the summer of 2018 we have continued to address contemporary migration through the lens of representation. Interpreted broadly as various means of capturing, contextualizing, interpreting, and defining people, institutions, politics, and histories, we mean for representation to encompass both tangible renderings - such as photographs and films - and also a wide range of practices and processes whose representational forms serve in specific ways to produce the subject matter itself. We were interested in contributions that addressed a range of concerns, artistic, legal, ethical, and pragmatic, and brought together a diverse and motivated group of people to share projects and work collaboratively through complicated questions related to the chosen topic.

Invited Keynote Speakers: Jason de León, University of Michigan, Associate Professor

Statistics:

- Number of Participants: 9 (1 man, 8 women, 0 other)
- Number of Countries: 4 (Estonia, Iceland, Finland, USA)
- Number of newcomers: 5 (5 new to Circle, 5 new to NSU)

Public Dissemination: The symposium was publicised through the NSU website, the Circle 1 mailing list, our Facebook page, and the website of our invited keynote speaker.

Outcomes: Substantial new contacts across disciplines for the winter 2019 symposium, strong representation from the Baltic countries and on topics of language and visual ethnography. An invited keynote speaker who made two highly successful presentations for the entire NSU community and engaged participants from all circles to 2-hour open discussion with Circle 1.

Program:

<http://nordic.university/study-circles/1-understanding-migration-in-nordic-and-baltic-countries/preliminary-program-faro-2018-sweden/>

Coordinators of the Study Circle:

Bremen Donovan, University of Virginia, bremen.donovan@gmail.com
Stéphanie Barillé, University of Iceland, stbarille@gmail.com

Concluding Remarks:

This summer's Circle 1 session included presentations from a range of disciplines and artistic practices, including the social sciences, multi-language publishing, fictional and documentary filmmaking. We also hosted a successful open session with our invited keynote speaker, Jason de Léon, who discussed a range of methodological and theoretical questions in relation to the diverse work of participants from a range of Nordic and Baltic perspectives. We plan to hold our winter symposium 2019 in Helsinki, Finland. The circle wishes to continue.

For more information about this Study Circle see:

<http://nordic.university/study-circles/1-understanding-migration-in-nordic-and-baltic-countries/>

Study Circle 2 | Appearances of the Political

Summer Symposium

Dates | 30th July–5th August, 2018

Place | Fårö, Gotland, Sweden

Local partner | Fårö Kursgård

Theme | The Politics of Memory in Art

In this Symposium the Circle addressed the politics of memory in art, especially in terms of how the memory narratives are (re)constructed within different media and symbolic systems: painting, photography, cinematography, TV documentaries, monuments, etc. The Circle examined how the ideas about the past have been conveyed, disputed, silenced and negotiated through the politicization of art and the aestheticization of politics. Consequently, the question was: what is it that turns some media (and not others) into powerful “media of cultural memory,” meaning media which create and mold collective images of the past? What are the phenomena within, between, and around those media, which have the power to produce and shape cultural memory? The Circle invited participants to think about their local examples in art and culture, where certain media have shaped the cultural memory on a collective level, as well as to analyze how memory has been mobilized as an instrument of politics by the political agents (for example, frequently using mythologized understandings of the past). The circle encouraged artists, artistic researchers, and those with experimental work to join the already cross-scientific work of the circle, to engender new, alternative ways of looking at the subject.

Statistics:

Number of Participants: 11 (4 men, 7 women)
Number of Countries: 8 (Latvia, Finland, Norway, Denmark, UK, Germany, France, Poland)
Number of newcomers: 2 (2 new to Circle, 1 new to NSU)

Public Dissemination:

The Symposium was advertised on [Facebook](#), the [NSU webpage](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

Outcomes:

Some of the participants will continue to organize symposiums outside the NSU. The first symposium will take place in Marina di Ascea, Italy, 2nd-5th of November 2018. The theme of the symposium is Aesthetics and Politics. The following symposium is planned to take place in Latvia during the summer 2019.

External Funding:

University of Helsinki Doctoral School, Doctoral Program in Social Sciences, 485 € for travel expenses of a circle participant. and accommodation. University of Warsaw, 250 € for travel expenses of a circle participant.

Program:

On the [website of NSU](#) and the [Summer Session website](#).

Coordinators of the Study Circle:

Laine Kristberga, Latvian Art Academy, laine.krista@gmail.com
Noora-Helena Korpelainen, University of Helsinki (alumni), nojes@iki.fi

Concluding Remarks:

The Circle is ending after three years, and won't continue under the current title and thematic bloc. The Circle has attracted 2 Baltic participants. The Circle is in process of publishing a collection of articles discussed in the symposia. The special issue on Appearances of the Political will be published as a special issue in the online journal Popular Inquiry (<https://www.popularinquiry.com/>) later this year (2018).

For more information about this Study Circle see:

<http://nordic.university/study-circles/archive-study-circles/appearances-political-2016-2918/>

Study Circle 3 | Feminist Philosophy: Time, History, and the Transformation of Thought

Summer Symposium

Dates | 29 July – 5 August 2018

Place | Fårö, Gotland, Sweden

Theme | Feminist Philosophy: Concepts, Contexts, Critique

The guiding threads for the session were a triad of notions, namely **concepts, contexts, and critique**. In bringing these ideas together we wanted to create a space for dialogues on feminist practices of reading. Feminist philosopher Andrea Nye once rightly noted: “thinking necessarily uses concepts with roots in the past” (2004: ix). This observation highlights the first two aspects, namely the connection between thinking and language and the importance of taking into consideration the historical context of both the production and the reception of thinking. Critique, finally, refers to feminist scholarship as a transformative practice aimed at

change and emancipation. In addition to the paper presentations, three text seminars were organized. One concerned the debate about the status and value of critique and the so called “hermeneutics of suspicion”, where we read recent works by Rita Felski, Toril Moi and Linda Zerilli. One seminar discussed the reading of philosophical texts in their historical contexts based on an article by Susan James and the third seminar consisted of a close reading of a text by Luce Irigaray. One evening was dedicated a symposium Ancient style (with wine, outdoors) where we read **Aristofanes’ *Lysistrate*** together.

