



CALL FOR PRESENTATION 2017

## Action and Activism

### *Appearances of the Political 4/6*

Summer Symposium: 26<sup>th</sup> of July - 2<sup>nd</sup> of August, Saulkrasti, Latvia

#### **Theme of the symposium**

Since the 1960s the active forms of the political have been manifold, from marches, demonstrations interventions, and happenings, to more radical forms such as occupations – and even violent forms such as terrorism. In recent years, we have witnessed a revitalisation of mass movements through use of internet and social media, including the creation of new movements like Occupy and Indignados, and new activities like the hacktivism of Anonymous. In relation to the environment, we find guerrilla gardening, along with local protests against corporate use of natural resources, engaging people across traditional political groupings. Many forms of activism also face political resistance defining – or redefining – the political space that is threatening democratic rights with agendas of terrorism, challenging or reshaping the space for political activism.

In this summer session, we will primarily explore forms of activism today, but historical views are also welcome. We encourage participants to share analysis and criticism of concrete examples and discussions, or share texts throwing light over the topic, thereby offering platforms for critical discourses.

By political we understand ways of organising and administrating our environment. While this obviously has an explicit form in political institutions and debates, it also has a variety of other appearances such as: in art and literature, in design, architecture and urban planning, in consumer culture and fashion, in organisation of work, communication and entertainment, etc.

We plan joined sessions with the circles 1 (Understanding Migration in Nordic and Baltic Countries) and 5 (International Relations and Human Rights).

#### **Format of the presentation**

##### *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.

##### *Text:*

You can offer to present a text (own writing or a published text) which has been distributed beforehand to the participants. The text should not exceed 25 pages. The presentation must give a short introduction of the argumentation allowing participants to engage in discussion. The presentation of the text cannot exceed 15 min.

##### *Performance, object or alternative forms:*

You can present ideas, examples or reflections through other formats including inviting the participants to engage in experiments. Please indicate the optimal time.

#### **Submit via email. Deadline, 1<sup>st</sup> of May, 2017:**

1. A written proposal (**max. 350 words**) with a title, its format its duration.
2. A short bio (**max. 100 words**).

Submit to: [circle2@nsuweb.org](mailto:circle2@nsuweb.org). If you would like to attend the symposium without presenting, please email a short bio. Participants with presentations will be given priority. Preliminary

programme will be announced on 15<sup>th</sup> of May on [www.nordic.university](http://www.nordic.university). Late submissions will continued to be considered, until the maximum number of participants is reached.

### **Application process and registration**

The application process has two steps:

(1) Application to coordinators for acceptance of presentation or participation without presentation.  
(2) After you have been accepted, the next step is registration and payments, which **closes on 1<sup>st</sup> of June**. All registration and payment will be done electronically.

Note if you apply for participating late, payment must still be completed 1<sup>st</sup> of June.

### **Keynote speakers**

*Sigrídur Þorgeirsdóttir*, Professor of Philosophy at the University of Iceland.

*Cecilia Malmström Olsson*, freelance dance researcher, writer, lecturer.

### **About the Circle**

The study circle provides a space for theoretical experimentation and the cross-fertilization of methodologies. We invite you for a week of exchange and debates – in an open environment of people with different backgrounds, including scholars, students, artists and third sector agents – on the many forms, appearances and the aesthetic functions in which we experience the presences of political reality. We wish to approach it from social, artistic, aesthetic and cultural analysis and 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 aspire to break new paths in connecting the cultural humanities and the political sciences and invite participants to bravely explore new ways of studying these issues. We believe that experimentation is crucial for rethinking the political. Presentations are meant to be rather short, while space for discussions and pursuing ideas are central for the circle and will be given considerable space during the week.

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

blog: <http://appearancesofthepolitical.blogspot.com>

### **Cost and accommodation**

*Please note that the regular participation fee has been changed since the first edition of the call.*

The summer session will take place at Munchhausen Hotel. Total cost per adult person ranges from 200- 550 € depending on the accommodation of choice. NSU subsidizes participants that are willing to share a double room.

Single room: 550€

Double room: 300€

Triple room: 200€

Adult not participating in the NSU program (bed in double room): 350€

Children 5 - 18 years: 150€

Children 2 - 4 years: 50€

Children less than 2 years: free

Grant and scholarship holders will be given a place in caravans. Cost for grant holders is 60 € and for scholarship holders 40 €.

See further on combination of categories and prices will soon be updated in the online shop:

<https://payment.nsuweb.org/>

There are also 3 accessible rooms available.

Families with children should get in touch with Arrkom to find the best solution on [arrkom@nsuweb.org](mailto:arrkom@nsuweb.org)

**Arrival: 26 July**

**Departure: 2 August**

### **Scholarship program**

NSU provides a number of scholarships for students and grants for others in need of a subsidy in order to attend the summer session. **Deadline for application is 1<sup>st</sup> of May.**

Please note that people who receive grants and scholarships are expected to help ARKKOM with small tasks like writing blog posts, sharing their experience, distributing information if needed, and helping out with setting up and cleaning up the picnic.

### **Parents with children**

We welcome families at the Summer Session. As with previous years, there will be a separate circle for children between 3 and 15 years. In the children's circle, we offer a variety of activities for children and youth, running parallel to the other study circles. See

also: <http://nordic.university/study-circles/childrenscircle/>

**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](http://www.nordic.university)

