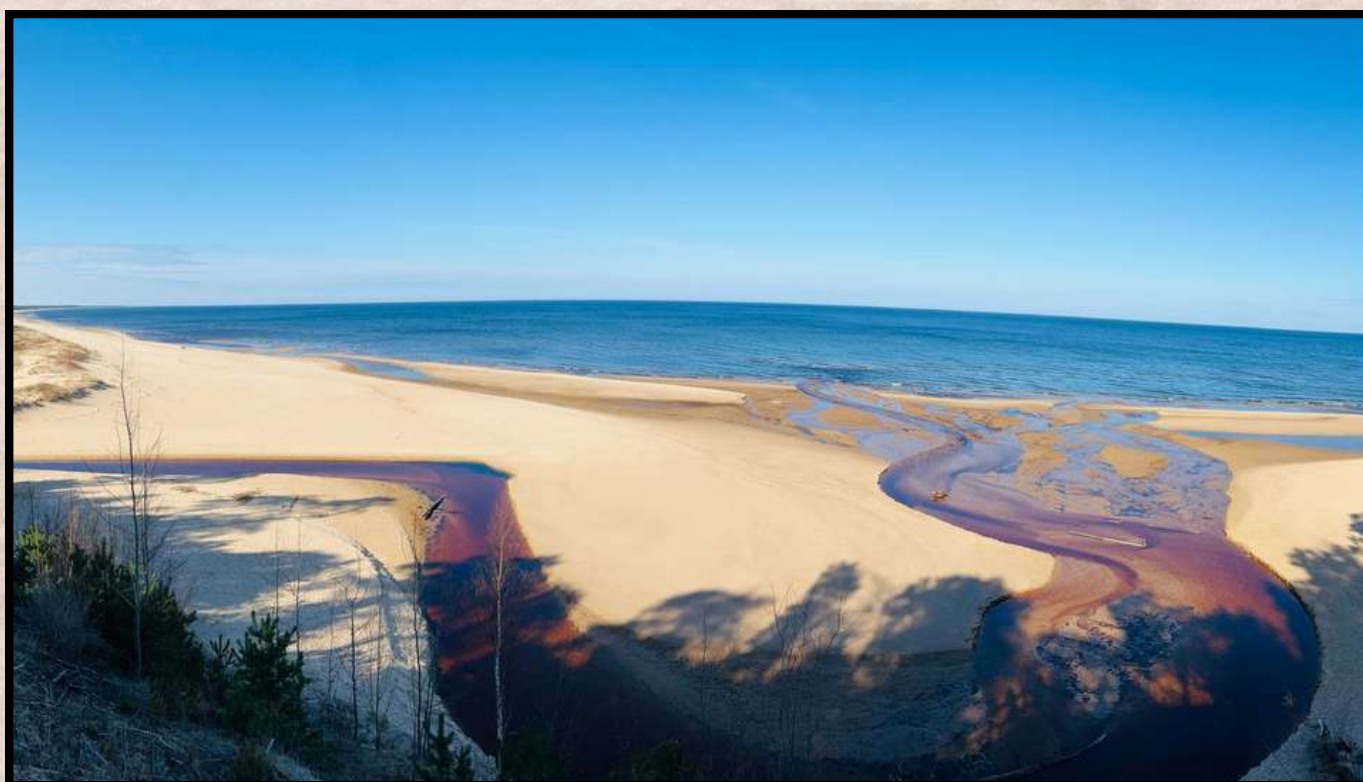


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NSU SUMMER SESSION 2026



By Arrkom

As Dear Summer Session Participants,

Welcome to the Summer Session 2026!

In this newspaper you will find:

- Day 1, Day 2 and Day 3 Programs
- General Assembly
- Summer Session Keynotes
- Announcement on all Gender Spaces
- Reminder to book a bus on 31 July back to Riga
- Cultural Program
- Announcement on Morning Excercise

Contribute to the next newspaper!

Send an email to arrkom@nsuweb.org

We are interested in circles' discussions, your observations, gossips (we will consider but no promises on publishing!), thoughts, notes, photographs, poems and many more.