Statistics:

- Number of Participants: 26 (5 men, 21 women)
- Number of Countries: 12 (Sweden, Norway, Iceland, Finland, Estonia, Australia, Egypt, Greece, India, Kenya, the Netherlands, Russia)
- Number of newcomers: (18 new to Circle, 17 new to NSU)

Public Dissemination:

See below for the addresses of the website and the Facebook page of the circle respectively.

Outcomes:

A group of participants discussed the continuation of the circle after its three-year cycle ends in 2019. In the fall a group was formed to write a new project, and an application was submitted to NSU 1 December 2018.

Coordinator Johanna Sjöstedt published an essay based on her seminar about the “critique of critique” in the Swedish journal *Respons*:

<http://tidskriftenrespons.se/artikel/kritiken-mot-kritiken-att-utga-fran-det-vardagliga/>

The coordinators have started to formulate more concrete plans to publish an anthology based on the work of the circle.

Program:

<http://nordic.university/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Fårö.18.participants.pdf>

Coordinators: Synne Myrebøe (NO), PhD candidate, Department of historical, philosophical and religious studies, Umeå University, Sweden Valgerður Pálmadóttir (IS), Phd Department of historical, philosophical and religious studies at Umeå University, Sweden. Johanna Sjöstedt (SE), Department of literature, history of ideas and religious studies, University of Gothenburg, Sweden.

Concluding Remarks:

This is the second year of the circle; overall, it is the fourth symposium out of six. The network has developed its own productive dynamics and it’s clear that it means a lot to the participants. It seems that they feel free to engage with the format of the circle, inviting their colleagues and students to join and also to make suggestions about how the network should develop in the future. The high number of participants and the fact that the circle manages to attract new participants as well as to maintain the relationship with old ones testify to the strength of the network. The same goes for the fact that people from the network, one existing coordinator and two participants, decided to write an application for a continuation of the circle.

For more information about this Study Circle see:

<http://nordic.university/study-circles/3-feminist-philosophy-time-history-transformation-thought/> and <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1056103344402285/>

Study Circle 4 | Narrative and Memory: Ethics, Aesthetics, Politics

Summer Symposium

Dates | 29 July – 5 August, 2018

Place | Fårö, Gotland, Sweden

Theme | Reimagining and Remembering the Other: Narrative Empathy and its Limitations

Reimagining the other is integral to the power of narrative to move us and to elicit social change and it is arguably one of the central ways in which fiction and other forms of art contribute to the shaping of cultural memory. The symposium explored narrative strategies that different narrative forms employ in processes of reimagining others. What ethical and aesthetic concerns arise when the other is a victim, a perpetrator or employs a subject position that these categories fail to capture? What kind of ethical potential does the power of imagination entail? Wherein do the limits of imagining and empathy reside?

Invited Keynote Speakers: Molly Andrews, University of East London, Professor

Statistics:

- Number of Participants: 32 (4 men, 28 women)
- Number of Countries: 10 (Finland, Norway, Sweden, Estonia, Italy, UK, USA, Turkey, South-Korea, Taiwan)
- Number of newcomers: 20 (20 new to Circle, 20 new to NSU)

Public Dissemination:

<https://narrativeandmemory.com/call-3/>

Outcomes:

The circle has two collective publications in preparation: a special issue to the journal *Memory Studies* and a collective volume to be proposed to Palgrave MacMillan or Routledge.

External Funding:

University of Agder, 50 000 NOK. The funding was used to cover the travel and accommodation costs for participants who have most contributed to organisational work in the circle and for those in need.

Program:

<https://narrativeandmemory.com/programme-3/>

Coordinators of the Study Circle:

Eneken Laanes, Tallinn University, elaanes@tlu.ee

Hanna Meretoja, University of Turku, hailme@utu.fi

Concluding Remarks:

The circle 4 continues to be one of the most popular circles at NSU (with 32 participants in the SS) with a good balance of senior and younger scholars. The circle has explored various issues related to narrative and memory and the symposia have logically evolved from the work done in previous events. Two of the young scholar have recently found postdoctoral positions at the University of Turku largely thanks to the contacts established in the circle. The circle wishes to continue its work.

For more information about this Study Circle see:

<https://narrativeandmemory.com>

Study Circle 5 | Patterns of Dysfunction in Contemporary Democracies;

Impact on Human Rights and Governance

Summer Symposium

Dates | 29 July to 5 August 2018

Place | Fårö, Gotland, Sweden

Partners | European Humanities University, University of Wrocław

Theme | Globalization and democracy

Economic globalization is made responsible for the loss of jobs; critics claim that benefits have been taken away by the elite. Who profited from globalization and where certain stretches of society abandoned along the road? What would the European societies have looked like without globalization? Politically, free trade and liberalization of capital movements have prompted some to ask whether democratic decision-making decides anything any more. Are politicians only adapting to circumstances they do not control. This reproach has been directed against globalization as such and the EU in particular. The EU treaties have established free trade and movements of goods, services and persons as a basic principle. The WTO imposes rules of free trade on all its members. Does this engage the member countries in fierce competition leading to lower levels of pay and working conditions? Are democratic institutions no longer able to decide about the kind of society which should be instituted? How should we cope with this in terms of justice? Are governments powerless faced with multinational corporations such as Google? The latest EU tax complaint against Google will say something about the balance of power between government and corporations.

