

**“Druskas Avisas” #3**  
**21 July 2015**  
**Druskininkai, Lithuania**



**NSU Hotline**

Any questions? Today you should talk to:

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

**Olga for the ArrKom (the number is +370 623 17 748)**

**Corinna for the Board (the number is +370 623 17 222)**

## Druskas Avisas #3 — July 21, 2015

### Soundscapes of Čiurlionis at 19.00



Soundscapes of tonight, starting at 19.00 (after dinner).

M.K. Čiurlionis (1875—1911) was an important Lithuanian artist and composer, who grew up in Druskininkai. Tonight's event will introduce his legacy through means of music, paintings, and readings. Playing the piano and reading for us will be the artist's great-grandson, Rokas Zubovas, an accomplished artist in his own right.

There will be bus transport to the site (Eglės sanatorija), and the whole experience will take 1,5 hours. It is free for NSU participants. After this **all participants of NSU** are invited to “Special event” in a restaurant at 21.30.



**Nota bene! Books & T-Shirts for sale!**



New and slightly older NSU books are on sale in the lobby. Come loaded with cash and leave more intelligent than you came!

And while you're at it, why don't you clothe yourself and your nearest and dearest with the latest *haute couture* Druskininkai has to offer: NSU T-Shirts!



**Toilet designs from around the world, part 617: Europa Royale Spa Hotel, Druskininkai, Lithuania**

This particular toilet resembles a regular toilet to the naked eye, but a world-wise traveller will soon recognize a peculiarity in the design: the toilet paper holder is placed 15 cm from the floor. Handy for the people who are used to wiping their bottom with their feet.

## **A message from Jo-Jo**

In relation to saving the NSU it was said that crisis is an opportunity to re-emerge. It is important to capture and communicate the productive and collaborative interdisciplinary nature of the work that goes on in the circles. What stories are we going to tell, what threads are we going to pull, what will be constructed and allowed to emerge?

### **In-between conversations:**

**Is a project from Circle 7 which intends to be a subtle intervention seeking to capture the emergent themes and conversations that happen in-between the presentations at the NSU Summer Conference 2015.**

We are interested in a participatory auto-ethnographic process to reveal the discussions that occur between and around the presentations being given by participants at the conference. What themes emerge after the presentations finish? There may be threads that weave themselves through the presentations throughout each day and across the week of the conference. How do these threads occur and how do they become woven, revisited and established? Can we create a space both to document these and enable these dialogues to take root? Can the spaces in between be made visible without the capturing of this 'data' becoming intrusive?

As well as adding to our post-it note wall in Room 3 We invite all participants to contribute to the project blog:

<https://inbetweenconversations.wordpress.com/image>

The blog will help us to capture some of the thoughts and conversations that take place between presentations. Creating a new post, editing someone else's or adding comments we hope to make visible emerging themes.

Log In:

User Name: jojocollaboration

Password j0(zero)j0 (zero)collaboration

There is a page which has help sheets for using the blog as well as how to use the GoPro headcam a and voice recorders.

The following can also be borrowed to contribute to our digital auto-ethnographic project:

- GoPro: Borrow the GoPro to capture experiences that can not easily be described in words or viewpoints not accessible to others.
- Voice recording: We will capture eavesdropped snippets of conversations and sounds in and around the presentations

Thanks,

Jo-Jo



**Sschh!**  
**Word to the Wise —**  
**Disambiguation of**  
**NSU**

For us, NSU means Nordiskt Sommaruniversitet (or, Nordic Summer University) — a nice place to exchange ideas and meet friends at least twice a year. Readers of NSU Avis from last year ("Krækingur") and yesterday's edition of "Druskas Avisas" will remember that the letters may also stand for vintage motorcycles and cars (as mentioned in the article "NSU Prinz"). Norwegians might also confuse NSU with NSO, which is an organization of Norwegian students.

But be advised that in Germany it is not considered *comme-il-faut* to advertise one's affiliation with NSU. There, the abbreviation stands for something far more sinister — namely, "Nazionalsozialistische Untergrund" ("National Socialist Underground"), a right-wing terrorist organization responsible for several murders and bombings. Most notoriously, the so-called 'Bosphorus murders' and Cologne bombings are associated with the name.

