



CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2021

Racialized Encounters

“Racialization, Whiteness and Politics of Othering in Contemporary Europe” (Study Circle 5)
Nordic Summer University

Winter Symposium: 17-19 March, 2021, Roskilde, Denmark / virtual meeting

Invitation

The Nordic Summer University study circle 5 “Racialization, Whiteness and Politics of Othering in Contemporary Europe” is pleased to invite proposals for our first winter symposium to be held from Wednesday, March 17 through Friday, March 19, 2021. If only possible the symposium would take place at Roskilde University, Denmark, but most likely – due to the Covid19 restrictions – it will be held online.

Theme of the symposium

This symposium will explore compelling issues of European identity, integration and its future by engaging concepts of race and differentiated whiteness, moving beyond the binary of white/ non-white or (single, solid) hegemonic whiteness. We will examine how racialized positions emerge, shift, are contested and negotiated relationally, in different contexts. We set out to investigate how different whitenesses are enacted, negotiated and contested, and to challenge how un(re)marked whiteness reinforces colonial complicity (Keskinen, 2009; Vuorela, 2009).

We aim to unpack how and to what effects racialization and whiteness continue to shape Nordic, Baltic and European spaces, bodies and politics. We seek to create an open space for critical conversations and plurality of knowledges, where productive tensions can emerge as we acknowledge our racialized positionalities and “blind spots”.

We welcome participants who are working on these and related issues either as academics, activists, artists or practitioners, as well as others who are interested to discuss the above topic. When applying please tell us why you are interested to participate and indicate how you would like to contribute to the symposium.

Format of the presentation

While we would prefer to be able to meet in person, we doubt that international travel will be possible for most in March 2021. We therefore aim to create an online space that facilitates engaging with each other’s work with the principles of care, nourishment, and solidarity.

The symposium will take place over three afternoons of work-in progress sessions and in-depth discussions (with breaks), focusing on the participants’ needs, for instance, exploration and playfulness, advice on publishing, or comments related to coherence, and/ or a sense of community with other scholars working in relatively isolated circumstances.

We will group the abstracts by topic and chair one afternoon session each. In addition, each paper will have an opponent. We will circulate papers/ outlines/ working questions in advance to enable the presentations to be relatively brief, giving more time to discussions and exchange of ideas.

To apply

Please fill out the google form: <https://forms.gle/AvAxosCMVhTjvVMYA>. In your application, please indicate the following:

1. A written proposal (**max. 350 words**) with a title and descriptive subtitle. This text should explain your interest in the topic
2. A short bio (**max. 200 words**)
3. What do you hope to get out of (and contribute with) at the symposium?
4. Would you like to keep open the possibility of actually traveling to Denmark to present in person? (Travel and accommodation costs are covered by participants).

If you have any questions regarding the application and/ or symposium, you can reach us by e-mail racialisation@nsuweb.org.

The deadline to submit proposals is 1 December, 2020. Accepted applicants will be informed by e-mail and a preliminary programme will be announced on <http://nordic.university>, where you can also find more information about NSU and sign up for the newsletter.

The accepted participants will be notified by the 15 December 2020, including all the relevant details regarding the registration.

Membership fee

There is no participation fee for the symposium, but all participants need to be or become members of NSU, which is connected with a small fee:

- Students, unemployed and independents, West Nordic & Baltic residents: 10 euro
- Those associated with institutions or companies: 25 euro

The Nordic Summer University (NSU) annual membership fee facilitates the existence of NSU, which is a volunteer-based organisation. As a member you can sign up for all events organised by NSU, take part in the democratic decision-making process on which NSU is based, and become part of the extensive network of NSU.

Academic credit

For those interested, we can provide certificate of participation.

About the circle 5: “Racialization, Whiteness and Politics of Othering in Contemporary Europe”

The study circle discusses how processes of racialization and ideas of whiteness shape present Nordic, Baltic and European spaces, identities and politics. The circle invites interdisciplinary debates about Europe’s condition/ integrity and poses questions about who and what counts as “European”, “Nordic” and “Baltic” from different locations, practices and subject positions. The circle wants to broaden and develop existing research networks on race, racialization and whiteness in the Nordic with perspectives and knowledge from the former Soviet countries in order to enrich existing scholarship by combining post-Soviet and post-colonial perspectives.

Circle coordinators:

- Linda Lapiņa, cand. psych., PhD, Assistant Professor of Cultural Encounters, Roskilde University, Denmark
- Anna Wojtyńska, PhD, Postdoctoral researcher, University of Iceland
- Irma Budginaite-Mackine, PhD, Lecturer, Vilnius University, Lithuania

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.