Statistics:

- Number of Participants: 6 (2 men, 4 women, 0 other)
- Number of Countries: 6 (Poland, Greenland, Denmark, Slovenia, Finland, France)
- Number of newcomers: 2 (1 new to Circle, 1 new to NSU)
- NB. 3 other participants registered, but had last minute hindrances (sickness, work, etc.). We also had a visitor from Australia.

Public Dissemination:

NSU Website, Facebook, Email List

Outcomes:

Neli Dobrova participated in circle 5 as representative of the University of Paris 1 Sorbonne-Panthéon. We are planning a series of seminars and a conference in Paris with NSU as official partner. This will probably include European Humanities University and University of Aarhus as official partners as well. The working title is “Environmental Aesthetics and Changing Citizen experiences”.

Program:

<http://nordic.university/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/NSU-Summer-Session-2018-Program-Circle-5.pdf>

Coordinators of the Study Circle:

Oleg Bresky, European Humanities University, oleg.bresky@ehu.lt

Mogens Chrom Jacobsen, chrom.jacobsen@gmail.com

Concluding Remarks:

The circle would like to continue. We plan to have the next winter session in Saint Petersburg in collaboration with Saint Petersburg State University and the Gagarin Institute for Human Rights. The event will be co-funded by our partner. Saint Petersburg State

University would like to send some of their students to the Summer Session next year in Estonia.

For more information about this Study Circle see:

<http://nordic.university/study-circles/patterns-of-dysfunction-in-contemporary-democracies-im-pact-on-human-rights-and-governance/> and facebook:
https://www.facebook.com/groups/1872868496063628/?ref=group_header

Study Circle 6 | Critique in the Age of Populism

Summer Symposium

Dates | July 29 – August 5, 2018

Place | Fårö, Gotland, Sweden

Theme | Institutions of Critique and Post-truth Politics

Beginning in the Nordic experience the Summer Session will address the problem of the apparent connection between institutionalised critique and the emergence of populist movements and post-truth-politics. The pillars of critical thought and debate is challenged. In the Nordic Countries the institutions of critical debate have among others been the universities, the public service broadcasters, the independent, editorial press and the liberal (neo)corporativistic state form. The session aims to debate in what way the institutions of critical thought and debate should and can transform, to prevent post-truth politics to flourish, as well as enable social critique. We welcome contributions treating the connection between institutions and critique in the present as well as historically or theoretically. In what way are institutions necessary for critique, and to what extent do they maintain ideas of exclusion and inclusions, as well as ideals of the political that could be counterproductive to social critique?

Statistics:

- Number of Participants: 11 (9 men, 2 women)
- Number of Countries: 4 (Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Netherlands)
- Number of newcomers: 2 (2 new to circle)

Public Dissemination:

We used the circle's email account, as well as institutional webpages in universities in Denmark and Sweden. We also informed through the mailing list IHL-gate, as well as other network mail-lists.

Outcomes:

We decided to work together with Lund university to plan a winter symposium, which will result in a planned publication in *Ideas in History* 2019.

Program:

See the program included with this document.

Coordinators of the Study Circle:

Karolina Enquist Källgren, Lund university, karolina.enquist_kallgren@hist.lu.se

Anders Ramsay, Mid Sweden university, anders.ramsay@miun.se

Peter Aagard, Roskilde university, peteraa@ruc.dk

Concluding Remarks:

The network around the study circle 6 is pivotal for the internationalisation of national critical theory in the Nordic countries, as well as for having base to reach out to other nationalities. We hope to be able to enlarge our activities by tying into similar groups in Netherlands, as well as Italy. Tying researchers together on a larger international scale is very difficult to do,

unless there is an already existing platform in the Nordic countries. The circle also plays an important role in tying together people working with critique within different disciplines in the Nordic countries. The study circle will want to continue, and are planning for future joint publications.

For more information about this Study Circle see:

<http://nordic.university/study-circles/6-critique-age-populism/>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/326750707684775/>

Study Circle 7 | Practicing Communities: Transformative societal strategies of artistic research

Summer Symposium

Dates | 30 July–05 August 2018

Place | Fårö, Gotland, Sweden

Theme | Artistic research: reflecting inside and out

The main question concerned self-reflection and connections between individual experiences and external socio-political situations. In what ways do those involved in various forms of artistic research, hold up a mirror and reflect the world. How does their process of reflecting inside, reveal the outside?

The presentations, performances, experiments, workshops and provocations included:

- Reflecting on the role of artistic research on societal strategies
- Considering the act of reflection as a creative process within artistic research and practice
- Explore ways individual experiences of artistic researchers and practitioners reflect and impact on external socio-political situations
- Examine fluidity between internal and external boundaries in artistic research within the context of socio-political situations
- Exploring shifting roles of artistic research within context of self reflection and external reflection
- Presenting examples, suggestions and experiments for practical ways to create and implement strategies of reflection as creative practice that relates to socio-political situations

Invited Keynote Speakers Statistics:

- Number of Participants: 28 (3 men, 25 women, 0 other)
- Number of Countries: 12 (Sweden, Norway, Finland, Denmark, UK, Germany, Iceland, Russia, Ireland, France, Switzerland, US)
- Number of newcomers: 8 (8 new to Circle, 8 new to NSU)

Public Dissemination:

Circle 7 uses Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/artistic.research/?ref=bookmarks>, Twitter and Instagram to publicise events and share research seminars, conferences, performances, exhibition and publications with a wide international audience. We also ensure academies of theatre, performance and arts in Nordic and Baltic countries are kept informed of our activities and invited to participate whenever possible.

Outcomes:

Circle 7 welcomed not only participants registered to be in the circle, but a large steady number of participants from other circles throughout the Summer Symposium. Collaborations have flourished and members of the circle have produced publications, performances, symposia, workshops, artworks and films. The editors for a proposed

anthology publication will begin work in the new year after the end of the current circle. The new study circle **Artistic Research: Performing Heterotopia** will begin its three year cycle in 2019 and the coordinators will be Alia Zapparova and Elina Saloranta.

