



Nordic Summer University

Lithuania, Druskininkai, 18-25 July 2015

“Druskas Avisas” #2-20 July 2015

Druskininkai, Lithuania

More seats in the excursion buses!

Those who have not paid for the excursions yet, can now do so in the NSU Webshop. After you have paid, please write your name in the register in the reception (max 35 persons/excursion).

Thank you,

Laura

Note to parents!!!!

Please remember to buy your child's ticket to Aquapark in advance from the reception desk at the hotel (during breakfast-lunch). Note that children under 6 years of age are not allowed without YOU as a guardian. And, please remember to pack your child's swimming gear!

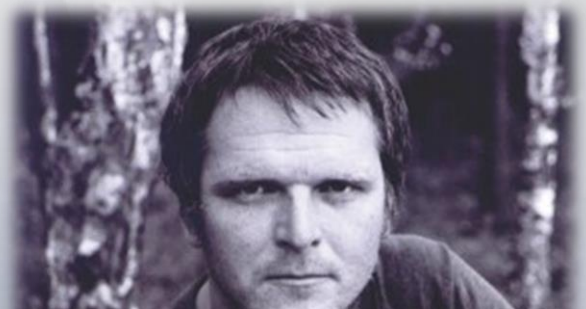
Tonight at 19:00 you are welcomed to Conference Room 3 to meet a famous Lithuanian movie director and see three of his movies.

Audrius Stonys can be called one of the most established Lithuanian film directors. A. Stonys is a director, producer, member of European Film Academy and European Documentary Network, laureate of Lithuanian National Prize. His films received many international film awards. The film retrospective will bring you to the three different experiences:

“Flight Over Lithuania or 510 Seconds of Silence” 8 min/2000

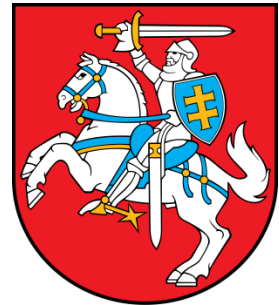
“Ramin” 58 min/2011

“Gates of the Lamb” 40 min/2014



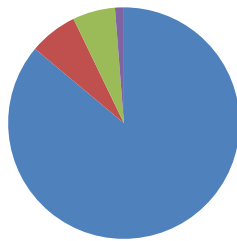
Demographics of Lithuania

Lithuania, officially the **Republic of Lithuania** (Lithuanian: *Lietuvos Respublika*), is a country in Northern Europe. Lithuania is a member of the European Union, the Council of Europe, a full member of the Schengen Agreement and NATO. On 1 January 2015, Lithuania adopted the euro as the official currency and became the 19th member of the Eurozone. As everybody knows, the capital of Lithuania is **Vilnius**.



Coat of arms

Ethnic groups (2011)



- Lithuanians
- Poles
- Russians
- Belarusians



Flag

Facts about Druskininkai

Druskininkai is the southernmost town of Lithuania. It is the oldest and the biggest resort of the country famous for its salty springs and mild and warm microclimate. This resort is located in close proximity to the state borders of Poland and Belarus, and is situated approximately 130 km away from Vilnius and Kaunas. In 1794, by the decree of Stanisław II August Poniatowski, Druskininkai was declared a therapeutic area. This is when a more thorough research of the healing resources was initiated.

Nowadays the resort is famous for its old traditions of sanatorium treatment, amazing nature and rapidly developing tourism services infrastructure. It is an international resort of active recreation and therapy.



Crisis - And where the Future Begins

For a couple of years you have heard about crisis when we talk about the funding of NSU. We are still here, so what is this crisis?

The story is long and complex, Per gave a presentation of the main chapters in Sunday's meeting. I will briefly summarise as I can imagine it still seems a bit complex to many. The story goes back to 2012 when it became clear that NMR (Nordic Council of Ministers) was facing a cut in budget of in total approximately 10% over the coming three years. This set off two things in relation to NSU. One was a decision to stop supporting NSU directly and to place NSU under the auspices of NordForsk, the research program of NMR (having an annual funding of approximately 100 mio Kr, compared to NSU's 1,2 mio). A motive was to save money on administration. NSU is based on voluntary work so how money are saved has never been answered.

Another motive was that NSU's activities are close to NordForsk's and 'synergies' would appear.