**Today's Doppelganger**



Vladimir Ilyich Uljanov  
(a.k.a. "Lenin")



Øjvind Larsen  
(a.k.a. "Øjvind")

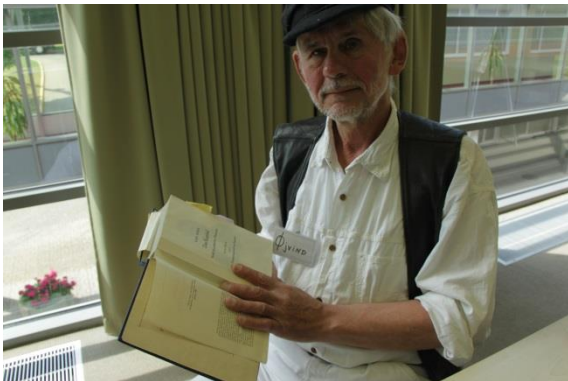
## Druskas Avisas #3 — July 21, 2015



A drawing from the General Assembly 20.7. 2015.

Artist: Davide Giovanzana

### Report from Grutas Park: what will come after it?



The day before yesterday we visited Grutas Park. It was interesting to see different things from Soviet period, especially a lot of statues of Lenin, Stalin and also Marx. There was a very exciting library where everyone could see many books about capitalism and about perspectives of this style of life, says **Øjvind Larsen**. Our newspaper interviewed Øjvind, who spoke

about capitalism in our days and also tried to explain for us the difference in interpretation between Karl Marx and Thomas Piketty. The full version of the video interview may be found here: [http://w2015.nsuweb.org/?page\\_id=310](http://w2015.nsuweb.org/?page_id=310)

## Proposals for New Study Circles

<http://www.nsuweb.net/wb/media/styrelse/building.docx>

<http://www.nsuweb.net/wb/media/styrelse/appearances.docx>

<http://www.nsuweb.net/wb/media/styrelse/futurologies.docx>

## **Recollections of the old NSU. Part two.**

Asger Sørensen, spokesperson 2006-2008



Thanks to Anssi I have just taken a trip back in time, taking memory lane, looking at the newspapers from the sessions in those years I was in the board. Still, what is important is the creative spirit of an institution like NSU, giving the possibility for people to engage in and form the social reality they are part of. As I reflect on the recollections, part one, I realize that what seems a realistic assessment of the possibilities for survival is maybe just a symptom of me having reached a certain age. Bodil Marie, the current Danish board member is also worried about NSU in the same way as me, but on the other hand, she herself remember maybe 30 years ago, when Johannes Fjord-Jensen, a Danish literature scholar, made remarks about the foreseeable death of NSU. And we are still here, having survived other crisis in between. What is important is that there are people who can identify with the culture and academic content of NSU and wants to fight for its survival –let us hope this again will make NSU survive.

And precisely in this perspective, I will offer some other recollections, having maybe more barring on the future, assuming that there will be a board, who will benefit from experiences from the old NSU. I ended my narrative with circle X as I was commissioned to, but somehow the story got thinner in the end, at precisely the point where I have most to tell, being those years where I was in the board, and where we

### **Druskas Avisas #3 — July 21, 2015**

made all kinds reforms and readjustments. The point at that time, i.e. when I entered the board, was probably that I did not really know NSU from the inside before being actually member of the board, and the same was the case with Dag Petterson, who came the year after me. So in order to understand what was going on, we took each area and tried to reconstruct some logic on what was happening, since we had no manuals on NSUs functioning apart from an old manual for the summer session made by Stine Hvalsum. That became a three year long project of what is sometime called Business Process Reengineering, that is, looking through the practice in order to rationalize and find hidden resources, in order to exploit the available resources, including the human resources, for the purpose of the organizational output.

It was a tough process, balancing the various fractions, securing academic activity without which NSU would have nothing to show, while at the same time making sure that people could identify and wanted to simply be part of the party, dancing all night long. Concretely for me, for instance, at Wik it meant going almost directly from the dancing crowd in the bar to introduce the key-note speaker Hartmut Rosa, or presenting a paper on Bataille among the vanguard elitists while hanging out with efficient activist such as Gunna Starck, former left wing mayor of Copenhagen or Karolin Lundström, an impressing organizer with an very sound judgement and human capacities. While serving at the board she secured the Wik success in 2007 almost singlehandedly, and she was also active organizing Falsterbo 2011. She, Dag and I agreed, would have made the perfect spokeswoman, had she only had academic interests or education. Regards to her!!

Here I refer to the positions outlined in my first recollections, the political social activists and the avant-garde human science scholars. Today the political activist are less numerous, but already at Vallekilde the activists could ally themselves with a new group within NSU, namely practicing artist, who could also regard their practice as investigation in the scientific sense, and who therefore were in the process of claiming recognition within the research world, i.e. at academies and universities. This is a classical NSU function, providing the space for new academic scenes and they have therefore remained, after the political activists are no longer here, and they have been a very successful group during all the years, some having been here now for years and even more having passed through.