Program:

<http://nordic.university/study-circles/7-practicing-communities-transformative-societal-strategies-of-artistic-research/>

Coordinators of the Study Circle:

Ami Skånberg Dahlstedt, Centre for Asian Theatre and Dance, University of London
amimaisha@gmail.com

Dr Lucy Lyons, lecturer City & Guilds of London Art School and visiting lecturer York St John's University lucylyons68@yahoo.co.uk

Concluding Remarks:

Circle 7 continues to strive to provide a critical and nurturing platform for experimentation in artistic research as well as a space to share outcomes of finished artistic research projects. We were very pleased to have so many people from other circles come and join sessions with our group and had very positive feedback. Circle 7 is delighted to have a new proposal accepted and beginning a new cycle of inquiry.

For more information about this Study Circle see:

<http://nordic.university/study-circles/7-practicing-communities-transformative-societal-strategies-of-artistic-research/>

https://www.facebook.com/groups/artistic.research/?hc_ref=ARQpjoUdcaZEnU94FuLLzoQxyHV5GLOggNYJQqYKW8Z2OXqZ661hZblsv9AeP6Vceck

Study Circle 8 | Learning and Bildung in Times of Globalisation

Summer Symposium

Dates | 31 July – 4 August 2018

Place | Fårö, Gotland, Sweden

Theme | “Perspectives on “Learning and Bildung in time of Globalisation – unfolding of new ideas”

The aim of this symposium was to discuss “work in progress” perspectives on “learning and Bildung in time of Globalisation”. This was our second symposium in the study circle, and in our two first symposium we have now encouraged the exploration of ideas, which then in the symposia for 2019 and 2020 will develop into forms which both will foster publication and concrete applications (and hopefully also influence institutional changes) in educational contexts (according also to our plan in our application for the study circle). The Call for Papers for this second symposium therefore invited presentations dealing with one or more of the following subthemes: Global/world citizenship and democratic education, Otherness and difference: education models of alterity, Intercultural and transcultural thinking/dynamics in education, Dialogue with non-western thinkers and thought, developing heterological and dynamic thinking, Creating alternative, cultural sustainable and peaceful educational orders in the Anthropocene – new thinking about culture and nature, Comparing different educational ideas and concepts – Bildung, literacy, competences, Learning, freedom, happiness etc. in a global perspective, Multicultural and intercultural education and didactics in the Nordics countries – comparing different educational responses to ethnic inequality, disagreement, pluralism, polarization.

Statistics:

Some of our participants could not make it in person, so part of the symposium was dedicated to a skype conference. Below you can see the numbers for participants onsite/onsite + guests (guests dropping by the study circle are not included in these numbers)

- Number of Participants: 5/10 (besides guests) (3/6 men, 2/4 women, 0 other)
- Number of Countries: 3/5 (Denmark, Sweden, Iceland (+UK, Chile in skypeconference))
- Number of newcomers: 1/3 (1/3 new to Circle, 0/1 new to NSU)

Public Dissemination:

As this is a study-circle which only recently started up (this year), we have primarily been using the e-mail-list for the study circle to disseminate information

Outcomes:

See above under “public dissemination” and below under “concluding remarks”

Program:

<https://bit.ly/2NF9mPj>

Coordinators of the Study Circle:

Kerstin von Brömssen, Professor Educational Sciences, University West, Sweden.
Michael Paulsen, Associate professor, Department for the Study of Culture, University of Southern Denmark.
Jesper Garsdal, Associate professor, VIA University College, Denmark.

Concluding Remarks:

The work is very relevant in a scholarly context and a Nordic/Baltic perspective, as it is not only give room for a much need space for debating 21th century global challenges to education from an independent Nordic and at the same time global perspective, meaning that it both highlights important aspects of Nordic educational traditions instead of primarily “importing” “learning strategies” which are embedded in the “global educational industry”/global capitalism, while it at the same time also take into account other educational traditions and thereby are working on what could call a dialogical perspective on global education. Further the study circle also aims at connecting practitioners with researchers and teachers from the vocational university colleges and universities in the Nordic countries. The combination of these two perspectives are unique from a scholarly perspective. We are as mentioned just started, but we do expect in the future to publish a book/ anthology, and that initiatives starting from the context of the study circle will impact future education also regarding institutional changes as already indicated. Yes, the circle wishes to continue!

For more information about this Study Circle see:

<http://nordic.university/study-circles/8-learning-bildung-times-globalisation/>

<Unfortunately we have not been able to receive the self-evaluation of the ad hoc symposium organised in the autumn of 2018 on psychoanalysis, in Gdansk, Poland.>

Appendix 4.3. Operation and Support

Operation

In 2018 the Board held four scheduled Board meetings (one of which was divided in two parts) and five Skype meetings.

Board meetings (SM or BM)

SM1-2018 Feb 16-18 Stockholm, SE. Collaborating partner: Föreningen Norden.

Main purpose: To set the framework for the Summer session along with the Summer session Arrangement Committee responsible for practical arrangements.

SM2-2018 June 1-3 Copenhagen, DK. Collaborating partner: Föreningarna Nordens Förbund.

Main purpose: To prepare the proposals for 2019 budget, study program and Summer Session.

SM3-2018 28 July Fårö, SE. Fårö kursgård, in connection with the Summer Session.

Main purpose: Overall organisational responsibility for the Summer Session, including coordinator meetings and the general assembly, and planning of the fall activities.

SM4-2018 21-23 September Tallinn, EE. Collaborating partner: Tallinn University

Main purpose: Preparation for the upcoming year's study program, organisational work and conducting the coordinator meeting.