Expect the next newspaper before the excursions day

Contact: arrkom@nsuweb.org

	July 25									
	Circle 1	Circle 2	Circle 3	Circle 4	Circle 5	Circle 6	Circle 7	Circle 8	Circle 9	Circle 10
7.30-8.00	Morning Exercise									
8.00-9.00	Breakfast									
9.00-10.30	Session 1. Forming Words: Sounding an introduction to the symposium Lindsey Drury, Helena Hildur W., Agnese Cebere	1. Introduction (55 minutes). 2 Talya Deibel. Neuro-capital and the Extractivist History of Personhood in European Law	Introduction and Study circles 3 & 10 presentations	Introduction to Circle & NSU: overview of history of the circle and getting to know each other through text	Vitalija Povilaityte-Petri x Wendy Wuyts: Soft landing and weathering at the White Dune, explore theme of eco-tones and introducing the circle >> 11.00-12.30: Walk back to the hotel (7,5 km)	Study Circle Program (Introduction and Reviewing GA Documents) Get-To-Know	Study Circle Program	Introducing the Circle	Welcome, introductions, program for the week	Introduction and Study circles 3 & 10 presentations
10.30-11.00	Coffee									
11.00-12.30	Session 2. Tears, Seas, Rain: Histories that drip Adrian Trujillo Centeno, Tinka Harvard, Monica Tusinean	3. Eamonn Sullivan, Gamification, Algorithmic Management, and Governmentality on Digital Taxi Platforms. 4. Alaz Okudan Negativity: On Doing and Undoing Media	Alyssa Coffin: Inner inscription practice 35+10 min. Joana Quiroga: What I have found while asking wheat about our power dynamics 40 + 10 min.	C4: Workshop - Sisterhood as Autofiction	Workshop about General Assembly and NSU as an Organisation	Juho Rekola: Reading group: Max Horkheimer's texts on "On the Problem of Truth" (1935)	Study Circle Program	Workshop Sara Swerdlyk Democracy Against Capitalism, Materialism Against Fascism: Reading Ellen Meiksins Wood alongside Rosa Luxemburg and Angela Davis	Individual contributions – Neoluddism, creativity, community-based resistance to BigTech - Patrycja, Ursula, Jana	Alyssa Coffin: Inner inscription practice 35+10 min. Joana Quiroga: What I have found while asking wheat about our power dynamics 40 + 10 min.
12.30-14.00	Lunch									
14.00-15.30	Virtual keynote: Abdalrahman Kittana, <i>The Cost of Neutrality: Academic Responsibility in a Time of Genocide</i>									
15.30-16.00	Coffee									
16.00-17.00	Workshop about General Assembly and NSU as an Organisation									
17.00-17.30	Break									
17.30-18.30	Community Review									
18.30-20.00	Dinner									
From 20.00 onwards	Cultural Program: Behind the Scenes of the Documentary on Latvian Mythology and Folklore									
	The Children Circle runs from July 25 to July 30 (apart from excursion day) from 8.55-12.30 and from 13.55-17.00									

