



CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2025

“City as a Feminist: Care Infrastructures and Cultural Heritage”

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

Winter Session: 27–28 February, 2025; Vilnius, European Humanities University, Lithuania

Invitation

The Nordic Summer University (NSU) Study Circle 1 “Place of Heritage in Interdisciplinarity” in collaboration with the European Humanities University is pleased to invite proposals for the winter session on 27–28th February 2025, in Vilnius, Lithuania.

The Winter Session is happening with the support of Nordic Summer University, Svenska Akademien, Swedish Kungl. Vitterhetsakademien, and Scientific Committee of the Master's Degree Programme "Gender Studies" at European Humanities University.

Theme of the Session

This session is dedicated to the practices of care and the role that gender plays in the urban environments of Nordic and Baltic cities. As the circle is part of Nordic-Baltic network the event is focusing on these regions. We are also aware that there is a lack of knowledge and exchange on feminist urban perspectives in Northern and Eastern European cities. However, we welcome insightful perspectives from other regions too and will be open to other applications.

Through arrangements of mobility, (im)material welfare infrastructures and visual representations, cities are crucial to the processes of resource redistribution, reproductive labour, safety and recognition of various social groups. Everyday care practices that are devoted to the wellbeing of others and reproduction of the society, such as unpaid/less-paid child, elderly care or other household activities, are most often being carried out by women. The session will explore how urban environments uphold and intersect with well-established gender roles and whether feminist approaches in planning and development processes help mitigating the reproduction of patriarchal patterns in the cities of the region. Lastly, the activities will trace the role of commoning and grassroots-level networks as welfare infrastructures, particularly in the context of heritage preservation and representation.

We welcome applications from scholars, activists, community members, and artists who would like to discuss urban care practices, feminist approaches in urban planning and cultural heritage development, democratic heritage discourse approaches and case studies.

Format of the event

The session will take place over two days of work-in progress and focus on the themes proposed by the participants. We welcome both academic and non-academic projects and ideas in various formats such as presentations, workshops, walks, discussions, etc. Aiming at building a network of practitioners and academics able to challenge the existing dominant discourse on urban planning and heritage, we will create a space where participants are able to share their interests and/or expertise in interactive formats.

To apply

Please fill out the application in Google form: <https://forms.gle/SNxDX7qf7x6321926>
Deadline for application is **15 December 2024**.

In your application, please indicate the following:

- Short background and your interest in the topic.
- What motivates you to join the session?
- Would you like to contribute to the symposium – please in short describe your project, practice or include abstract of your research (up to 200 words).
- Whether you need financial support to attend the event, including accommodation and travel costs.

If you have any questions regarding the application and/or session, you can reach us by e-mails alina.kalachova@nsuweb.org and mantrimaite.zivile@gmail.com.

Accepted participants will be notified during December 2024, including all the relevant details regarding the registration. The last confirmations and payments are expected to be received by **15 January 2024**.

Participation fee

Nordic Summer University is a membership based non-profit organization operating on the principles of freedom of academic research, networking and folkbildning. Except lunches and coffee breaks each day, participation fee includes membership in the Nordic Summer University. With paying a participation fee, you will be able to participate in democratic decision-making about future study circles of Nordic Summer University, organisational functioning and its content throughout the whole year.

- for students, freelancers, and out of occupation — 35 euro;
- for people associated with institutions or companies — 50 euro.

**Applicants currently affiliated with European Humanities University get a 1-year membership and can attend this conference for free upon acceptance of proposals. Please fill in the application form.*

If you are not able to pay participation fee and not affiliated with EHU, please get in touch with us. Financial support: We are able to provide support for travel and accommodation, therefore fill in dedicated lines about this in the application form.

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 contributing with a topic (presentation, workshop, other formats).

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 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 Nordic Summer University

Nordic Summer University (NSU) is a Swedish non-profit organisation. Since 1950, NSU has been an independent academic institution, which organises winter and summer symposia that draw international participants across disciplines in the Nordic and Baltic regions. Particular attention has been paid to cross-disciplinary areas not yet targeted by larger research institutions. The practice of NSU addresses two fundamental premises of a knowledge-based welfare state: production of knowledge based on academic freedom and democratic practice of self-governance.

About European Humanities University

European Humanities University (EHU) is an international University for promoting civil society development through Humanities and Liberal Arts. Centre for Gender Studies was founded in the European Humanities University in Minsk in October 1997. In 2000, it launched the first graduate program – MA in Gender Studies. Since 1997 the Centre has organized a series of conferences, workshops, seminars, trainings, and courses; published several books, thematic volumes of journals, conducted several research projects. After the relocation of EHU to Vilnius in 2005, the Centre continued its activities, including research, education, activist projects – in both Belarus and Lithuania.