Skype meetings

Prior to each scheduled Board meeting, the Board held at least one Skype meeting. Here, current issues and the agenda for the upcoming meeting were discussed and resolved.

In 2018 the Chair called to 4 scheduled and 1 extra-ordinary Skype meetings:

Scheduled (date, length):

11 February (1 hour).

23 September (1 hour).

28 October (1 hour)

9 December (1 hour)

Extra-ordinary (date, length):

25 February (2 hours).

Main tasks: □ To discuss and resolve current issues, and distribute work tasks prior to the scheduled Board Meetings.

Other meetings on behalf of NSU

The Chair has, most often together with one or two other board members, also had other meetings over the year on behalf of NSU with our service providers (FNF and OWS), working meetings among the board members and two live meetings with our funders (NMRS) in March and September, and one meeting with other institutional partners and

collaborators, the Latvian Dance Information Center in Riga.

Coordinator Meetings (CM or FM)

In 2018 NSU had three coordinator and board meetings with the coordinators of the eight study circles.

FM-1 & FM-2 July Fårö, SE. Fårö kursgård, in connection to the Summer Session.

Main purpose FM1: Finalizing the plans for the Summer Session study program and organisational activities.

Main purpose FM2: Evaluation of the Summer Session, as well as setting of the schedule of the fall activities.

FM-3 22-23 September Tallinn, EE. Collaborating partner: Tallinn University

Main purpose: To transfer knowledge about the study circle work and NSU, especially regarding arranging winter symposia for 2019.

General Assembly meeting

Location: 1-3 August Fårö, SE. Fårö kursgård, in connection with the Summer Session 2018.

Participants: The representatives of the General Assembly (with voting rights) are elected at the start of the Summer Session by the participants, partly in the study circles (which each elect three representatives) and partly in the seven regional meetings (which each elect two representatives). In this way both scholarly and geographical representation are ensured. The regional meetings are organized in the following groups: Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland (including Åland), West Nordic (including Iceland, Greenland and the Faeroes), the Baltics and the International group.

Main tasks: The General Assembly is the highest authority of the NSU, which can amend the NSU statutes and lay down general guidelines for the organization, approve the accounting, control the Board's work, and decide upon the budget and the Study Program as well as elect the executive Board for the upcoming calendar year.

Support

NSU was registered as a Swedish non-profit organization and currently has no employees. In 2018, NSU decided to become a Danish non-profit organization from 1 January 2019.

Service providers

NSU support functions are purchased from the following service providers:

- Web and Support – by Set Lonnert Humanities & Technology and various other providers in the field, like Wasabi (wasabiweb.se)
- Accounting – by the Association of Nordic Associations (FNF) and their accountant Susanne Farre. FNF has been NSU's service provider for the economy functions since 2008.
- Auditing – Partner Kim Kjellberg / Grant Thornton. Stockholmsgade 45, 2100 København Ø.

Appendix 4.4. Board's Recommendation for Study Program 2019

According to the statutes § 4.2 “*Anyone has the right to propose a new study circle. The Board provides guidelines for how to propose new study circles. The General Assembly decides the study program based on a recommendation from the Board*”. Below the work and the recommendation of the Board is described.[1]

Background

NSU currently consists of eight study circles, two of which are ending their three-year cycle this year (circle 2 and 7). In addition, the Board has decided to recommend that the number of circles be increased to nine. Altogether, this means that three new circles can be accepted at the Summer Session 2018. The accepted circles will run from 2019 to 2021.

The process

The call for new study circle proposals was made public on the NSU webpage in early November 2017. Deadline to submit a proposal for new study circles was 15 January 2018. The Board received seven proposals:

- A) Health in the Baltics: Medical Anthropology and Sociology Network
- B) Developing Critical Social Work in the Nordic and Baltic Countries
- C) Multilingual Literatures around the Baltic Sea
- D) Artistic Research: Performing Heterotopia
- E) Comics and Society: Research, Art, and Cultural Politics
- F) Cybioses: Shaping Human-Technology Futures
- G) Psychoanalysis in Our Time: The Unconscious and the Everyday

All proposals were sent to at least one peer reviewer respectively, which were selected based on their expertise in the field and their knowledge of NSU.[2] Their reports were sent to the coordinators of the prospective circles in April. Deadline to submit revised proposals was June 4. The Board's recommendation for study program in 2019 was discussed and decided on at a Skype meeting 22 July 2018. This document was finalized in Fårö 29 July 2018.

Criteria

According to the call for new study circles “*NSU gives priority to interdisciplinary applications with an original approach and content, with interested participants from a minimum of three Nordic-Baltic countries, and a detailed plan of the activities of the circle. NSU strives to support topics that are not already established in universities and projects that cross the borders between disciplines and/or academia and society. Early career scholars are encouraged to apply*”. Based on this description and internal discussions, the Board took the following parameters into account when evaluating the proposals:

a) Nordic and Baltic plurality

The minimum requirement is having attracted interest from participants representing 3 Nordic or Baltic countries; a proposal is considered stronger the more countries are

represented. According to the statutes, the main activities (i. e. winter symposia) of the prospective circle should take place in the Nordic-Baltic regions.

b) Scholarly quality

Apart from the formal requirements connected to Nordic and Baltic plurality, scholarly quality is the main criterion. The Board relied on the peer review reports to appraise the proposals. The extent to which the suggestions from the reviewers were incorporated into the reworked proposals was also taken into account.

c) Theme and content

When judging the theme of a proposal, factors like relevance to the Nordic-Baltic regional context and the composition of the NSU study program as a whole are considered. For example, the Board would not recommend a circle whose topic is close to an already existing circle.

e) External relations

The Board encourages study circles to establish relations to external collaborating partners, such as academic or cultural institutions, research groups, funding bodies or publishing houses. Although not a requirement, it is appreciated when a circle can account for such initiatives already in the proposal phase.

f) Forms of activity

The Board encourages attempts to take creative approaches to planned working modes and forms of activity. Although not a requirement, such attempts do play into the overall judgement of a proposal.

