



NORDIC SUMMER UNIVERSITY

Newsletter #1

Summer Session 2020 in Oslo, Norway

26th of July–2nd of August



Dear all! The time has finally come for the first Newsletter of 2020. In this Newsletter you will find the following:

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Invitation to the Summer Session 2020

The Summer Session 2020 will take place from the 26th of July until the 2nd August at Rønningen Folkehøgskole in Oslo, Norway. Whether arriving in Oslo by train, plane, bus, boat or car, Rønningen Folkehøgskole is accessible by public transportation from the city centre. The venue is located near the Oslo woodlands, and there are several nature sites for walking in the forest, along the Aker river, and swimming in nearby lakes as well as the Oslo fjord. From the school, you can see a lovely view of the city, as well as the nature park. The city of Oslo offers an array of cultural programs, sightseeing opportunities, nightlife, and nature options. The Oslo area is a lovely place to explore in the summertime. To learn more about the venue, visit <https://ronningen.fhs.no/>.

Study program 2020

The NSU has a total of nine study circles in its study program. Each circle is organized around a specific topic or field of research which the circle participants together with the circle coordinators, invest and explore throughout a series of seminars and paper presentations. The symposia take place two times per year: in the winter and, during the week-long Summer Session. The Summer Session could be considered as the core event of the NSU since it is the only occasion when all nine circles are gathered on the same site. It is usually very appreciated among our members since it gives the opportunity to visit several circles on the same conference and meet with participants from other parts of the study circles. To read about the study program and see which one of the circles that fits your interests best, visit NSU's official homepage: <http://nordic.university/study-circles/>.

How to apply and register for the Summer Session

Once you have found a circle you would like to partake in, the next step is to write an application to the coordinators of the elected circle. We encourage everyone interested to apply for the study program. There are no qualification requirements to receive an invitation to our activities and our symposia are usually visited by students, researchers, artists and freelancers of all ages and with all kinds of backgrounds; both from within and outside of the academia. Once you are accepted to the study program, you will automatically become a member of the NSU. The call for applications opens on the **15th of March**. The circle coordinators will upload their calls on their web page, at NSU's official homepage (same link as above). To read about our **scholarship and grant program**, see section below. More practical information will follow in Newsletter #2 which goes out on the 1st of April. So stay tuned!

Save the date! 30th of July – Anniversary festival

NSU turns 70 years old this summer, and we are marking the date with an Anniversary festival of exhibitions, performances, and film-screenings. Working with the Nordics' #TracesOfNorth campaign, ten artists and researchers have been digging into NSU's history

- from Board crises to flared trousers - and each producing a dynamic *trace* from the last 70 years. Throughout the week of the Summer Session, these artistic responses to the past will be springing up on screens, in exhibition rooms, and across the airwaves. On **Thursday, the 30th of July**, we will have a whole day for you to explore the fruits of the projects, with live performances and special guests. You can follow the making of the projects already on <https://tracingthespirit.com>

Keynote speakers

Our first confirmed keynote speaker for the Summer Session is **Nora Bateson** who is a filmmaker, researcher, writer, educator, and President of the International Bateson Institute. Her work brings the fields of biology, cognition, art, anthropology, psychology, and information technology together into a study of the patterns in ecology of living systems. She has written, directed and produced the award-winning documentary, *An Ecology of Mind* (2010), a portrait of Gregory Bateson, a celebrated anthropologist, philosopher, author, naturalist, and systems theorist. In her book, *Small Arcs of Larger Circles*, (Triarchy Press, 2016) she updates our thinking on systems and ecosystems by applying her own insights and those of her team at IBI to education, organisations, complexity, academia, and the way that society organizes itself.

More keynotes will be announced.

Price list for the Summer Session

The price range for the full week including lodging, meals and the program will be from 100 EUR to 650 EUR. Scholarship receivers would pay 100 EUR and be accommodated in triple rooms; grant receivers would pay 120 EUR for a bed in twin room. Other participants have a choice among few single rooms (550-650 EUR), a bed in a twin room if travelling alone (400-430 EUR for participants, 480 EUR for accompanying persons), a double room or a family room if travelling with children (1400–1500 EUR for two adults and two children aged between 3 and 12 years). Most of the rooms have private bathroom. All rooms at Rønningen



Folkehøgskole are very good quality and most have beautiful view as well as the venue is located on the hill. The rooms include bed linen and towels. There are enough rooms to accommodate up to 200 people, so lack of beds should not be a problem this year. The webshop to register and reserve a room will be open from the **1st of May**.

Scholarship and grant program

NSU offers two forms of funding options for which the participants at the Summer Session can apply. The scholarship is exclusively for Nordic and Baltic students, the grant is for anyone in need for support in order to participate. In addition to that, we also offer West-Nordic and Baltic travel grants. For more information, see NSU's support page: <http://support.nsuweb.org/arrkom/scholarship-and-grant-program/>. The application period for scholarships and (travel) grants opens on the same date as the calls: **15th of March**. Deadline is **1st of May**.

