



CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS 2023

## Racialization, whiteness and politics of othering: alternative futures

**NORDIC SUMMER UNIVERSITY**

***Study Circle 5: "Racialization, Whiteness and Politics of Othering in Contemporary Europe"***

*27 July – 3 August, 2023, Palanga, Lithuania*

### Invitation

The Nordic Summer University study circle 5 "Racialization, Whiteness and Politics of Othering in Contemporary Europe" is pleased to invite proposals for our final symposium to be held from Thursday 27th July to Thursday, 3rd of August, 2023 in Palanga, Lithuania.

### Theme of the symposium

What does it mean to be European? Who has the right to claim European identity? Can we imagine and anticipate alternative futures?

Race, ethnicity and religion maintain vital modalities of difference in contemporary Europe, particularly exposed in the context of intensified migrations within and to Europe, largely driven by global inequalities and segmentation of local labour markets. Growing anxieties over Europe's integrity and its borders has been prominently voiced in ongoing debates around reception of refugees and/or eastward European enlargement. Even if seemingly triggered by current events, these concerns are rooted in Europe's history, including its colonial legacy.

In this seminar we intend to focus on compelling issues of European identity, integration and its future by engaging concepts of race and differentiated whiteness, moving beyond simple binary oppositions. We aim to unpack how and to what effects racialization and whiteness continue to shape Nordic, Baltic and European spaces, bodies and politics. We seek to create an open space for critical conversations and plurality of knowledges, where productive tensions can emerge as we acknowledge our racialized positionalities.

The final symposium intends to revisit some of our previous topics: racialized encounters, hierarchies of knowledge production, post-soviet legacies, imaginaries of Eastern and Western Europe, colonial pasts and presents.

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. The call is open for different forms of contributions, not only limited to academic presentations. We particularly encourage creative, artistic or performative intervention. Contributions may include photo-essays, audiovisual presentations, and/or suggestion for guided discussions.

### To apply

Please fill out the google form: <https://forms.gle/h6ryJoRgNS25nS4s9>

In your application, please indicate the following:

1. A written proposal of intended contribution (**max. 350 words**) with a title
2. A short bio (**max. 200 words**)
3. Do you have any specific expectations in regards to the outcome of the symposium?

If you have any questions regarding the application and/ or symposium, you can reach us by e-mail: [annawo@hi.is](mailto:annawo@hi.is).

**The deadline to submit proposals is 30 April, 2023.** 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 the **15 May 2023**, including all the relevant details regarding the registration.

### **Summer Session costs**

The cost of the summer session includes accommodation for the week, 3 meals and 2 coffee breaks per day, and access to the full NSU program during the summer session.

The costs of the summer session 2023 are as follows:

- single room for 575 euros per person
- double/twin room for 425 euro per person
- family room for 950 euros (family of 4)
- scholarship and grant recipient in a twin room: 175 euros

All rooms at Vyturys Hotel are of modest to good quality. The rooms include bed linen and towels. The webshop to register and reserve a room will be open until June 1st, where you can book your accommodation once your proposal is accepted.

For more information see: <https://www.nsuweb.org/activities/summer-session/>

Participation in the summer session requires **NSU membership**, and the cost also includes NSU membership. If you already paid the membership fee when you took part in a winter symposium in 2023, your membership is already covered for the whole year 2023. Following the acceptance of your proposal, you will receive a discount code to deduct membership fee (25 euros) from your payment. Those who can and wish to support NSU in addition to these costs are welcome to purchase an optional support fee of 40 euros. Those who cannot attend the summer session are also welcome to support the work of NSU by purchasing this support fee of 40 euros.

### **Scholarship and grant program**

Participants are welcome to apply for a scholarship or a grant:

- Scholarship: exclusively for Nordic/Baltic students
- Grant: inclusive for all other students and people in need, also non-Nordic participants. Criteria for each are described in detail here: [https://www.nsuweb.org/support\\_pages/arrkom/scholarship-and-grant-program/](https://www.nsuweb.org/support_pages/arrkom/scholarship-and-grant-program/).

If you would like to apply for scholarship and/or grant, the required documents should be sent to [racialisation@nsuweb.org](mailto:racialisation@nsuweb.org) by 30 April.

Please note that the number of scholarships and grants is limited.

### **Academic credit**

For those interested, we can provide certificate of participation.

### **Symposium organisers**

- Anna Wojtyńska, PhD, Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Iceland
- Irma Budginaitė-Mačkinė, PhD, Associate Professor at Vilnius University, Lithuania
- Milena Błahuta, PhD Candidate, University of Warsaw

### **About the circle 5: "Racialization, Whiteness and Politics of Othering in Contemporary Europe"**

The study circle 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, racialisation 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. 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.

For more information [www.nordic.university](http://www.nordic.university).