If an already existing circle or former circle was submitting a proposal, it was discussed against the backdrop of the work of that circle. The Board also deemed it desirable that the new proposal demonstrated a re-orientation in the work of the circle so that it was a new project, rather than a mere continuation.

Board's discussion

The Board discussed all proposals separately. This is a summary of the notes taken during the discussion:

a) Health in the Baltics: Medical Anthropology and Sociology Network

New initiative from people with no prior participation in NSU. Prospective coordinators are PhD candidates in the disciplines of the proposal. Received a positive peer review. The only proposal that is targeting the Baltics specifically; included a letter of intent from the Department of Anthropology at the University of Copenhagen to show Nordic connection. The Board considers it to be an interesting proposal of high quality suitable for NSU but discussed whether it would be advisable that they submit an application for an ad hoc symposium before becoming a three-year circle.

b) Developing Critical Social Work in the Nordic and Baltic Countries

New initiative from people with no prior participation in NSU. Received mixed peer reviews that stated that it was a proposal in need of further development. Although the proposal names three coordinators, it comes off as a one-person initiative. The interdisciplinary

aspect is underdeveloped; it is very clearly situated in the discipline of social work. Primarily based in Denmark. The revised proposal exceeds the word limit by more than 100%. The Board appreciates an interesting initiative, but thinks the proposal would benefit from stronger institutional connections in different Nordic and Baltic countries, as well as a more well thought out scholarly scope.

c) Multilingual Literatures Around the Baltic Sea

New initiative from people with no prior participation in NSU. Prospective coordinators include established and emerging scholars in literature and Slavic languages at prominent Nordic universities. Received a very positive peer review that highlighted both the quality and the originality of the project. The Board appreciates that the proposal includes scholars, writers and translators and relevant institutions to support this kind of project; it is also a project that fits the profile of NSU. The Board discussed that the proposal would have been stronger if even more connections to the Baltics could be established.

d) Artistic Research: Performing Heterotopia

Emerges from a current circle (Practicing Communities: Transformative Strategies of Artistic Research, 2016-2018). Both coordinators are new, one is a PhD lecturer in artistic research the other one is an independent artist. Received mixed reviews: one positive and one critical. In its previous guises the circle has produced several anthologies with NSU Press. Very strong in a network perspective and in their contributions to NSU as an organization. Spans the Nordic and Baltic region, from Vilnius in Lithuania to Kautokeino in Norwegian Sápmi, in their plans for the winter symposia. The Board thinks the proposal would have been stronger if the scope of the project as well as the outcomes would have been spelled out more clearly.

e) Comics & Society: Research, Art, and Cultural Politics

New initiative by two PhD candidates in media studies and comparative literature who participated in the Summer Session in 2017. Organized a successful ad hoc symposium in Turku (FI) in the spring of 2018. Received very positive peer reviews that underlined the quality and the timeliness of the project. The Board appreciates that the proposal includes collaborations with both universities and public institutions. The topic is an emerging research field, which fits the profile of NSU. Winter symposia are planned in Denmark, Norway, and Sweden. The Board discussed that the proposal would have been even stronger if it had more connections to the Baltics.

f) Cybioses: Shaping Human-Technology Futures.

Emerges out of two former circles ("Appropriating Technology for Societal Change" 2015-2017 and "Comparative Futurologies", 2016-2017). Prospective coordinators include two established scholars and one PhD candidate. Organized a successful ad hoc symposium in Gothenburg (SE) in the spring of 2018. Interdisciplinary initiative that includes the natural sciences, the social sciences, and the humanities. Received a mixed peer review that asked for more concretion with respect to the content and the outcomes. Primarily based in Sweden. The supporters only include people from two Nordic and Baltic countries, Sweden and Lithuania. The Board appreciates the interdisciplinary aspect of the project - it is the only proposal that includes the natural sciences - but thinks the proposal would benefit from a more demarcated scholarly scope and an expanded network.

g) Psychoanalysis in Our Time: The Unconscious and the Everyday

Emerges from a former circle ('Psychoanalysis in Our Time', 2014-2016). Two coordinators are the same, one has been added. Received a positive peer review. Interdisciplinary initiative; the expertise of the coordinators includes film production, film studies and psychology. Organized a successful ad hoc symposium in 2017 and will organize another one in Gdansk in the fall of 2018. The former circle published one volume with Routledge and has another one in production. The Board thinks the quality of the project is high, but discussed that it would have been stronger if the relationship between psychoanalysis as a theory and the topics targeted had been outlined in further detail.

Ranking the proposals

After the discussion of the proposal, each board member ranked the proposals based on their own judgment. Taken together, the result of the rankings made by the board members is:

- 1 Multilingual Literatures Around the Baltic Sea
- 2 Comics and Society: Art, Research, and Cultural Politics
- 3 Artistic Research: Performing Heterotopia
- 4 Psychoanalysis in Our Time: The Unconscious and the Everyday
- 5 Health in the Baltics: Medical Anthropology and Sociology Network
- 6 Cybioses: Shaping Human-Technology Futures
- 7 Developing Social Work in the Nordic and Baltic Countries

Overall discussion

In addition to the ranking of the received proposals, the Board also discussed the overall composition of the study program. The Board aims to create a study program that includes

- Both established and emerging scholars
- Old participants and newcomers in NSU
- Geographic diversity within the Nordic and Baltic regions
- Disciplinary diversity with respect to the social and the natural sciences and the humanities

This year three slots are open for new circles. If the three top ranked proposals are accepted, it involves two proposals from mainly established scholars (Multilingual literatures and Performing Heterotopia) and one proposal from emerging scholars (Comics and Society). One proposal is submitted from a current circle (Performing Heterotopia), one from scholars with no prior participation in NSU (Multilingual Literatures), and one from scholars who were new in 2017 and organized an ad hoc symposium 2018 (Comics and Society). In a geographic perspective, there is a slight Nordic dominance, but both Multilingual Literatures and Performing Heterotopia involve Baltic institutions in their projects. As for disciplinary diversity, there is dominance with regard to the humanities. However it should be noted that the study program already includes at least two circles within the social sciences (circle 1 and 5) as well as interdisciplinary circles that include the social sciences (circle 6 and 8). Overall, the Board finds no reason to alter the ranking based on the structural parameters discussed above. This means that the Board will recommend the three top ranked proposals to be accepted.

