



Nordiskt Sommaruniversitet

CALL FOR Presentation 2016

Appearances of the Political in 20th century culture

Appearances of the Political

Summer Symposium: 24-31 July, Orivesi, Finland

Invitation

We invite scholars, students, artists and practitioners to take part in investigating the many forms by which we experience the presences of political reality, and in approaching these forms from social, artistic, aesthetic and cultural analysis. We wish to articulate the ideological forces underlying today's political thinking. We also want to inaugurate a debate on the role of cultural approaches in political analysis.

We wish to break new paths in connecting the cultural humanities and the political sciences and invite participants to bravely explore new ways of studying the issue. We believe that experimentation is crucial for rethinking the political.

Theme of the symposium:

In this summer session we explore historical examples from the 20th century of how the political has appeared, both intentionally and unintentionally. Examples can be movements with explicit programs for forming the modern, or future, world such as Russian Constructivism, Modernist architectural program and sub- or countercultural movements. Examples can also be cultural forms that are unintentionally, or at least without an explicit awareness, appearances of political ideologies, such as urban planning, consumer culture and fashion.

Such historical examples can take many forms, like the transformation of personal appearances in dress and hair-style in the '60s and '70s displayed in the period's fashion and anti-fashion, including specific styles like punk and fetishized expressions of the military forms of guerrilla soldiers and freedom fighters. Or, for instance, the cold war had many forms of political expressions in both Soviet ideas of political manifestations in ideological decorations as well as the organisation of build environments.

The examples are numerous in art, literature, design and fashion as well as in organisation of work, culture, communication and entertainment, and include explicit political actions in fights for rights (workers, women, and minorities), movements of liberation across the world, and of political struggles, as well as the implicit forms of oppression preserved through cultural exercised routines.

We encourage the participants to share analysis and criticism of concrete examples and discussions hereof or to share texts throwing light on the topic and offering platforms for critical discourses.

Format(s) of the presentation:

We are encouraging traditional and non-traditional presentations, including:

1) Presentation of work:

We strongly encourage giving a free oral presentation rather than reading a paper. We wish to facilitate open debates for sharing and ask for presentations creating platforms for debate. A presentation cannot exceed 20 min.

2) Presentation of a text:

You can offer to present a text, which can be either your own writing or the examination and presentation of another's published text. The text will be distributed to all participants beforehand and should not exceed 25 pages. The presentation should have the form of a short introduction of the argumentation, facilitating participants to engage in discussion.

The presentation of the text cannot exceed 15 min followed by discussion

3) Performance, object or alternative forms:

You can present ideas, examples or reflections through other formats including inviting the participants to engage in experiments, situations, or individual and group activities. Please indicate the optimal time for this form of presentation.

Please submit via email to the coordinators:

carsten.friberg@nsuweb.org

raine.vasquez@nsuweb.org

1. A written proposal (**max. 350 words**) with a title and descriptive subtitle. This text should include your presentation proposal, its format, its duration, and technology and/or facilities you may need.
2. A short bio (**max. 100 words**)

If you would like to attend the symposium without presenting, please email a short bio. Participants with presentations will be given priority.

The study circle provides a space for theoretical experimentation and the cross-fertilization of methodologies. It aims at developing insights that can be used in further research. We invite you for a week of exchange and debates in an open environment of people with different backgrounds. Presentations are meant to be rather short, while space for discussions pursuing ideas are central for the circle and will be given considerate space during the week.

The deadline to submit proposals is 8 May, 2016. The preliminary program will be announced on May 15, 2016 on www.nordic.university where you can also find more information about NSU and sign up for the newsletter.

Application process and registration:

The application process has two steps:

(1) Application to coordinators for acceptance. Application starts 1st of April and **closes on 8th of May**.

(If you wish to participate without presentation you can apply until 25th of May. Also, you can still apply late in case of vacant slots by contacting the coordinators and submitting an abstract.)

(2) After you have been accepted, the next step is registration and payments, which **closes on 1st of June**. All registration and payment will be done electronically.

Note: if you apply late, the payment must still be completed by the 1st of June.

Accommodation – the prices include all meals during the entire seminar. All prices in €:

Single room: 550

Double room: 320

Family members (in double room): 380

Children over 12 years: 380

Children between 4-12 years: 250

Children between 2-4: 46

Children less than 2 years: 0

NSU offers a number of grants and scholarships:

Grants: 100

Scholarships: 80

Application for grant or scholarship must be sent to the coordinators **no later than 15 April**. Please cite motivation for the application for a grant (such as being freelance or unemployed).

We favour participants from Baltic countries for grants.
Notification for applicants is given 1 May.

Arrival: 24 July
Departure: 31 July

For any questions about presentation, registration and NSU, please contact:
carsten.friberg@nsuweb.org or raine.vasquez@nsuweb.org

About the Study Group

The intention of Appearances of the Political is to create a platform for future collaborations and applications, and to exchange knowledge and share common interest. It is important for the group to consult a variety of fields as broad as possible including political theory, philosophy, communication, social sciences and cultural studies, and we hope that scholars from all areas of interest would join us.

Participating in this meeting of the group does not imply any obligation for participating in future meetings. We hope, however, that participants will be involved in building a strong community on this topic for future activities reflecting the diversity of interests in the community. Future seminars will focus on Material Culture, Activism, Political Art and Aesthetics in the Everyday, and Communication. We are open to any propositions concerning collaboration, partners and sites.

Please bookmark the study circle on NSU's webpage:
<http://nordic.university/study-circles/2-appearances-of-the-political/>
and the blog of the study circle: <http://appearancesofthepolitical.blogspot.com>

The Nordic Summer University (NSU) summer session is a one-week seminar bringing all 8 NSU study circles together. While each circle holds their seminar, the week also contains common activities, including two Key-note's each giving two presentations, (this summer Professor Robert Pfaller and Professor Elizabeth Povinelli) as well as a cultural program. There is an additional Children's circle, where caretakers look after the children while the parents are in their respective seminars - it is thus possible to bring family to the summer session.

The summer session includes NSU's political institutions and any participant is eligible. Participants are a mix of university professors, academics in different positions inside as well as outside institutions, PhD-, and MA-students, artists, cultural producers and any others with a relation to academic work.

The Nordic Summer University (NSU) is a Nordic network for research and interdisciplinary studies.

NSU is a nomadic, academic institution, which organises workshop-seminars across disciplinary and national borders. Since it was established in 1950, Nordic Summer University has organised forums for cultural and intellectual debate in the Nordic and Baltic region, involving students, academics, politicians, and intellectuals from this region and beyond.

Decisions about the content and the organisational form of the NSU lay with its participants. The backbone of the activities in the NSU consists of its thematic study circles. In the study circles researchers, students and professionals from different backgrounds collaborate in scholarly investigations distributed regularly in summer and winter symposia during a three-year period.

For more information www.nordic.university

