



NORDIC SUMMER UNIVERSITY

Newsletter #3

Summer Session 2020 TRACES

26th of July–2nd of August



Dear all! The time has come for one of the most important Newsletters of 2020. This year has proven to be a special and unusual year for NSU. In this Newsletter you will find the following:

- **A program of the Summer Session 2020**
- **How to register and become a member of the NSU**
- **Invitation to the opening reception and regional meetings - Sunday 26th of July**
- **Invitation to a virtual General Assembly**

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A program of the Summer Session 2020

A complete program can be found on the [TracingTheSpirit.com page](#). There you may read about each Trace by clicking on the “Read more” link. More program points will be announced as the Summer Session approaches, so stay tuned. You may also find information about the Traces event on our [facebook page](#) (please like). For arrangers whose Traces suit facebook format, please make a facebook event and add the NSU 2020 page as co-organiser, or invite our chair for the Arrangement Committee, [Hild Borchgrevink](#), to the event.

Observe that most program events will need that you make individual registrations to each session (not only Summer Session registration). This is necessary as each organiser will provide you with materials and links needed for the online sessions.

How to register and become a member of the NSU

To register for the Summer Session is a piece of cake and free of charge, just use this link [here](#). Everyone planning to attend a Trace event - virtually or physically - should register. We encourage all participants to also become members. By becoming a member you are supporting the organisation and you get a mandate to vote at the General Assembly or becoming a delegate. To become a member, just use the same link as above. Note that you only have to pay the membership fee once per year, i.e. participants who became members during our Winter Symposia do not have to pay the fee again. More information can be found [here](#).

Invitation to the opening reception and regional meetings - Sunday 26th of July

On the opening day, Sunday the **26th of July**, the NSU Board will hold a huge, virtual reception for all participants, coordinators and the Arrangement Committee. So bring your own champagne, say hello to old and new friends, and raise your glass to the Study Circle Coordinators, the Arrangement Committee, and all the people involved in making this week possible. The reception will begin at **14:00 CET, or 15:00 EEST**.

After the reception we will go directly into break-out rooms where the regional meetings will be held. In these meetings participants will get a chance to discuss regional matters within the NSU, establish contacts across the study circles, and - last but not least - elect representatives to the General Assembly and the Nominating Committee. In other words, very important preparations for the Summer Session week.

To join the reception and regional meetings you will need to register by clicking [here](#). Note that this registration is apart from the regular registration for the Summer Session as mentioned above.

Invitation to a virtual General Assembly

The General Assembly is extra important this year, as we as a community will need to decide on the future and the funding situation. And also we need to decide which Study Circle Program will be accepted for next year! The General Assembly will take place in the two afternoons of **28th and 31st of July**. To register for both meetings, use [this link here](#).

You may find all the information on this year's General Assembly, including the documents and special procedures on tracingthespirit.com

The future of NSU

In May this year a huge Zoom meeting was held for the whole NSU community in order to discuss future strategies of the NSU. A second community meeting will be held on the **23rd of July** and we hope to see as many participants as we did in May. In the last couple of months, two task forces - a reorganization group and a political strategy group - have been working on ideas to be presented to and voted for in the General Assembly. [Register here to get the link to the Zoom meeting](#).

Keynote speakers

Just like every year, two distinguished keynote speakers have been invited to the Summer Session. Our first guest is Prof. **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.

Our second keynote is **Nora Bateson** who is an award-winning filmmaker, writer and educator, as well as President of the International Bateson Institute, based in Sweden. Her work asks the question "How we can improve our perception of the complexity we live within, so we may improve our interaction with the world?". An international lecturer, researcher and writer, Nora wrote, directed and produced the award-winning documentary, *An Ecology of Mind*, a portrait of her father, Gregory Bateson. 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. Her book, *Small Arcs of Larger Circles*, released by Triarchy Press, UK, 2016 is a revolutionary personal approach to the study of systems and complexity.

Find all information on the keynote sessions and links to register [on the website](#).

A special distance call for children of the NSU

The Mentor and Youth Leader's of the Children's Circle have a special message to all children of the NSU: *Since the physical Summer Session has been cancelled this year, we have come up with a creative alternative. We would like you all to participate in a collaborative video, where you are invited to share a short presentation and a physical message to everyone.*

Look at their video invitation here: <https://tracingthespirit.com/children-circle/>



News from the Board

Since May the Board has been working in very special and exciting conditions to prepare the new format of Summer Session 2020: TRACES. It demands much more work both from the Board and from the amazing Coordinators. Now that a very special edition of the Summer Session is beginning to take shape, we see how the efforts are finally paying back. Hopefully, the shared efforts of the community will also pay back when it comes to rethinking the future of NSU. Board members are involved in the meetings of task forces and we are impressed by the dedication and creativity of the members.

On a more prosaic side the Board is also dealing a lot with the financial reporting, posting etc. issues and accountancy challenges. The Board has also spent exciting time reading the study circle proposals for 2021, as well as working on the reviews of the new study circle proposals. Zoom and Riot meetings have become a routine action for the Board and members of the Arrangement Committee. The sustainable way of meeting works well and we look forward seeing you in cyberspace!