



Vilnius 700

CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2023

Uses of Heritage

“Place of Heritage in Interdisciplinarity” (Study Circle 1), Nordic Summer University

Winter Symposium: 30–31 March, 2023

Invitation

The Nordic Summer University Study Circle 1 “Place of Heritage in Interdisciplinarity” is pleased to invite proposals for our first Winter Session which will be held from Thursday, March 30, through Friday, March 31, 2023.

Theme of the Session

The focus of the Winter Session is to explore the plurality of ways to understand and use heritage.

The discursive division between the top-down Authorised Heritage Discourse (AHD) and the bottom-up, more inclusive, democratic understanding of heritage leads to polarisation of the term (Smith 2006). The AHD leaves out the diversity of heritage practices that lay behind the institutionalised understandings.

Questions addressed in the symposia include, but are not limited to:

- What are possible alternative or complementary understandings that might open more resources, practices and opportunities for heritage work?
- How can the mundane, everyday practices and uses of heritage open for better representation of tangible and intangible objects, actors and practices of care?
- Could heritage be researched and discussed without defining it and without losing the common ground?

We join the discussion introduced by the researchers in the field of critical cultural heritage studies (Smith 2006, Smith and Waterson 2012, Ashley and Frank 2016, Waterton and Watson 2015) and want to bring in both participants with an academic background, as well as activists and practitioners who work with heritage on different levels. Our goal is to combine the theoretical approach with a practical point of view.

Format of the event

The format of the event will be finalised in **January 2023**. We plan the offline event in Vilnius, Lithuania. If we will have to switch to an online format due to financial issues, an online space will be created to facilitate and encourage participants' interactions and new connections.

The Session will take place over two days of work-in progress and in-depth discussions (with breaks) and focus on the problems and themes proposed by the participants. Proposals will be grouped by topics in order to have coherent transition between different points. We will circulate papers/ outlines/ working questions in advance to enable the presentations to be relatively brief, giving more time to discussions and exchange of ideas.

By this event, Circle 1 joins the celebration of Vilnius' 700th anniversary, having “Vilnius 700” as an informational partner.

To apply

Please fill out the application in google form by **5 February, 2023**: <https://forms.gle/oJLqkN3e78EXmT1j7>

In your application, please indicate the following:

- Short biographical statement and your interest in the topic.
- What do you hope to get out of (and contribute with) at the symposium?
- Would you prefer to participate in person or online? Travel and accommodation costs are covered by participants. The Circle applied for travel funding but the result will be posted in January, 2023. Please notify if you need a financial support to participate in the offline event.

If you have any questions regarding the application and/ or session, you can reach us by e-mails kalachyovalina@gmail.com and elena.bogdanova@gu.se.

Accepted participants will be notified by **12 February 2023**, including all the relevant details regarding the registration. The preliminary programme will be announced on Circle's webpage <https://www.nsuweb.org/study-circles/circle-1-place-of-heritage-in-interdisciplinarity/>, where you can also find more information about NSU and sign up for the newsletter.

Membership fee

There is no participation fee for the symposium, but all participants need to be or become members of NSU, 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

The Nordic Summer University (NSU) annual membership fee facilitates the existence of NSU, which is a volunteer-based organisation. As a member you can sign up for all events organised by NSU, take part in the democratic decision-making process on which NSU is based, and become part of the extensive network of NSU.

Academic credits

For those interested, we can provide a certificate of participation: 1 ECTS point for taking part in the Session and 1 additional point for presenting a topic.

About Study Circle 1: "Place of Heritage in Interdisciplinarity"

Study Circle 1 focuses on interdisciplinary discussion of contemporary understandings of heritage and its practices in different cultural, organisational and social contexts.

This Circle will provide opportunities for discussions around democratic heritage discourse by investigating how top-down and bottom-up practices differ in scope of interpretation, representation and participation; because we believe that certain heritage practices are exclusionary and dominant and we would like to explore more inclusive and ways of addressing heritage. We assume that it will can bring heritage practices and ordinary citizens closer, enrich understanding of care as an inclusive field, and establish better communication between experts, practitioners and different users of heritage.

In practical terms, the circle will foster encounters and interdisciplinary discussions of contemporary understandings of heritage and its practices in different cultural, organisational and social contexts, with the aim to create understandings of heritage as a field of inclusion and active participation.

About NSU

The Nordic Summer University (NSU) is a Nordic network for research and interdisciplinary studies, established as a Swedish non-profit organization in 1950. NSU is a nomadic, academic institution, which organises workshop-seminars across disciplinary and national borders, involving students, academics, politicians, and intellectuals from Nordic and Baltic regions and beyond. The backbone of the activities in the NSU consists of its thematic study circles, in which researchers, students and professionals from different backgrounds collaborate in scholarly investigations distributed regularly in summer and winter sessions during a three-year period.

References:

Ashley, S. L. T., & Frank, S. (2016). Introduction: heritage-outside-in, *International Journal of Heritage Studies*, 22(7). pp. 501–503.

Harrison, R. (2013). Forgetting to remember, remembering to forget: Late modern heritage practices, sustainability and the 'crisis' of accumulation of the past, *International Journal of Heritage Studies*, 19(6). pp. 579–595.

Smith, L. (2006). *Uses of Heritage* (London: Routledge)

Smith, L., & Waterton, E. (2012). Constrained by commonsense: The authorized heritage discourse in contemporary debates, in: R. Skeates, C. McDavid & J. Carman (Eds) *The Oxford Handbook of Public Archaeology*. pp. 153–171

Waterton, E. & Watson, S. (2015) The ontological politics of heritage; or how research can spoil a good story, in: E. Waterton, & S. Watson (Eds) *The Palgrave Handbook of Contemporary Heritage Research*, pp. 21–36 (London: Palgrave Macmillan).