



Nordiskt Sommaruniversitet

CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2022

## Borders and Boundaries

*Urban Studies: Between Creativity and Power*

Summer Symposium: 28 July – 4 August, 2022

**Location: Rønningen folkehøgskole (near Oslo, Norway)**

### Invitation

*We invite scholars, emerging researchers, urban practitioners, artists and creative industries specialists, institutional representatives and non-governmental sector activists to take part in a symposium organized by the NSU study circle Urban Studies: Between Creativity and Power. The symposium will offer an opportunity to take part in stimulating presentations and discussions to co-produce knowledge by sharing research and practical experiences and discovering innovative theoretical and methodological approaches to the urban environment.*

**Theme of the symposium:**

### Borders and Boundaries

This theme is chosen to approach urban contexts as heterogeneous spaces to analyze complex power relations present in categorizations and transitions both in physical environment - architecture, landscape and infrastructure, as in social relations and practices - language, culture and gender. Borders are not a matter of solely geographical inquiry. In fact in the presence of global cybertime and mass consumption the relevance of geographical borders are being questioned, increasingly thinking of borders as spaces produced through discourse. Therefore it holds both a theoretical and methodological significance to approach the fluid and varied practices to apprehend the form of boundaries, lack or even non-existence of them. The topics of exploration include, but are not limited to:

- de-territorialization;
- affect - prepersonal experiences as a tool to rethink postmodern power past rational borders;
- liminality and liminal states.

## Format of the presentation

We encourage participants to do both traditional and non-traditional presentations. Given the format this year is online we suggest aiming for short presentations, designed as *a food for thought*, to start a discussion and idea exchange among all participants in a true NSU spirit! We believe that the conversations and intellectual contributions are the key to stimulate lively research.

## IMPORTANT

### 1) Presentation of ideas:

We strongly encourage giving a free oral presentation rather than reading a paper. We wish to facilitate open debates for sharing and ask for presentations creating platforms for debate.

### 2) Performance, object or alternative forms:

You can present ideas, examples or reflections through other formats including inviting the participants to engage in experiments, situations, or individual and group activities. Please indicate the optimal time for this form of presentation; however the maximum time is 30 minutes.

**To submit a proposal, please send it via email to the coordinators Laine Kristberga and Anete Ušča ([circle1nsu@gmail.com](mailto:circle1nsu@gmail.com)) by 1 June 2022:**

1. A written proposal (**max. 250 words**). This should include a title and a short description of the topic, its format and its duration.
2. A short bio (**max. 200 words**).

If you would like to attend the symposium without presenting, please email a short bio. Participants with presentations will be given priority.

**The deadline to submit proposals is 1 June 2022.** 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 10 June, including all the relevant details regarding the registration.

**The deadline for registration is 1 July 2022.** Please be aware that you are registered only when you have paid for the symposium. All registration and payment will be done electronically.

**Nordic Summer University membership fee**

All participants need to pay the Nordic Summer University's **annual membership fee**. The membership fee facilitates the existence of the Nordic Summer University, which is a volunteer-based organisation. There are two rates:

Annual membership fee (for those funded by institutions): €25  
Reduced annual membership fee (all others): €10

The membership fee must be paid online in advance of the symposium. Details about the payment will be provided on acceptance.

### **Symposium attendance costs**

Participation fee (including lodging, foods, and program):

150 EURO to 700 EURO depending on your economic status.

Scholarship receivers 150 EUR (Accommodated in twin or triple rooms.)

Other participants:

650-700 EUR (Accommodated in single rooms)

500-550 EUR (Accommodated in a twin room)

1500–1800 EUR (Accommodation for a family of four travelling with children.)

1750-2000 EUR (for a family of five).

### **What is NSU's summer session?**

The week-long Summer Session is the yearly culmination of NSU's activities where all circles hold their symposia at a shared location. Study circles work during the day and in the evening, numerous social and cultural events take place. You can choose to take part in one circle only or visit several different circles during the week. However, you need to apply to one specific circle when you sign up. Excursions are also made to local cultural attractions at the site of the summer session, and guests are invited to gain new perspectives on the hosting country.

**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.

Circle 1 *Urban Studies: Between Creativity and Power* is established to address, evaluate and re-evaluate the understanding of the growing complexity of the urban environment, where people cohabit, share and create a culture of politics, communication, and the arts as much as the public space. Consequently, in the study circle questions of co-existence will be addressed in relation to power hierarchies, cultural production, and urban development initiatives. The circle invites to stimulate and strengthen a dialogue among both established and emerging academics and practitioners from interdisciplinary fields covering philosophy, anthropology, sociology, geography, political science, literature and arts to challenge and develop new knowledge, innovative perspectives and experimental approaches.

For more information <http://nsuweb.org>