	July 27									
	Circle 1	Circle 2	Circle 3	Circle 4	Circle 5	Circle 6	Circle 7	Circle 8	Circle 9	Circle 10
7.30-8.00	Morning Exercise									
8.00-9.00	Breakfast									
9.00-10.30	General Assembly (GA) I									
10.30-11.00	Coffee									
11.00-12.30	Session 7. <i>Possession in the Site of Dispossession</i> Shilu Jamir with Bendanglemla Longkumer	12. Siv Årsand; Stones as Storytelling tools. 13. Gundega Strautmane Living With Codes: Artistic Practice Between Human and Machine Communication.(guest)	Māra Gange: Unshelling - performative presentation 35 + 10 min, Moniba Fazal: Against the Carceral Present: Feminist Temporalities and the Politics of Solidarity in Women’s Prison Writing from Global South, ONLINE 20+10 min	C4: Workshop - Sisterhood as Autofiction	Wendy Wuyts: Writing(with)plants and Ecomythological mapping	Anders Ramsay: Is there a hermeneutic block in Habermas theory after the linguistic turn?	Visiting other circles	Film screening and discussion led by Kuba Malec (11:00–13:00) Margaret Gilpin and Luis Felipe Bernaza, Mariposas en el andamio (1996)	Open space idea pitching & market place of ideas: how do we reclaim technology for the collective good?	Māra Gange: Unshelling - performative presentation 35 + 10 min, Moniba Fazal: Against the Carceral Present: Feminist Temporalities and the Politics of Solidarity in Women’s Prison Writing from Global South, ONLINE 20+10 min
12.45 - 13.45	Lunch									
14.00-15.30	Keynote: Ilze Boldāne-Zeļenka, <i>Whose history is it? Ethnic and Freak Shows in the Territory of Latvia at the Turn of the 20th Century</i>									
15.30-16.00	Coffee									
16.00-17.00	Session 9. <i>Fugitive Communities</i> Johanna Gilje and Timo Kaemmerer	14. Circle moment; 15. Maria Faust; Sensing Less? Digital Media and the Flattening of Landscape Experience Aura, Authenticity, and Mediatized Perception	Stéphanie Barillé: Whose Story Counts? Literature, Testimony, and the Politics of Being Heard 40 + 10 min	C4 Workshop - Humlan Majuri	Guest visit from Collective Fabula, a Latvian duo working with the more than human world and relational practices : Book talk and Experimentation with "making kin in a troubled landscape"	Joint session with Circle 7: Roderick Condon: Technocracy, technocratic reason and the restriction of critique	Visiting other circles	Workshop Isabella Gregory Religion and Secularity in the Neoliberal State: The Case of Prisons, Sound and Silence	Open space session 1	Stéphanie Barillé: Whose Story Counts? Literature, Testimony, and the Politics of Being Heard 40 + 10 min
17.00-17.30	Break									
17.30-18.30	Circle 8: orientation workshop regarding trans-inclusivity									
18.30-19.30	Circle Dinner (BBQ)									
From 20.00 onwards	Cultural Program: Multilingual Reading Themed around the Baltic Sea // Book Launch "Cybioses: art, critique & technology"									
	The Children Circle runs from July 25 to July 30 (apart from excursion day) from 8.55-12.30 and from 13.55-17.00									

General Assembly

You are invited to participate in our General Assembly (GA), which will take place in Saulkrasti, Latvia, during our annual summer session.

As a member of the organisation, you are entitled to take part in the democratic decision-making process during the General Assembly (GA), taking place on **Monday, 27 July 2026, from 09:00–10:30 EEST**, and on **Wednesday, 29 July 2026, from 14:00–15:30 and 16:00–17:00 EEST**. All members who are present at the General Assembly during the summer session have the right to vote.

One of the most important issues discussed during the GA is the 2027 study programme. Anyone can submit a study programme proposal before the **deadline on Tuesday, 28 July at 09:00 EEST**. You can also propose late motions for discussion at the GA. These must be submitted before the **deadline on Sunday, 26 July at 09:00 EEST**. Both proposals and motions should be submitted to board@nsuweb.org. All the documents needed for the GA, including the agenda, can be found on our shared drive.

We are very much looking forward to seeing you at the General Assembly!

Contact: arrkom@nsuweb.org

Summer Session Keynotes

We will be hosting two keynotes, one virtual with **Dr. Abdalrahman Kittana** and one on site with **Dr. Ilze Boldāne-Zeļenka**. This is in line with our wish to support both Palestinian and local scholars of the places we engage during the summer session.

Dr. Abdalrahman Kittana is a Palestinian architect and researcher, currently a Postdoctoral Fellow at Tampere University, Finland, and an Assistant Professor of Architecture at Birzeit University. He holds a PhD in Architecture from KU Leuven, an MSc in Architectural regeneration from Oxford Brookes University and a BSc in Architectural Engineering from Birzeit University. Dr. Kittana is the co-founder of the Yalla Project, a “research-by-doing” initiative in Nablus that revitalized historic buildings as catalysts for urban renewal. His research focuses on architecture and survival in war, homemaking under conflict, urban regeneration and postwar reconstruction, the history of architecture, and urban development.

Dr. Ilze Boldāne-Zeļenka is a Latvian anthropologist and ethnographer working at the University of Latvia. Her keynote lecture is entitled Whose history is it? Ethnic and Freak Shows in the Territory of Latvia at the Turn of the 20th Century.

All gender spaces

NSU strives to create a trans-inclusive learning environment: where people who are transgender, intersex, non-binary, and gender non-conforming feel welcome, safe, and respected.

Therefore we have designated the bathrooms adjacent to the Ball Room as all-gender facilities

Please do not hesitate to speak to Alina and Stepan (Arrkom) or Tom, Chrys and Sara (Circle 8) if you have any questions or additional access needs.