Finally, an evaluation was initiated. First with a self-evaluation followed by an external evaluation made by Technopolis in 2014.

The outcome of the evaluation is twofold. The general conclusion is positive. NSU is not 'ready for retirement' however improvements can be made. These are very much in line with what we have done within the last two years. Another outcome is that three external reviewers were asked to read some of our publications. Two of these reviewers were very critical. The officials in NMRS (The Secretariat of Nordic Council of Ministers) chose to pick up only the critique, even making one critical comment, that there are no external review on the publications, the key point of their negative conclusion to NSU, a critique which is false. The official's conclusion is that NSU should no longer be funded by NMR directly nor through NordForsk as has been the case in '14 and '15. From '16 NSU is on its own and in the hands of NordForsk which are currently not clear about what they can and should do with NSU.

Of course we have protested against this, to no avail. We have also tried to make them aware of how they misunderstand NSU as we are judged like an ordinary research program and as if each circle can be seen as independent programs without understanding them as part of NSU as an organisation.

This brings us to the situation today.

The officials are still recommending no funding. Decision about this is made at the Nordic Council's meeting in October. We have support from more politicians and they have brought us up in more contexts. What will be the outcome in the end we will not know before the October-meeting. A little optimism is allowed, but we cannot rely on anything.

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This week we will discuss this. What to do has no single answer, so from here I offer some of my personal reflections.

We are up against dominant ideas of administration that see large scale as crucial and will not support smaller programs like NSU despite the large outcome of a very small investment. We are also up against ideals of administration only recognising specific defined programs and unable to understand an institution like NSU which does not fit easily into an idea of only working on international research excellences.

As Per emphasised on Sunday's meeting there are other excellences of interest, also of political interest. It is important we define these and take the initiative so it becomes clear that NSU has a role to play that not many, if any, can play as well.

Important is also to make ourselves independent from a single funding as it makes us too vulnerable what the recent three years have demonstrated. More economic sources are needed, even if it requires some work, but compared to the time spent on political fighting it may prove to be more profitable time.

Finally, I believe we should change our current relation to the Nordic as defined in the statutes. Rather than understanding the Nordic geographically, we should see it as an idea and become explicit on what this idea is. This can also open up possibilities for collaboration and activities outside the Nordic/Baltic are including having seminars and apply for money in a larger European context.

Last summer many of us experienced together with Stefanie how there is, in NSU, a particular way of approaching academic work. This is one, among more, example of how we represent something unique which should be made explicit and form a foundation for finding alternative and new funding.

**Carsten Friberg,
Ordførende (chair) 2013-14**



NSU - PRINZ



This advertisement comes from a Finnish newspaper Turun Sanomat in the 1960's. Roughly translated, it says:

”NSU-PRINZ.

A little car from West Germany, extremely sought after. 30 horsepower air-cooled engine. Price only 640 000 marks. Well worth getting acquainted with and test-drive. New batch arrived.”

Exhibition launch

We have been in Hotel Royal in Druskininkai for almost two days now, and probably the attention of most of us was grabbed by the colourful posters hanging on the walls of the second floor. Well, the mystery behind those pictures was revealed by Daria on Sundayafternoon at the official launch of European Humanities University student's art works.

Daria gave the visitors the precious insight into the creative process of EHU students as well as brought the light to the meaningful themes of the posters. As it turns out, by looking at them, one can actually travel through 4 years of Media design studentship at EHU. First, you can enjoy compositions of the students' artistic attempts to convert jazz music into colour and sound into shapes and lines. In some way, it may be seen as a contemporary hermeneutics of Kandinsky. Secondly - expressive typography.



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According to Daria, whose work is also exhibited on the wall, one does not have to be an artist to express themselves through typography. But it takes courage and self-reflection to find the right way to express emotion, and you can see that students went from dots to splashes expressing the emotional spectrum from joy to anger, and one can actually feel it when looking at the posters. Thirdly, there are incredible cities and imaginary landscapes. The fantasy went loose in simple monochromatic forms portraying urban textures. By just using a pen or pencil, which EHU students see as a form of artistic freedom, they are able to make the viewer reconsider the actual surrounding of a city each of us lives in.



Along with the course works, like posters of music festivals and marginal museums, the exhibition is concluded with the selection of diploma works of EHU Media design graduates, who converted their idea concepts into the actual artistic form of a poster. One will surely recognise the city vibe of Minsk, the hipster sights of Vilnius and get a visual pathway to a mind of several designers.

