



NORDIC SUMMER UNIVERSITY

Newsletter #2
Summer Session 2020
26th of July–2nd of August



Dear reader, we regret to inform you that the physical meetings in Oslo have been postponed until summer 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the Summer Session 2020 will still take place, yet in a different format. In this Newsletter you will find:

- **Invitation to Summer Session 2020**
- **Call for *Traces***
- **How to apply and register**

- **The General Assembly: 28th of July and 31st of July 2020**
- **Keynote speakers**
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Invitation to Summer Session 2020

We invite all of our members and prospective participants to an alternative Summer Session. The activities will be related to the topics and themes of our [Study Circle Program](#) just as usual, but in a slightly different format and with a wider scope. When everything comes around, it is participants and members who constitute the NSU, and we would therefore like to encourage everyone—wherever and however you will be spending your summer—to contribute to developing a *Trace* of the NSU.

Call for *Traces*

A *Trace* can be produced individually or in a collaboration with other participants. It could be for example a virtual conference, a webinar lecture, a podcast session, a workshop, an interview, a virtual performance, a journal article, a film shoot, a reading of a play, a local gathering, a joint themed dinner or any kind of experiment. As long as the *Trace* is in line with the values of the NSU—with its Nordic heritage of *folkbildning* and self-organisation—participants are welcome to produce and partake in *Traces* in whatever way and format they prefer. To check out and read the calls for *Traces*, visit our homepage and click on the study circle of your interest: <http://nordic.university/study-circles/>.

Deadline for sending in proposals for *Traces* is **31st of May**.

How to apply and register

Once you have found a circle that suits your interests, you are ready to send in an application. The application should include a brief description of the *Trace* project (circa 200–500 words) and preferably a picture that can be used as an invitation for participation in the *Trace*. It is a requirement that every *Trace* is **shareable** somehow and can be accessed freely, not only for other participants, but also for non-members of the NSU. Depending on the size and nature of your *Trace*, the NSU will be able to allocate up to 7000 DKK (approximately

936 EUR) to each project. For more information about the requirements, see the calls for Traces at circle page of your interests:

<http://nordic.university/study-circles/>. The application should be sent to the circle of your interest. Participants who would like to participate without producing any Traces are of course also welcome to apply. The circle leaders will let you know if your Trace application was accepted and/or if there is room for you to participate in the events of the circle. Once this is clear, you will be able to register and pay the membership fee for the Summer Session 2020.

The General Assembly: 28th of July and 31st of July 2020

Even though the physical meetings will not take place this summer, there will still be a General Assembly just like every year. Since neither Board members nor Circle Coordinators have a mandate to make decisions on next year's budget or study program according to the [statutes](#), a General Assembly will be absolutely necessary for the continuation of the organisation. A virtual General Assembly is perfectly in line with the democratic and non-hierarchical structure of the NSU. Preliminary times and dates for the Assembly are the afternoons on the 28th of July and 31st of July. All members of the NSU are welcome to join the General Assembly, as a delegate or as a member of the audience. The Board will send out more information about the process on a later date.

Keynote speakers

The keynote lectures will instead be given as a series of webinars. The first speaker is Professor **Steve Fuller** who is Auguste Comte Professor of Social Epistemology at the University of Warwick, UK. Originally trained in history, philosophy and sociology of science at Columbia, Cambridge and Pittsburgh, Fuller is best known for his foundational work in the field of 'social epistemology', which is the name of a quarterly journal that he founded in 1987 as well as the first of his twenty-five books. From 2011 to 2014 he published a trilogy relating to the idea of a 'post-' or 'trans-' human future under the rubric of 'Humanity 2.0'. His most recent books are *Post-Truth: Knowledge as a Power Game* (Anthem 2018) and *Nietzschean Meditations: Untimely Thoughts at the*

Dawn of the Transhuman Era (Schwabe 2019). Fuller is currently completing a follow-up to *Post-Truth*, also to be published by Anthem in 2020. His works have been translated into thirty languages. He was awarded a D.Litt. by the University of Warwick in 2007 for sustained lifelong contributions to scholarship. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, the UK Academy of Social Sciences, and the European Academy of Sciences and Arts.

News from the Board

Fortunately, the Board is already used to working virtually (as you can see from the cover picture of this Newsletter), as Board members live all around the Nordic and Baltic region. The physical meetings with the Nordic Council of Ministers, one of the funders, has also been postponed due to the pandemic, but the Board is happy to have their continued support for the alternative version of the summer session this year. It will be an anniversary year not easy to forget.