Presentation of the Arrangement committee, aka Arrkom

To ensure that the Summer Session runs smoothly, there will be an Arrangement committee at the site who will take care of NSU's participants. This year's Arrkom consists of five people: Hild Borchgrevik (The Chair/Treasurer), Oda Davanger (Communication Manager), Kai Green (Culture Program/Anniversary Festival), Dainis Silins (Logistics Expert), and Oddbjørn Ørbech Jensen (Activities and Children's Circle Coordinator). They are just as excited about the Summer Session as they appear in the cover picture of this Newsletter. They can be contacted at nsuarrangement@gmail.com. You will also be able to find practical information about the event on the Arrkom blog page (which is not fully updated yet, but will be loaded with information within the next few weeks). The address to the blog page is the following: <https://nsuarrangement.wixsite.com/nsu2020>.

***Nota bene:** Please be aware the NSU is solely founded on voluntary work. None of our members and co-workers, including the Arrkom, is paid to maintain the organisation. We are therefore asking participants to have indulgence if things do not always work as efficiently as one could have wished for.*

Call for Mentor and Youth Leaders for the Children's Circle

Since many participants bring their families to the Summer Session, NSU arranges an additional tenth circle every summer, namely the Children's Circle. We are now looking for one Mentor and four to five youth leaders to lead this important circle for the whole week. The idea is to activate the children while the parents are partaking in the other circles. If the weather allows, these activities and games can be held outdoors. The Mentor and Youth Leaders will get their travel costs, accommodation and meals at the Summer Session covered. They are also offered a honorarium as compensation for their work. Anyone interested is welcome to send their application to Arrkom. For more information on the conditions and application process, visit: <http://support.nsuweb.org/children-leader/>. The deadline to send in applications is the **15th of April**.

News from the Board

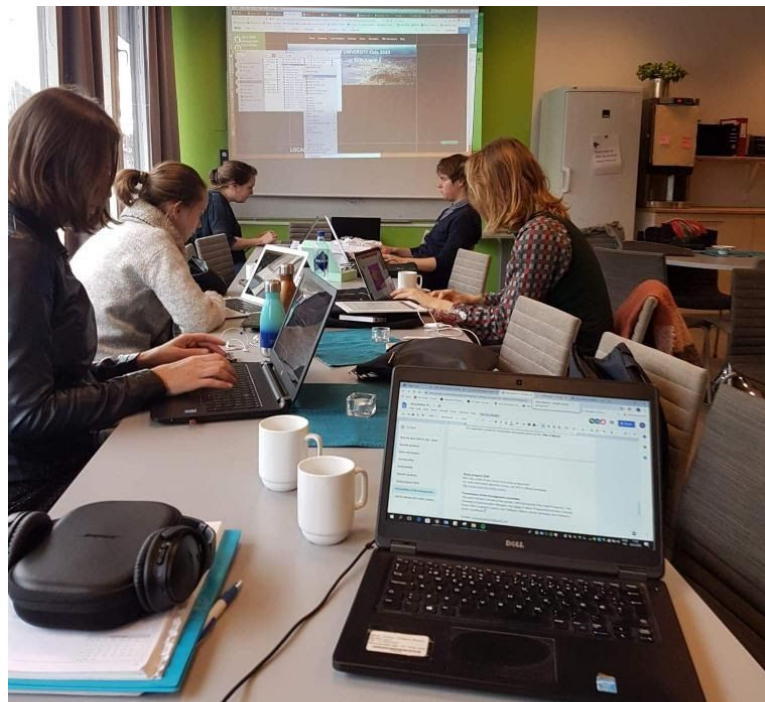
In the last two months, the old Board of 2019 has been working with the Annual Report for 2019, which is now finalized and submitted to our main funder, the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM). We will get feedback on the report in March, when there hopefully will be a meeting with the NCM. The report can be found on our official homepage: <http://nordic.university/5-2/annual-report-2019/>.

For 2020 the NSU Board consists of Inta Balode (Latvia), who is our eminent Chair; Gustav Eek (Sweden) who is Vice chair; Nicole des Bouvrie (international) who is Treasurer; Laura Hellsten (Finland) and Erik Poulsen (Sweden).

In close collaboration with all the coordinators who helped out getting all the necessary paperwork, it was possible to send out an external funding application to the Nordics in February. Facing the challenge of less financial support from the main funders, the Board has been looking into new sources to keep the activities of NSU going. This specific application now sent out will hopefully cover the 2021 Winter Symposia. In case there is anyone interested in helping out with this ongoing task of securing external funding, you're very welcome to contact the Treasurer (nicole.nobyeni@nsuweb.org).

At the end of February, Inta Balode and Erik Poulsen went to Oslo together with all five members of the Arrangement committee (see presentation above) to prepare for the upcoming Summer Session. The meetings lasted for three days in the premises of Rønningen Folkehøgskole, which is a boarding school usually attended by young adults. During school breaks and summer breaks, however, the school is used as a hostel which makes it well suited to host conferences of NSU's caliber, since the buildings include plenty of classrooms already.

The meetings included a short guided tour around the site, planning for the Anniversary festival on the 30th of July, outlining budgets and room prices, and meetings with the hostel manager and the kitchen chef. They both look forward to having NSU as a guest! The Board and the Arrkom can assure that the premises for this year's Summer Session look very promising. There will be lots of space to arrange additional workshops and other activities apart from the study program.



Right now, the Board is following the ongoing Winter symposia with great interests. We wish all participants an inspiring spring, and hope to see you in the summer!