Reserve bus ride to Riga Aiport (July 31)

This year NSU organises bus for those who wishes to take a bus together to Riga Airport on the departure day.

Travel route:

Minhauzen Unda → Riga Bus Station → Riga Airport

Departure time: 09:45; July 31

Arrival time: 11:00 Riga Central Bus Station; 11:30 Airport

Please note that only those who have booked through the website will be able to travel by this bus.
Cancellations and refunds are not possible.

[Reserve a spot here.](#)

Excursions Day Announcement

Special NSU offer - Valmiera trip on July 28!

Valmiera has a lot to offer, including museums, activities for children, craft breweries and wineries, nature trails and parks, and an outdoor labyrinth. NSU organises a bus Saulkrasti – Valmiera – Saulkrasti for a fee, please [book here](#).

Enjoy a performance Clap & Slap organised by former NSU Chair Inta Balode at 17.00 (tickets to be purchased separately). The performance is part of the Aerowaves festival.

Artists / [A. Lisickinaite & I. Shugaleev, Be Company](#)



A. Lisickinaite & I. Shugaleev, Be Company

CLAP & SLAP

Lithuania/Poland
The Twenty26

CLAP & SLAP explores the tense and paralysing relationship between Lithuania and Belarus which emerged after Russia's full-scale invasion of Ukraine in 2022. Drawing from their personal experiences — Igor's participation in the 2020 Belarusian protests and Agnietė's demonstrations in Vilnius — the artists confront political, social, and emotional divisions between fear and action, guilt and responsibility. Igor was forced to flee Belarus; Agnietė chose to stop collaborating with Russian-speaking artists. Meeting on stage, they search for dialogue amid conflict, questioning how to defend oneself without reproducing aggression, and how to protect freedom while respecting the other.

- Hide credits

Idea and choreography: Agnietė Lisičkinaitė, Igor Shugaleev

Performers: Agnietė Lisičkinaitė, Igor Shugaleev

Composer: Agnė Matulevičiūtė

Scenographer: Oles Makukhin

Dramaturg: Bush Hartsorn

Consultant director: Olga Lapina

Light designer: Povilas Laurinaitis

Production: Be Company / Agnietė Lisickinaite

Funded by: Lithuania Culture Council

Creative residencies: Radialsystem Berlin, Studio

ALTA, Bora Bora dance center, Santarcangelo festival.

Premiere: 2025, New Baltic dance festival

Behind the Scenes of the Documentary on Latvian Mythology and Folklore

Living Stories: The Songs, Rituals and Relationships Behind Latvian Myth and Human Collective's Approach to Documentary

From filming a choir of 20,000 voices to intimate encounters with Latvian folklore groups, cultural leaders and solstice celebrations, Latvian Myth explores Human Collective's approach to documentary storytelling, where care, reciprocity and long-term relationships shape how personal and cultural stories are shared. Through Latvian songs, rituals and living traditions, we reflect on representation, cultural memory and the responsibility of honouring stories that are living, evolving and deeply connected to place.

'Latvian Myth' Description: Over five years of filming, Latvian Myth follows two friends and filmmakers on a personal journey through Latvian songs, rituals and living traditions. Part documentary and part meditation on cultural resilience, the film explores what ancient traditions mean in today's fragmented world. Through observational cinema and dreamlike imagery, it reveals the connections between ancestral knowledge, identity and belonging, bringing rarely seen aspects of Latvian culture to global audiences.

More-than-human Community Review: Fishbowl x Role Play x Reflection

A 1.5-hour session on the beach where participants review proposals for the General Assembly (GA) using the fishbowl method, but from more-than-human perspectives. In a fishbowl, a small group discusses in the centre while others observe from the outside, rotating in over time. Before entering the circle, each participant draws a card assigning them a role: a critter from the ecology of Saulkrasti and the Baltic Sea. You then join the discussion speaking from that perspective, as best you can. The hour-long fishbowl session closes with a half-hour reflection on the method and the experience: how was it to represent a more-than-human being, and did you learn more or did it change your opinions on the GA proposals?