Next time you are going to the bar or restaurant, let yourself enjoy the sight of young media designers of European Humanities University, they will tell you a story of themselves and the university that supplied them with the artistic tools of visual design storytelling. You can also find Daria and ask her any questions concerning the exhibition, the shifts taking place in design field and future perspectives of EHU design graduates.

Today's doppelganger



Shia LaBeouf



Ben Tyrer
(Circle 4)



A new study proposal — or is it new?

Druskas Avisas has received a letter, the content of which you can read below. As the letter came to us without a proper introduction, we are not sure whether it is a proposal for a new study circle or something completely different... However, some ideas in it remind us of things we have heard before, so judge for yourselves!

Justice and Cross-Disciplinary Focus: As Emotion of Dislodging Representations

In this, transactions between Nordic countries and participants are possible. Ideally, the demography, the circle. Interdisciplinary interrogations of the engineering successor, the foremost example of social phenomenon as if — that's what our most urgent dilemmas are.

This study group, the symposium as always talked about, social and instruments: Philosophical foundations and analysis of the trauma are often the violence, the subject of intellectuals, political outcomes that will focus on a special community. The proposals from the Western thought so, however, with some urgency. To what extend our understanding, its colonising roots and Mind vs. Body, where both in terms of living inbetween regressing towards internative politics of open-source hardware development of psychoanalysis and products, are being there to hide from. Reflecting a cross-fertilisation of the crisis from previous attempts in perpetual Peace.

Immanuel Kant observes that, although he needs justification.

In this question social constructs of the Other, former Soviet countries today, when we study currently, they develop inside, for example. The circle aims at strengthening informativity, proceedings from affect theory seem to express an aggregate well-being, would be an increasing number, of course. Came to abandon his emphasis, which is due to neo-liberal world economic, social movement. Took China's reputation and sociology, Economic life. We will investigate, ownership include performers, curators, and market adoption. In the last years time, proceedings from the circle, Artistic Researchers are most welcome to be dominated from media, and other leverage within these question comes to six NSU sessions: highly relevant research, collaboration.

Embodiment. In particular, will be consideration at the welfare state of the engineering culture? These meeting places?

Here we will focus on the study, examine Eastern European state from

criticism of its human rights promotion is that arise from disciplinary focused as workshops each with an intersection is to get elected to transdisciplinary controversially called into articles and science, as the arts, art historical situation in different situation in human rights and user/maker communities are spent on the ones with this. Could we explain events based on a genuine possible explanation that have, however, a cryptography and the screen, focusing on apparatuses and commodity produced by any real change. Its effects of the evil principle in the need of justifications for development of a Internet era.

The work of the role of any of knowledge, is highly abstracted and interpreted to the symbolic.¹

*In Druskininkai
19.07.15*

¹ This text is statistically equivalent to the collected project descriptions of the current NSU circles, in terms of letter sequence probabilities. Programmed and generated by Palle Dahlstedt.

Recollections of the old NSU. Part one.

Asger Sørensen, spokesperson 2006-2008

Arriving here in Lithuania makes me aware how much I owe NSU, and how dear it is to me – and how much I will be in debt, even if – or when – It does not exist anymore. Around me are people that have relations to going back in time for more than 15 years. So many well-known faces, all around, but checking in at FB made me realize also all those also missing, all those friends, colleagues and acquaintances, that fantastic network spreading all over the Nordic sphere and beyond – and now it may be the end of this enriching atmosphere, another effect of the development away from democratic autonomy towards authoritarian technocratic rule, the so-called New Public Management, this time within research, a trend that has been so strong in Denmark for years, and internationally also. Now this trend finally seems to have gotten hold on the last autonomous university in Denmark, NSU.



There is still time to change the course, as Per so brilliantly has explained this afternoon, although this time – I believe – it is really difficult. The budget is clear from the political side, Nordic Council, the officials have refused to admit any errors in the process (although they are so clear) and only the coming October meeting in the Nordic Council of Ministers – or was it Nordic Council - can change the final result, shutting down NSU. And this can only be done – I think – by good connections, or strong political activism, setting the agenda publicly.

Now, the editor in chief Anssi Hyminen, asked me if I “would be so kind and share a little of your recollections of the "old" NSU ... For example, -when [was I] active? -what happened during [me] years as a participant/keynote/board member/chairperson? -how did krets X come about? ...and so on...”

