



CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2021

## **Racialization, knowledge production and researcher positionality**

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

Symposium: 11-13 October 2021, online

### **Invitation**

The Nordic Summer University study circle 5 “Racialization, Whiteness and Politics of Othering in Contemporary Europe” is pleased to invite proposals for our symposium to be held from Monday, the 11<sup>th</sup> October through Wednesday, the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021. The symposium will take place online on Zoom. We are also considering a possibility to host the symposium in a hybrid format, if pandemic situation allows some of the participants to travel to Denmark (Copenhagen).

### **Theme of the symposium**

The symposium of the study circle 5 will focus on racialization, knowledge production and positionality.

How do our (researcher) positionalities, shaped by intersecting markers of difference, constrain our ability to pose questions and recognise what can emerge as knowledge? What are the politics of knowledge production on whiteness and racialization? Who can engage in this research/conversation, and in what ways?

Even though often not articulated explicitly, these questions illustrate underlying tensions in discussions on racialization and whiteness unfolding around daily encounters, classrooms, conference panels, keynotes and symposia. In conditions of online meetings, it can be even more challenging to have these conversations. Consequently, avoiding the topics of privilege and inequality instead of addressing them/ critically engage in them, occasionally resulting in silencing and self-censorship.

We feel that addressing these topics directly can help moving beyond binary approaches based on race, gender, West/East, North/South and the like, helping to arrive at more nuanced understandings of how our positions (gender, age, sexuality, race, body shape, nationality etc.) in life and research open access to certain knowledges, while foreclosing others. This approach can help exploring how racialization and whiteness manifest in various forms, and how we navigate these structures in our local contexts. We seek to create an open space for critical conversations and plurality of knowledges, where productive tensions can emerge as we acknowledge our racialised 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 topics. When applying please tell us why you are interested to participate and indicate how you would like to contribute to the symposium.

## Format

We are aware that topics related to researcher positionality can be vulnerable to engage with explicitly. We aim to create an online space that facilitates engaging with each other's work with the principles of care, nourishment, and solidarity. We value doubt, modesty and curiosity.

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. We will circulate abstracts 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 by **the 6<sup>th</sup> of September**: <https://forms.gle/mfPFCkoUCrqvTA886>.

In your application, please indicate the following:

- Short biographical statement and explain your interest in the topic
- What do you hope to get out of (and contribute with) at the symposium?
- 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)

## NSU membership

Participation in the seminar requires NSU membership, 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

To join NSU, please visit: <https://www.nsuweb.org/product-category/nsu-membership/>.

## About the circle

The study circle "Racialization, Whiteness and Politics of Othering in Contemporary Europe" 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.

## About NSU

The Nordic Summer University ([NSU](#)) is a Nordic network for research and interdisciplinary studies. It is a nomadic academic institution that organises workshop-seminars across disciplinary and national borders. Since it was established in 1950, NSU has organised forums for cultural and intellectual debate in the Nordic and Baltic region, involving students, academics, politicians, artists and intellectuals from this region and beyond. The backbone of NSU is its thematic study circles, where researchers, students and professionals from different backgrounds collaborate in scholarly investigations during regular summer and winter symposia.