CALL FOR PROPOSALS 2025

“Storytelling for Sustainable Heritage Practices and Active Citizenship”

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

Summer Session: 21–28 July, 2025; Jyväskylä, Finland

Invitation

The Nordic Summer University (NSU) Study Circle 1 “Place of Heritage in Interdisciplinarity” is pleased to invite proposals for the last session of the study circle “**Storytelling for Sustainable Heritage Practices and Active Citizenship**”, which will be held between 21 and 28 July, 2025, in Jyväskylä, Finland.

Theme of the Session

Everywhere our study circle moves, heritage is there, engaging us into specific relations and reflections: an old town of Vilnius, an old brutalist hotel in Palanga, old fortress tower at Skanstorget in Gothenburg, and Loegumkloster. These are all places and spaces of heritage explicated and engaging in our networks of heritage through stories. Resident stories engage in placemaking and urban development, storytelling can be a research method, and stories are empirical data. Stories and storytelling become one way to carefully engage heritage in our research and heritage practice.

In the first two years of Study Circle’s sessions, we have been open to the diversity of heritage researchers and practitioners having different understanding of cultural heritage (WS23), interpretations of rights to heritage and access to heritage for different stakeholders (SS24), and the relation of heritage practice to raising sustainability concerns (WS24). **The last session of the Study Circle “Storytelling for Sustainable Heritage Practices and Active Citizenship” is dedicated to storytelling as a tool for heritage research and practice, professional and personal engagement in heritage processes.**

The session aims to connect heritage thinkers, practitioners, scholars, activists, community members working with the topics of citizen participation and storytelling as a research and practice tool.

Format of the event

The week-long Summer Session is the yearly culmination of NSU’s activities where all study circles of the Nordic Summer University hold their sessions at a shared location. The program comprises presentations, discussions, keynotes, workshops, readings, performances and a general assembly (GA) where every participant can take part in the democratic functioning of the organisation. There is also swimming, walking, and enjoying each other's company. Participants coming with families are very welcomed, there will be a children’s circle with activities for children aged 3-13.

The program of the Circle “Place of Heritage in Interdisciplinarity” will be composed of the topics and formats suggested by participants during the application period. Aiming at building a network of practitioners and academics able to challenge the existing dominant discourse on heritage, we will create a space where participants would be able to share their interests and/or expertise in interactive formats. During the event we will not only explore the topics of the participants but also explore the territory around in order to connect theoretical discussions with a practical point of view.

To apply

All of the applicants must fill out the same application form: https://forms.gle/4tNupo2bgTSz4k6r7

In your application, please indicate the following:
- Short background and your interest in the topic.
- What do you hope to get out of and contribute with at the meeting?
- Whether you need a scholarship or not.

The applications will be reviewed on the ongoing basis. It means that the application period might get closed earlier that the deadline date. The application evaluation process has two parallel tracks: (1) for those in need for financial support, (2) for those who is going to come using their own funds.

Deadlines for those who need financial support and cannot come to the meeting without it:
Deadline for application is **10 April 2025**. By 1 May 2025 all of the scholarships are allocated. Keep in mind that the scholarship suggests a discounted price, not full coverage of the participation (prices are listed below).

Criteria of evaluation for scholarship receivers to be found here: https://www.nsuweb.org/support_pages/arrkom/scholarship-and-grant-program/

For those who is going to come using their own funds:
Deadline for application is **1 May 2024**. There is also an early bird price suggesting a 50 EUR discount. The number of early bird offers is limited and will be closed as soon as the spots get purchased (our estimation is that they might be gone by April).

If you have any questions regarding the application and/or session, you can reach us by e-mails alina.kalachova@nsuweb.org and elena.bogdanova@gu.se.

Final participants lists are expected to be completed by 15 May 2025.

Participation fee

The costs of the summer session are as follows:

- 450 EUR — scholarship receivers (stay in 4–5 people apartments)
- 850 EUR — single room
- 700 EUR — bed in a twin room
- 650 EUR — family room [per person]
- 1250 EUR — institutional price. Institutional price is intended for participants whose attendance is paid for by their institutions, e.g. trough research grants or similar dedicated funding
- 950 EUR — institutional price PhD
- 440 EUR — shared lodging (indoor camp rooms (shared accommodation))
- 400 EUR — camping (bring your own tent)

The cost include membership of the Nordic Summer University and an opportunity to take an active part in the democratic functioning of the organisation, accommodation for the week, 3 meals and 2 coffee breaks a day, and access to the full NSU program and activities, including voting, during the summer session.

Academic credits

For those interested, we can provide a certificate of participation: 3 ECTS points for taking part in the Session and 2 additional points 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 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 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.