Multilingual Reading Themed around the Baltic Sea

Multilingual readings have been a part of NSU evenings for quite a while but each time they have a bit of a twist. The red thread for this reading arose as Tinka Harvard, a team member of the Circle 1 “Studies in Remoteness. Sensoria of Absence, Distance, and Neglect,” shared a piece from the long poem Östersjöar/Baltic Seas by Swedish Nobel laureate Tomas Tranströmer. Apart from Tranströmer's poem (which should be available in multiple translations, even in North Sami!) there are, no doubt, many many poets from all around the Baltic whose works deserve sharing in this context.

You may find additional inspiration in the Baltic Sea Library project:

<https://www.balticsealibrary.info/>

<https://www.balticsealibrary.info/home/about-us/tag/10-poem.html>

Book Launch “Cybioses: art, critique & technology”

Cybioses has always operated on the premise that there should be technological skills, artistic practice and critical thinking in the same room. After many years of seminars, nearly a decade, it was time to bundle into a book some of the creativity that has kept us going.

So how to capture something like that in a book? By letting the authors do what they want, of course! The consistency was already there, from interacting with each other. And the book has been curated around it.

But, what (what!!) is it about? Calm down, please; every piece reflects on technology and is, somehow, artistic and critical. That's the title, after all (what did you expect?).

Part one is about “codes”, part two about “creativity”, three about “impossible solutions” and four about “imperfect futures”. Also, it is intended to be the start of things, you could add to the collection, after we publish it online. When we have new pieces that fit together we publish another book.

Just like that? Yes. Just like that. What a format! Letting participants do what they want... and expecting that something meaningful comes out. What criterion for success is that? The answer, of course, is the same as any Cybioses event for nearly 10 years. The publications, like the meetings, are there to create conditions from where new similarities can emerge, and where tensions lead to novelty, unexpected inspiration, new lines of interpretation, and unusual collaborations. Interested?

Guy Dolev's lecture performance COW PARK

When I first heard about the Jerusalemite Armenian community's struggle to protect the Cows' Garden, I came into contact with Save the ArQ, the community's activist group. The Cows' Garden is their historical territory: once an open field where cows grazed and pilgrims and genocide survivors pitched tents, today a parking lot threatened by real-estate developers. Moved by the group's juridical efforts, their round-the-clock presence on the site, and their community-based resistance, I began documenting their work, approaching this seemingly marginal story as a way of exposing the deeper structures of historical and ongoing violence, as well as the unequal socio-political order that underpins Israel/Palestine.

Driven by a commitment to artistic solidarity in a time of genocide and by a curiosity about how histories endure, are displaced, and are made to disappear, COW PARK unfolds the history of the Cows' Garden as a landscape of accumulated historical debt: a place where displacement, refuge, and violence persist as unresolved obligations in the present. It was from within this process that I began filming in reverse with my red car's rear camera, repurposing a device designed to eliminate blind spots into an instrument of historical vision. Gradually, this mode of documentation became a form of timework: moving backwards through the present parking lot toward the vanished garden and the tents, the cows, the hilly earth, carefully circling the story's centre of gravity but without colliding.

Art Fair

July 29, from 20:00

As a way to add more excitement to our summer session, we would like to announce an art fair that will take place in **the Ballroom**.

The art fair will let all of our wonderfully talented participants showcase their non-academic talents, earn some money, and help us fund the next Summer Session.

To participate in the art fair please contact Arrkom before the 29th, so that we could make sure that there is enough space for everyone!

PLEASE BE AWARE, THAT BY CHOOSING TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ART FAIR, YOU AGREE TO TRANSFER 10% OF YOUR PROCEEDS TO NORDIC SUMMER UNIVERSITY!

Football

As always, there is a football match between humanities and social sciences on the last afternoon, this time at 17:30. Come and play or come and cheer to your team!

Gala Dinner and Disco

As you may know, the evening of July 30th will be filled with a Gala tradition to every summer session! Gala dinner is festive dinner. Dress up and come to enjoy it!

To make gala dinner and disco more enjoyable for everyone, send to Arrkom 2 songs you want us to include in the gala playlist :D

We encourage you to ask each of your children for 1 or 2 songs that they want to dance to! When the disco starts, we will play them at the beginning of the playlist

Morning Exercise

Daily

07:30–08:00

Come to the beach for a stretch, walk or run.
Just you, nature and whoever who is in the mood of
spending some morning minutes together

Some of the sessions will be **morning embodied
movement by the water** facilitated by **Wenlin Tan**,
Participatory Artist & Embodied Listening
Researcher.

More info at the desk next to the Ball Room