Recommendation for study program 2019

Circle 1: Understanding Migration in the Nordic and Baltic countries (2017-2019)

- Circle 2: Multilingual Literatures around the Baltic Sea (2019-2021).
Circle 3: Feminist Philosophy: Time, History, and the Transformation of Thought (2017-2019)
Circle 4: Narrative and Memory: Ethics, Aesthetics, Politics (2017-2019)
Circle 5: Patterns of Dysfunction in Contemporary Democracies (2018-2020)
Circle 6: Critique in the Age of Populism (2018-2020)
Circle 7: Artistic Research: Performing Heterotopia (2019-2021)
Circle 8: Learning and Bildung in Times of Globalisation (2018-2020)
Circle 9: Comics and Society: Research, Art, and Cultural Politics (2019-2021)

The Board would like to thank everyone who submitted a proposal and remind those whose projects were not accepted about the possibility to receive funding for ad hoc symposia, as well as invite them to submit proposals for new study circles next year.

[1]Board member Ben Tyrer is prospective coordinator for one of the submitted proposals, Psychoanalysis in our time. Declaring a conflict of interest, Tyrer did not take part in any discussions or decisions related to the study program for 2018.

[2]Proposals A, C, F, G had one peer review respectively; proposal D received two peer reviews; proposals B and E received three peer reviews each. The number of peer reviews is not related to the Board's estimation of the proposals, but to the availability of qualified peer reviewers.

Appendix 4.5. Final report Danish National Archive

The report from the Danish National Archive begins on the next page.



RIGSARKIVET

Nordisk Sommeruniversitet
c/o Foreningerne Nordens Forbund
Snaregade 10A, 3. sal
1205 København K

Dato:
22. januar 2019

Journalnummer:
17/14701

Lokaltelefon:

Vores reference:
seg

Deres reference:

Kvitteringsbrev for aflevering af papirarkivalier til Rigsarkivet.

Ovennævnte afleveringssag er nu afsluttet. Rigsarkivet takker for et godt samarbejde om opgaven.

Til orientering vedlægges:

- Oversigter, visende yderår for indhold i de enkelte arkivserier i vores beholdning samt
- Afleveringsfortegnelser, der er en detaljeret indholdsbeskrivelse af den aktuelle oversigt.

Det er muligt at finde oplysninger om afleverede arkiver på internettet: <https://www.sa.dk/da/>

Med venlig hilsen



RIGSARKIVET

Svend-Erik Gottlieb

Kontorfuldmægtig

Telefon: 33 92 33 10 | Direkte: 41 71 72 12

seg@sa.dk | www.sa.dk

Indsamling og Bevaring

Sekretariat og konservering

Kalvebod Brygge 34 | 1560 København V

Proveniensenr: 4+10353

**17/14701 Nordisk Sommeruniversitet; Nordisk
Sommeruniversitet**

Rigsarkivet
Oversigt

Nordisk Sommeruniversitet

Oversigt over heuristiske enheder
Arkivnøgle 1979 - 1993
Emnespecifikke sager 1957 - 1995
Interne publikationer 1963 - 2003
Journalsager 1956 - 1975
Journalsager 1979 - 1993
Korrespondance 1954 - 1960
Programkomité 1966 - 1973
Sessioner 1953 - 2006
Studiekredse 1959 - 1974
Studier af de nordiske landes kultur- og æstetiskeliv 1967 - 1972
Styrelse 1964 - 2006

Proveniensenr: 4+10353

17/14701 Nordisk Sommeruniversitet; Nordisk Sommeruniversitet

Rigsarkivet
Afleveringsfortegnelse
Nordisk Sommeruniversitet

Oversigt over Arkivserier

Arkivnøgle 1979 - 1993

mm

Emnespecifikke sager 1957 - 1995

1	Niels Fruensgaard, Aalborg 1972 - Niels Fruensgaard, Aalborg 1973
mm	Birgitta Lindgren, Stockholm 1973
2	Internt blad 1971 - Internt blad 1975
3	Louisiana 1964 - Louisiana 1965
4	Københavnsafdelingen 1958 - Københavnsafdelingen 1967
5	Sekretariat Nordisk Kulturelt Samarbejde 1973 - Sekretariat Nordisk Kulturelt Samarbejde 1975
mm	Seminar: Forskningens interne organisation 1958 - Symposium: Etniske minoriteter i Norden 1970
6	Symposium: Kvinder 1972 - Symposium: Forskningspolitik i Norden 1973
mm	Symposium: Filmsociologi / filmvidenskab 1976
7	Erkendelse, vurdering og valg 1959 - Människan forskningsobjekt 1960
mm	Autonomi och heteronomi 1966 - Gorillorna 1971
mm	Teoretisk-metodologiske grunder för undersökningen av den stats, onopolitiska kapitalismen 1973 - Computerkultur 1989
mm	
8	Håndbog 1995 - Håndbog 1996
mm	Holger Jensen 1971 - Holger Jensen 1975
mm	Per Alex Sørensen 1978 - Per Alex Sørensen 1980
mm	Diverse