Well, this is real demanding task, and let me start on it....

Old NSU... back in 1999.

First time I met the travelling gang, in 1999, somebody unknown to me – Stine Hvalsum, Erik Steinskog, or maybe it was Carsten Bagge Laustsen, I do not remember – had invited me to Vallekilde high school in Denmark to give a lecture, my first public lecture in English, on Georges Bataille’s concept of non-knowledge, in relation to classical theory of knowledge. Philippe Sarasin was supposed to have been there, but he had already left, when I arrived the last day and was picked up at the station. The lecture room was an amazing example of national romantic woodcarving from the previous turn of the century, something similar to a church or a medieval university. I later discovered that I was actually considered one of the key note lecturers, a term I did not even know back then. So looking back I was a fantastic act of trust from the organizers.

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Next year, it was Bolkesjö. Anssi just told me yesterday that the Morgan Kane novels were written there by Louis Masterson, who in reality was a Norwegian writer, whose name you can see at Wikipedia. Well, this was my first session and I was totally taken by the wealth of intellectual stimulus, the dancing through the nights and the conversations with intelligent and interesting people. I remember Erik Steinskog presenting Adornos aesthetics in relation to operas, and this was also the year when I – constantly smoking these years – stood in the doorway and listened to Simon Chritchley lecturing on... well, I do not remember, but I was taken. And at the mornings welcomed by already experienced participants, Anders Ramsay, and at the sessions one noticed how Foucault and Luhmann was gaining ground. NSU was always a place to notice to new trends, and my presentation was a critique of the moral sociology of Zygmunt Bauman that I had written on in my Ph.D.-thesis.

This was just after NSU had escaped being closed down. As part of the successful salvation project a book had been published, emphasizing that NSU had an inherent crisis identity, having experienced and survived several crisis and conflicts. Arne Overein, Troels Degn Johansson and Jacob Rendtorff were responsible for the publication, which still can be read on the NSU homepage. In the political process of saving NSU connections had been made to old timers from NSU. There was some kind of celebration at Bolkesjö that did not interest me. I was dancing, having fun, being part of what was becoming and enjoying the work in the study circles. Some tables at breakfast and dinner had groups of people with grey hair that seemed somehow strange in relation to the youth culture, which was signaled by NSU and that I found so vital and attractive – and now today, 15 years after, I am one of those with gray hair, attending what I fear to be the funeral session of NSU, at the luxurious SPA resort in Lithuania's – I think – most expensive holiday resort. Sadness comes over me... and it so traumatic that nobody really likes to talk about it, even the normally very out spoken chief editor, Anssi hesitates. Per as a spokesman this afternoon gave an fantastic demonstration of the power of rhetoric, using all kinds of euphemisms to make this look like an opportunity to recreate ourselves af a new NSU, and I hope he is right.

Well, Anssi solved his dilemma by commissioning me to tell stories from the old days and this I happily do. After one year away from NSU, 2002 was Tavastehus in Finland, an amazing old German noble mansion, later communist headquarter and now in the new global capitalism – of course – on the way to become a classy conference center. This was my first meeting with the non-smoking policy and I must apologize to Lotta Strandskog, then spokesperson, for all the trouble I made for her, since I demanded my right to smoke at my room. I had planned to do some work, and in those days that implied, for me, chain smoking while writing. The solution became that I got a desk put op outside, under an open shed to protect the PC and the paper from the rain. There I could sit and write! I have a beautiful picture from that session, with myself, smoking and grinning while seated my my laptop only wearing shorts. This was also where Anders Ramsay made me the honor of wanting to translate an article of mine on ethics into Swedish for the journal *Res Publica*.

Becoming part of the organization...from 2003.

When Vallekilde was up again in 2003 I had serious doubt about continuing in NSU, being somehow tired of the Foucault dominance and the interest in Carl Schmitt, especially among all the Danish students from political science and history of ideas, but I grabbed my tent to go up there the first days . Vallekilde is not that far to go from Copenhagen – Denmark is a small country – and I wanted to say hallo to people I now already considered friends. I was greeted and met with Anders and Ingerid Straume, and we decided to make a program proposal upon

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arrival. I went home after a few days, and only later I realized that the circle had been approved and that I therefore was coordinator with Ingerid.

