



CALL FOR PAPERS/PROPOSALS

Cybioses: shaping human-technology futures

Winter Symposium: March 21-24, in collaboration with [Nida Art Colony](#), Nida, Lithuania

Symposium theme:

Technologies and Creativity

Invitation

We invite scholars, artists, students, technologists and other professionals working or writing on future technologies to take part in our study circle [Cybioses: shaping human-technology futures](#), a migratory non-hierarchical group of international researchers. Our circle is developed within the Nordic and Baltic framework of Nordic Summer University (NSU). Since its inception, the primary aim of NSU has been to provide a forum for experimentation and cross-disciplinary collaboration welcoming members both from within and outside of universities and other institutions.

The aim of the **Cybioses** circle is to bring together theorists, practitioners, 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, aesthetic, and sociological theories? And how can both making and theorizing help us imagining future technologies and their impact on societies? Guided by these questions we want to develop a philosophy for makers and a better practice for philosophy.

Theme of the symposium

Our previous symposium investigated the role of improvisation in technological development and philosophy. Now we want to open up for the wider field of creativity, in all domains, in the light of future technologies. If possible with a visionary angle.

Creativity is a necessary survival trait. We solve problems all the time, and we design artifacts, for communication, reflection and admiration. Technologies change the way we do this, and they change the potential modes and modalities of creation. Creativity is also a feature of nature, of evolution. Maybe technology in itself has become creative, just like nature, following its own patterns of creation. A lot has happened in the last centuries, in the last decades, and even in the last few years. Technical development accelerates, and our minds and lives change, in a cybotic relationship. But nobody knows the direction of the future, other than that it will continue to change.

What are the different possible modes of creation, in humans and in machines, by humans and by machines? How are they co-dependent? What about creative agency, now and in the future? What are the aesthetic, societal and philosophical implications of this rapid unpredictable development and change?

Proposals are encouraged within the following topics:

- creativity, technology and society
- autonomous machine creativity, in general or in any domain
- ethical perspectives on machine creativity
- creativity and interactivity
- synergetic and symbiotic perspectives on creativity
- philosophical perspectives on technology and creativity

- cybernetics and creativity
- critical work on the topic of creativity and technology
- creativity and technological evolution
- information theory and creativity
- technology supporting or augmenting creativity
- creativity supporting or augmenting technology
- systemic views and models of creativity
- artificial intelligence and creativity
- aesthetics of technology and creativity
- history and future of technology and creativity
- cognitive perspectives on technology and creativity
- coexistence of machine and human creativity
- computational models for understanding creativity
- visions of creative and artistic futures
- computer-aided innovation
- issues of agency in human-machine creativity

Format of the presentations

We explicitly want to foster exchange between humanities-based researchers, makers, technologists, and artists. The interdisciplinary discussion of technological futures has yet to find its forms within and outside of academia. Our aim is, therefore, to test different forms of presentation. We encourage participants to briefly present one particular technology or one particular theory about a technology. The individual presentations will be complemented with open discussion rounds and documentation rounds. The focus on brief showcases, together with the small format of the workshop, allows for extended and deep discussions, and prevents endless boring paper sessions.

We are looking for brief technological and philosophical showcases limited to 20 minutes. You could either present a particular technology, particular theory or case study you are working on.

We are also open for experimental presentations: collaborative, participatory, artistic, performative – time and space logistics permitting.

Submission

To submit a proposal please send via email in PDF format to the coordinators or the circle email below (we will confirm receipt of submission within a day):

Palle Dahlstedt (palle@chalmers.se), Rafael Dernbach (rafael.dernbach@gmail.com),

Johan Söderberg

Circle email: cybioses@nsuweb.org

1. A written proposal (**350 words**) with a title and descriptive subtitle. This text should include your presentation proposal, its format its duration, facilities you need (e.g., space, technical equipment)
2. A short bio (**200 words**)

It is possible to attend the symposium without presenting. In this case, please just email a short bio.

The deadline to submit proposals is December 30th, 2018. The preliminary program will be announced on January 7th, 2019, on www.nordic.university where you can also find more information about NSU and sign up for the newsletter.

Location and host

This symposium is organized in collaboration with the NIDA Art Colony in Nida, Lithuania, and it will take place at their premises. For location and travel info, please check their homepage:

<http://nidacolony.lt/en>

For more information on the Cybioses study circle, please check the circle home page:

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

Registration and fee

Students and independents: €90

Those associated with institutions or companies: €180

Baltic residents: €40

This cost includes most meals. Moreover, NSU will organize and pay for basic accommodation for all participants in the facilities of the NIDA Art Colony. The registration fee must be paid via bank transfer or Paypal in no later than Feb 1st.

Participants should apply to their institutions, Art Councils, local foundations or sponsors to have their travel cost covered. For those not affiliated with an institution or in a precarious economical situation, it is possible after the symposium to apply to NSU for some travel funding.

Important dates:

Submission deadline: December 30th, 2018

Acceptance decision and notification: Jan 7th, 2019

Payment deadline: Feb 1st

Arrival: Thursday March 21st, before 12.00

Departure: Sunday March 24th, after 13.00

About NSU

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