Interne publikationer 1963 - 2003

1	Arbejdsrapport 1 1979 - Arbejdsrapport 13 1982
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Aktør : Nordisk Sommeruniversitet

Opgave : 17/14701 Nordisk Sommeruniversitet; Nordisk Sommeruniversitet

2	Arbejdsrapport 15 1983 - Arbejdsrapport 27 1988
3	Arbejdsrapport 28 1988 - Arbejdsrapport 32 1990
mm	Briksen, journal for freudianske fortællelser 1 1990 - Briksen, journal for freudianske fortællelser 7 1994
4	Information fra NSU 1963 - Information fra NSU 1981
5	Information fra NSU 1982 - Information fra NSU 1988
6	Information 1 fra NSU 1989 - Information 2 fra NSU 2003
7	Interdisciplinary studies from 1959 - Interdisciplinary studies from 1969
8	Stencilserien 1 1974 - Stencilserien 14 1976
9	Stencilserien 15 1976 - Stencilserien 18 1978
10	Årbøger 1952 - Årbøger 1958

Journalsager 1956 - 1975

1	000 - 020 2
2	030 - 032
3	041 - 045
4	046
5	050 - 076
6	090 - 112
7	120 - 130 1
8	140 - 142
9	150 - 150 7
10	200 - 201
11	201 - 305
12	310 - 320
13	320 - 321
14	330
15	3401 - 3413
16	3431 - 3461
17	3462 - 3492
18	3502 - 3600
19	401 - 410
20	411 - 501
21	601 - 703
22	703 - 710

Aktør : Nordisk Sommeruniversitet

Opgave : 17/14701 Nordisk Sommeruniversitet; Nordisk Sommeruniversitet

Journalsager 1979 - 1993	
1	01 - 3
2	05 32 - 05 33
3	10-1
4	21 - 21 2
5	32 3 - 32 7
6	32 8 - 32 9
7	32 12 - 32 16
8	32 17 - 32 19
9	32 19 - 32 20
10	32 21 - 32 22
11	32 23
12	32 24
13	32 25 - 32 26
14	34 1 - 34 10
15	40 - 40 22

Korrespondance 1954 - 1960	
1	1954 - 1960

Programkomité 1966 - 1973	
1	1966 - 1971
2	1971 - 1973
3	1972
4	1972 - 1973
5	1972 - 1973
6	1973

Sessioner 1953 - 2006	
1	1953 Sigtuna - 1962 Tammerfors
2	1962 Tammerfors - 1963 Århus
3	1963 Århus
4	1964 Bergen - 1966 Åbo
5	1967 Nørre Nisum - 1970 Karlstad
6	1970 Karlstad - 1971 Juväskyla
7	1972 Askov
8	1973 Geilo
9	1973 Røros - 1974 Umeå
10	1975 Åbo - 1990 Viborg
11	1991 Hurdal - 2000 Bolkesjø

Aktør : Nordisk Sommeruniversitet

Opgave : 17/14701 Nordisk Sommeruniversitet; Nordisk Sommeruniversitet

mm	☒ Fotografier
12	2004 Island - 2006 Tallinn

Studiekredse 1959 - 1974

1	1959,1959 1 - 1959,1959 19
2	1960,1961
3	1961,1962 - 1963,1964
4	1964,1965
5	1965,1966 - 1966,1966 4
6	1966,1966 5 - 1966,1966 8
7	1966,1966 9 - 1967,1967 8
8	1967,1967 9 - 1967,1967 13
9	1967,1968 1 - 1967,1968 5
10	1967,1968 6 - 1967,1968 12
11	1968,1969 1 - 1968,1969 6
12	1968,1969 7 - 1968,1969 14
13	1969,1970 1 - 1969,1970 3
14	1969,1970 4 - 1969,1970 9
15	1969,1970 10 - 1969,1970 14
16	1970,1971 0 - 1970,1971 9
17	1970,1971 10 - 1970,1971 15
18	1971,1972 3 - 1971,1972 14
19	1972,1973 1 - 1972,1973 4
20	1972,1973 5 - 1972,1973 10
21	1972,1973 11 - 1972,1973 14
22	1973,1974 1 - 1973,1974 4
23	1973,1974 5 - 1973,1974 10

Studier af de nordiske landes kultur- og æstetiskeliv 1967 - 1972

1	1967 - 1969
2	1968 - 1969
3	1968 - 1970
4	1970 - 1974
5	1967 Proj 1. Teatret som social institution - 1971 Proj 1. Teatret som social institution
6	1969 Proj 1. Teatret som social institution - 1970 Proj 1. Teatret som social institution
7	1968 Proj 1. Teatret som social institution - 1969 Proj 1. Teatret som social institution
mm	1967 Proj. II, Metodeproblemer - 1968 Proj. II, Metodeproblemer

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8	1968 Proj. II, Metodeproblemer - 1970 Proj. II, Metodeproblemer
9	1967 Proj III, Skabelse, spredning og vurdering af litteratur - 1970 Proj III, Skabelse, spredning og vurdering af litteratur
10	1968 Proj III, Skabelse, spredning og vurdering af litteratur - 1970 Proj III, Skabelse, spredning og vurdering af litteratur
11	1970 Proj III, Skabelse, spredning og vurdering af litteratur - 1972 Proj III, Skabelse, spredning og vurdering af litteratur
12	1967 Proj IV, Musikalsk experimental æstetik og musikformidling - 1970 Proj IV, Musikalsk experimental æstetik og musikformidling
13	1968 Proj IV, Musikalsk experimental æstetik og musikformidling - 1971 Proj IV, Musikalsk experimental æstetik og musikformidling

Styrelse 1964 - 2006

1	1964 - 1974
2	1995 - 2003
3	2002 - 2005
4	2006