

Nordisk Sommeruniversitet

Nordic Summer University

Study Circle 8: Futures of Education, Cultural Diversity, Imaginations and Collective Transformations in Time of the Anthropocene

Call for Papers

Theme:

Imagining the Future – Traditions and Transformations

Summer Session, 2022, July 28th to August 4th

At Rønningen in Oslo, Norway

Description of theme:

“Reality is made by people who can see things that do not yet exist.” (Piet Hein, 1963)

This theme seeks to explore and discuss the ontology and function of imagination as opposed to immediate perception, as a way of seeing things in becoming. Imagining the future is to understand not just the ability to form images, but also the aspiration and the liberation to reform and transform reality. Imagination is a form of transcendence and makes it possible to imagine the future and transform reality into different potentials.

Educational practices should include the imagined futures to investigate pessimistic and optimistic responses, and steps towards sustainably realized futures. Traditions need to be explored to see how imaginings has created present realized structures. Furthermore, exploring possibilities of providing a universal being(s) right, on behalf of, or in addition to human rights is encouraged.

Suggestion for topics or areas to explore from:

- Do current developments in power - and economic structures where bitcoin and blockchain technology for example, provide facilities for sharing trust provide sufficiently strong future alternatives to the current centralized power-structure?

- Is it fruitful to explore the weaknesses and the strength of the UN when it comes to steering states towards a humanistic development, which include heterological relations and dialogue with non-human, human and more-than-human others. How and by whom should the framework be imagined and realized?
- Will a Bildung based education provide a proper arena for dealing with the cross-cultural and technological future? This tradition needs to enter into a dialogue with non-Western traditions to explore the heterological relations of the future.

Deadline

The deadline for submission of the title and a brief abstract (3-5 lines) is **30th of May, 2022**. Include if you are a student or in need of a grant (see below – and confer with the following link: https://www.nsuweb.org/support_pages/arrkom/scholarship-and-grant-program/)

Please note that you have to send the title and the abstract to the two coordinators mentioned in this call.

Those who have applied will be informed about the decisions by **6th of June, 2022**. We will send out the program for the Summer Session 2022 including more details about the Summer Session.

Program

You can apply for the Summer Session 2022 in some of the following formats:

- 1) Presentation of an academic paper or lecture - **30 mins**.
- 2) Shorter presentation of ideas on the topic of the CfP - **10 mins**.

*The length of the talks/ presentations is adjustable, depending on the number of participants and density of the program.

Expected number of participants: 20

Participation fees and scholarships

Due to the financial situation in NSU at the moment, there will be less funding for attending the Summer Session in NSU. Here is a price list, and some information on scholarships. For the scholarship, the prioritized list will be: one (Nordic-Baltic) student (=scholarship) and one other (=grant), and the third scholarship/grant can be to either category.

Price list 2022

The price range for the full week including lodging, meals and the program will be from 150 EUR to 700 EUR.

- Scholarship receivers would pay 150 EUR and be accommodated in twin or triple rooms.
- Other participants can choose between
 - single rooms (650-700 EUR)
 - a bed in a twin room if travelling alone (500-550 EUR)
 - a double room or a family room if travelling with children (1500–1800 EUR for a family of four, 1750-2000 EUR for a family of five).

Some rooms have a private bathroom while others have a shared bathroom. All rooms at Rønningen Folkehøgskole are of very good quality and most have a beautiful view 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 June 1.

How to get financial help to attend

If you have institutional support or another type of funding, we ask you that you use it to attend our week-long summer university. If you do not, NSU offers a scholarship option for which the participants at the Summer Session can apply. The application period for scholarships opens on the same date as the calls: April 15th. Deadline is June 1, 2022. You submit your scholarship application at the same time as your proposal for the summer session to the study circle coordinator(s). Scholarship recipients pay 150 euros for the whole week, including room and

board. They are hosted in twin or triple rooms and generally have to dedicate a couple of hours during the week to help with various tasks. Travel support may be available for Baltic and West-Nordic participants. *Please inquire when you apply.*

Coordinators of the Study Circle 8:

1. Oddbjørn Ørbech Jensen, Hammerfest Library, oddbjorn.jensen@gmail.com
2. Jasna Koteska, Ss. Cyril and Methodius, Skopje, Macedonia, jasna.koteska@yahoo.com

General information about the Study Circle 8:

This study circle analyses, discusses and (re)thinks the futures of education, cultural diversity and the individual, collective and social transformations in the current epoch of the anthropocene.

For more information about this Study Circle and how to join the activity, see:

<https://www.nsuweb.org/study-circles/circle-8-futures-of-education-cultural-diversity-imaginings-and-collective-transformations-in-time-of-the-anthropocene/>

About this study circle

The aim of the Study Circle is to analyze, discuss and (re)think the futures of education, cultural diversity and the individual, collective and social transformations in the current epoch of the Anthropocene. Anthropocene is the unofficial term for the present epoch which denotes the dominance and global effects of human activities on the Earth's ecosystems, biodiversity and geology. This poses new challenges and threats to our collective life (both human, animal, and to the ecosystems), and forces transformations. This includes issues such as human rights, world citizenship, alterity, heterological thinking and new concepts of peace and sustainability, both from western and non-western perspectives, human and non/trans-human perspectives. Dealing with these different issues, the "response" to the Anthropocene is ever-present, whether as optimistic or as pessimistic approaches. Currently, education systems are undergoing reforms to meet the needs of the economy for growth. One example is the reform effective in Norway from next school year, where the aim is to produce workers for the future for the sake of the economy. Such a focus leaves out much to be wanted in an educational setting with regards to answering the current crisis. Traditionally, the idea of Bildung has served as a conceptual framework from which to form a critique of these trends. Due to its holistic focus on education,

Bildung can serve as a mutual opening of the self and the world as reflected in the idea of the Anthropocene and create a relation between the human and the non-human other.

The study circle is organized around the following *six major themes*:

- Theme 1. Education and Nature as the Other in the Anthropocene
- Theme 2. Education and the Human Other in the Anthropocene
- Theme 3. Education and the Technological Other in the Anthropocene
- Theme 4: Imagining the Future – Traditions and Transformations
- Theme 5: Diversity, Transformation and the Future
- Theme 6: Action-oriented Change – Potentialities for Sustainability

The Nordic Summer University (NSU) is a Nordic network for research and interdisciplinary studies. NSU is a nomadic, academic institution, which organizes workshop-seminars across disciplinary and national borders. Since it was established in 1950, Nordic Summer University has organized 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 organizational 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.

For more information: <https://www.nsuweb.org/>