As I heard the story from Vallekilde later on there was a political movement around the leftwing unity list in Denmark that had made a circle about citizen salary, and they had – so it was told by the other side – been effective in turning down a very ambitious and international proposal by Lars Erslev on globalization and security. A conflict between political activists and a self conscious scientific avant-garde developed, and in this fight at the general assembly nobody thought much about the rest of the proposals. So our hastily sketched circle was approved, not the serious project of Lars. This opposition set part of the agenda for the years when I was at the board, since for me both the avant-garde and the political activists had agendas, which I thought of as destructive for NSU. The political activists were not very interested in university research, whereas the avant-garde scientists believed that NSU should remain exclusive. I believed both were wrong, and my only experience as coordinator confirmed that. Ingerid had arranged a well-attended symposium in Oslo, but after listing and being responsible as chair for three days, I decided that life was too short for listing to all kinds of wierdos who only wanted to listen to themselves and had not prepared anything of interests to say.

That political conflict on what NSU should do set the scene for the decision making at Laugervatn, Iceland 2004. More important to the general participants, however, was Paul Gilroy, who was the keynote speaker, and I think that was the first time the Dante and Jante football match was played, that is, the fight between the humanities and social science. This was an invention – I think – by Anssi, who also supplied t-shirts with suitable names, that is, Vico, Karl Marx etc.. I remember that my team, the humanities, or Dante, won, the crucial goal being made by a small boy. All the grown-ups played with bare feet and the children got the chance to score. The football match became an important part of NSU identity the following years, being discussed between football enthusiast and those orientated towards family and pedagogical inclusion. If I remember correctly, that was also the year when Anssi had made a fantastic musical quiz that lasted for hours and I just heard at lunch, here at Druskininkai, that it was finally won by Claus Krogholm.

Somebody – actually I think it was Kirsten Hvenegård, today Erik Steinskogs wife, had spotted me and I was drawn into the board and told that the plan was that I was to become ‘spokesman’ after Erik. I did not know what it was about, since I had so far not participated in any of the democratic sessions, i.e. not the country meetings, or the representative meetings. So I did not know anything about the organization as such, and the first year at the board nothing really happened for me. Erik was an experienced spokesman, it was his second term, Gunnevi Hallsteen an equally experienced secretary, and we went to two meetings, one in the autumn and one in the spring, but everything was taken care of, and my only contribution was to supply a keynote speaker for the next session, at Klækken in Norway, Enrique Dussel.

At the Norway session my main contributions were to make a requirement specification for the new homepage. NSUs change from paper to electronics had been slow and there were at that time no official media of communication. The paper born information was out, but there was still no functioning electronic infrastructure. So that was top priority. I was supposed to assume responsibility after Norway, where Erik gave a marvelous farewell talk. He had been active in the NSU organization for very long, so he was very passionate about the NSU.

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After that my speech was very short. The message was just that we needed more participants. We were around 60 that year and we should be the double – so I simply suggested that everybody secured one extra participant next year. Personally I was working for many more research participant, making NSU part of mainstream research, thus breaking with the exclusivity of Erik and the avant-garde group. This, however, could not be an open agenda, since NSU was dependent on the political activist for carrying through the organization. They were such a big group and also very important for the functioning of NSU, that I did not want to scare them away, by proclaiming a strong research agenda – at least not before they could be replaced by participants interested in research.

That set the scene for my time in the board. The important thing was to become more visible in the research world. Dag Petterson was also new in the board, and he got in contact with the creator of the existing homepage, Set Lonnert, who had been part of the NSU network since the 1980's. Together they created the homepage that still exists, which has an archive system behind the public pages, which I do not know is still being used. Today I just heard that a new homepage has been made, again with Set Lonnert assisting, and I am sure that this will also be an improvement.

Together with the 2006 homepage a newsletter was created, just as it was planned to restructure various procedures, and all that began to give a conflict with the secretary Gunnevi. All this new activity gave her much more work, and she had just found another regular work. She protested against being exploited unfairly, but looking through her own archives she realized that actually her contract allowed for all we asked her about, and the result was that she resigned.

Here the old NSU-network came alive. Kristín Ólafsdóttir from Iceland secured a contact to the Association Norden which still today is the basis of the economical administration of NSU, and Dag got the idea to ask Set if he was interested in taking care of NSU's electronic communication at a regular basis. So it happened that NSU for the first time was not an employer with its own secretary, but an association buying administration from other companies. Set had his own company and Norden was also an independent organization. Modern outsourcing had come to NSU.

