



Nordiskt Sommaruniversitet

CALL FOR PROPOSAL 2016

IDENTIFYING THE POLITICAL

Conceptual Analysis: Rhetoric, Poetics and Populist Talk in Contemporary Politics

Appearances of the Political 1/6

Winter Symposium: February 22-23, 2016, University of Latvia (Main Building, Raiņa bulvāris 19) in collaboration with **University of Latvia**

Invitation

The Nordic Summer University (NSU) study group *Appearances of the Political* announces a CFP for its winter symposium. The first session of the group will be organized in cooperation with Institute of Literature, Folklore and Art and Faculty of Theology, the Latvian University in Riga, Latvia.

The topic, Identifying the Political, will address the verbal play and its connection to physical presences of today's political reality and approach it from the point of view of social, artistic, aesthetic and cultural analysis.

By focusing on the conceptual base of the appearances of the political we wish to articulate clearly the artistic, aesthetic and cultural forces underlying today's political thinking. We also want to inaugurate a debate on the role of cultural approaches in political analysis. To really discuss the political we need to establish a deeper understanding of the key concepts and their cultural extensions before elaborating on other forms of investigating them.

This could, for example, be related to the impact of concepts like migration / refugee. What cultural significance do these (or any similar politically explosive) concepts anchor to?

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

Our partner in the winter session 2016 is the University of Latvia in Riga and we collaborate closely with Pauls Daija and the Institute of Literature, Folklore and Art.

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 first 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 History, Material Culture, Activism, Political Art and Aesthetics in the Everyday, and Communication. The list of sites for the study circle is planned to be, among more, of the following order: Riga, Orivesi (NSU Summer Session), Bratislava, St. Petersburg and Copenhagen. Changes might appear as well as additions. We are open to any propositions concerning collaboration, partners and sites.

We invite proposals for presentations addressing different problems relating to this call. We hope

that academicians, artists, students, third sector agents and intellectuals would participate. Please don't hesitate to ask any questions from the coordinators!

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>

Format of the presentation

Format of presentation can be either:

15 minutes presentation + 15 minutes discussion

or

30 minutes presentation + 10 minutes discussion.

Please indicate your wish in the abstract!

We encourage you to give an oral presentation, i.e. no dry reading of a paper or reading from texts on power points (use power points for pictures, illustration of similar material). What matters is the content and what you have to say, not the rhetorical performance. Any form of experimental presentation is very much welcomed.

To submit a proposal please send via email to the coordinators:

Max Rynänen: max.rynanen@nsuweb.org

Carsten Friberg: carsten.friberg@nsuweb.org

1. A written proposal (**300-500 words**) with a title and descriptive subtitle. This text should include your presentation proposal, its format its duration, facilities you need (i.e. technical equipment)
2. If you wish to participate without giving a presentation, please write a short (**200 words**) description of yourself.

The deadline to submit proposals is November 30, 2015. The preliminary program will be announced on December 15, 2015 on www.nordic.university where you can also find more information about NSU and sign up for the newsletter.

The applications will be viewed ASAP. Applicants will be notified of their acceptance no later than December 15.

Later submission is possible but we will prioritize early submissions.

Registration and fee

Students, unemployed and freelancers: 30 €

Baltic students: 10 €

Those associated with institutions: 50 €

We will use the fees to cover some food and other expenses for the participants.

Participants should apply to their institutions, Art Councils, local foundations or sponsors to have their travel cost covered.

The Nordic Summer University 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, NSU 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

