

Extraordinary Newsletter from NSU no. 2, 2015
PETITION: SAVE THE NSU!

At January 28th, 2015, the Board of the Nordic Summer University (NSU) was informed that the Nordic Committee of Senior Officials for Education and Research at its meeting in December 2014 had decided that the Nordic Summer University should permanently lose its funding by 2016. In effect, this means that the NSU will have to close down.

Founded in 1950, the NSU has been a platform for interdisciplinary scholarly and cultural exchange between Nordic and (recently) Baltic universities. Based on voluntary work, the NSU has managed to create a unique environment for research and education, where students work in close collaboration and on equal terms with professors and professionals. For the equivalent of a mere 120 000 €, the NSU each year gathers eight study circles. Each of these organizes separate symposia in the winter and in the summer all study circles meet for a week in joint session with a total number of approximately 120 participants. Today the NSU attracts students and professionals from all of Europe and has throughout the years created strong networks within the fields of Psychology, Architecture, Semiotics, Philosophy, Art, Media and Sociology. The NSU has a long tradition for introducing renowned international scholars to a Nordic community. Throughout the history of the NSU, participants have been given the opportunity to engage in discussion with key intellectuals such as liberation theologian Enrique Dussel, cultural theorist Paul Gilroy, feminist philosopher Sandra Harding, literary theorist Katherine Hayles, and media theorist Friedrich Kittler, film theorist Steven Shaviro, affect theorist Erin Manning and many others. All in all the NSU is based upon Nordic ideas of the Folk High School's democratic approach to knowledge production has proved to be a viable self-governing organization throughout 65 years with shifting political agendas. It has managed to transform and adapt to new conditions and research interests, often transversally developed at the outskirts of university knowledge – and just as important, it has managed to actually introduce and implement these in universities in the Nordic countries as well as internationally. Today we witness an increased interest in the educational platform of the NSU from the UK, Canada, France and Germany. These international research colleagues have found the NSU to be a unique environment for learning and exchange of ideas and knowledge in the Nordic and Baltic context. With this petition, we argue against the decision by the Nordic Committee of Senior Officials for Education and Research. Save the Nordic Summer University!

Sample: Universities of Denmark

Danish Universities express their support for NSU: "even though smaller, but important role in the dialog between the Nordic researchers".

Sample: EHU

EHU, European Humanities University, express the importance for them to opening up cooperation opportunities with the Nordic-Baltic Academia.

Petition to sign:

<http://www.skrivunder.com/savethensu>

More on this campaign as it develops:
<http://campaign.nsuweb.org>

Since 1950, NSU has actively supported the cultivation of new ideas and growing research networks in the Nordic countries. Particular attention has been paid to cross-disciplinary areas not yet targeted by larger research institutions. NSU is an independent think tank for the development of new research areas and emerging researchers. Participation takes place across academic borderlines. Career and generational divides are transcended along with institutional identity and language purity. NSU is organized as a Swedish non-profit organization, sponsored by NordForsk (www.nordforsk.org).