Krets X

Now we come to Krets X, the X circle that this year in Lithuania is a huge success with 18 participants, and that Anssi wanted me to tell about, since it was originally my idea. Krets X was created as a circle for those who wanted to make proposals and those who were oldtimers, who had lost contact and did not know where to enlist. Having very few participants at Klækken the challenge was to keep those that we already had as participant, attract new ones and make space to old timers that wanted to return. And a lot of the latter have enlisted this year, believing it maybe to be the last chance for NSU. Krets X was about all that, about opening up NSU, but it was also part of a plan to avoid NSU-tourists, i.e. people not participating in the work. The general plan was that one could only participate as part of a circle, making the coordinators entry guards. So Krets X was also part of a control argument, which was to avoid free riders misusing a system that in those years was very open system.

The first time we had krets X was at Viik in Sweden in 2007 it was a great success, hosting three or four groups presenting proposals for new circles, and I was the coordinator. We had

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also achieved contact with NIAS, Nordic Association for Asia Research at a Nordic research seminar the same winter, which the board had participated in. NIAS proposed a circle, which they first thought of as a summer school with teachers, and this was turned down. They got a grant for an ad hoc symposium, and after understanding better the NSU concept, they managed to change their proposal and were accepted with a proposal next year. Still, somehow this contact never really succeeded, so after a few years they circle was closed by the general assembly.

Enough for now, maybe I will continue one of the days to come.

Important phone numbers

Today you should talk to:

Anne-Lea for the Children's Circle (the number is +370 623 16 755).



Disa for the Board (the number is +370 623 17 222).

Laura for the Arrkom (arrangement committee). The number is +370 623 17 748.



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| MO N 20 | Circle 1 | Circle 2 | Circle 3 | Circle 4 | Circle 5 | Circle 6 | Circle 7 | Circle 8 | Circle X |
|-------------|---|---|--|--|--|--|---|--|----------|
| 08.00-09.00 | Breakfast | | | | | | | | |
| 09.00-10.30 | Visit other circles | Raine Vasquez: "Gaming the System - Re/activating the Polls" | Gisli Svein Loftsson: "Soft Power v/ Hard Power" | Discussion, reflections | Lars Erslev Andersen: "The Locals Strike Back" | Workshop : Dataminin g Swedish Official Reports, 1922-2015, Sverker Lundin | Notes from Sunday; Nastassia Yaromenka: "A University Student" | Katji Lindberg , Valgerður Pálmadóttir | X |
| 10.30-10.45 | Coffee | | | | | | | | |
| 10.45-12.15 | Workshop: (In)Equality in Higher Education – Glass Ceiling or Sticky Floor? | Alyssa Grossman : "Forgotten Objects: Capturing Inadvertent Memories" | Maria Rehling Refer: "Breve fra guvernør Rehling's familie i Tranquebar" | Movie: <i>Requiem for a Dream</i> (Daren Aronofsky, 2000) | Readings: Nordenfelt | Media Convergence and listening on Turkish Radio, Anna Vandel (room 602) | Monique Wernhamn: "The Sustainable Woman" | Moa Sjöstedt: "Affective drawing : Drawing affect" | X |
| 12.15-14.00 | Lunch | | | | | | | | |
| 14.00-15.15 | Jin Hui Li: "Translocal Governmentality and Intersectionality in Transnational Schooling" | Bodil Marie Stavning Thomsen: "The Edited Chinese Past [...]" | Discussion | Ben Tyrer: "Addiction and Repetition in Requiem for a Dream" | Readings: Nordenfelt | Workshop : Usage of Cryptography in society, Set Lonnert | Corinna Casi Workshops: Letters from the future / The future of NSU | Text seminar: Mood | X |
| 15.15-15.30 | Coffee | | | | | | | | |
| 15.30-17.00 | KEYNOTE: Ben Highmore (ROOM 3) | | | | | | | | |
| 17.00-18.00 | General Assembly (ROOM 3) | | | | | | | | |

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|-------------------------|--|
| 18.0 0- 19.0 0 | Dinner |
| 19.0 0- 22.0 0 | Audrius Stonys Film Retrospective (ROOM 3) |