In relation to NSU, however, I was at the Sunday meeting for the Danish constituency reminded of the conflict between what is considered elitist, university science and research, which allegedly is in contact with the relaty outside the university. With an identity like NSU's this is an inevitable discussion, and it has been going on, as long as I remember, first in the form at the conflict between science and politics, and then between science and arts or culture. I personally am glad that there is a place like NSU, where academic science is challenged by various kinds of praxis and poiesis , although, as I mentioned in the first part, I have active worked to limits the influence of the non-scientists. The point for me was that without a strong connection to the mainstream university world, NSU would not have sufficient legitimacy as what it



### **Druskas Avisas #3 — July 21, 2015**

proclaims to be, namely a university. And in this perspective, the board I was part of encouraged the participation of establishment scholars, students and researchers, who were very few when I came to NSU.

Having such a stand within the NSU did create various conflicts, and I still remember some of the discussions at the general assemblies over the years. An interesting discussion developed for instance in Wik. I think it was about whether the creation of Circle X was constitutional, i.e. whether we had the right as board to create circles. Whether it was this point or one of the other initiatives, we pushed through, the point of disagreement was the relation between the general assembly and the executive, i.e. the board. My point was that we had been elected, and as such it was our responsibility and privilege to do what we as board, in our central position with a lot of information, regarded as best for the organization. Especially the Swedes had another idea of democracy, where the executive literally were to act as ministers, that is, servant for the public, which was then the general assembly. I persuaded the rest of the board about the reasonability of my activist stand as board, but it was met with stark resistance, again from Swedes, at the general assembly, and I remember formulating the position very clearly: As long as we are the board, we do what we think is best for NSU. This was not a threat to withdraw, it was a threat to stay and do what we wanted to do. If, however, the general assembly, wanted other people in the board, they were of course free to elect another board. And that power game, we won.

That gave us an enormous freedom and we had great fun those years. As mentioned, Dag and Set made the homepage, we made the annual plan, we involved the participants in electing key-note speakers, we cleaned up the standard agenda for the general assembly, made procedures for everything, for instance, country meetings, suggesting key-note speakers, choosing Arrkoms etc. etc., everything to involve the participants and make them more responsible for the organization. That changed the whole rhythm of the organization, making it a virtue to plan things in advance. One could say that during those years we went from the spontaneous, coincidental and therefore also totally unpredictable and closed organization to a well governed and structured state, with clear guidelines, high level activity, implying the necessity of budget discipline, being kept though Excel simulation and therefore in appearance also much more authoritarian. It was Stalinization of the hippie community!

Seeing how NSU is today, seven years after I left the board, I am impressed about the resilience of the culture of NSU, that is, how it was able to survive this takeover of our board for three years, and it was probably considered even a hostile takeover by some old timers. The spontaneous principle, the easy going optimism and cosmopolitan spirit is so strong in this academic holiday camp that most of the procedures we made during those years to enable enlightenment, participation and transparency have simply faded out and disappeared, and the point is that NSU is still here. One tiny detail is also funny. The daily newspaper has for years been made

### **Druskas Avisas #3 — July 21, 2015**

as pdf document, placed at the homepage, but nobody seems to really care. The newspaper in the printed version distributed every morning, and therefore nobody seems to read these recollections, since they are too long for the printed version. While I of course want to be read, the lack of attention gives a freedom to say what is on one's mind, not having to fear repercussions, since nobody has noticed what has been said!

But how is this resilience possible? When I participated in the NSU the last time in Falsterbo in 2011, a lot of our structures were still in function, since Annika Sillander and her board was somehow in tune with what we had left, even though they maybe did not get all the mechanical details. But Set was in function and the association Norden as well, and that kept everything going. I remember also spending some time with Johan Söderberg to explain the wonder of five year planning, the Excel simulator filled with all the knowledge of Anne Hellness about the economy of NSU and put in formulas by me. It was with this marvel of planning technology that we at Wik could present the general assembly with three models for NSU within the economic possibilities, making simulations on the number of days, participants, children, books, winter symposiums etc. For us in the board it was great fun to play with machine, making all kind of NSU models, and it also made it possible to include the public in strategic planning.

The three models were the classic model with a lot of participants with rather basic facilities – like Brandbjerg or Kungälv – one that provided the possibility for single rooms of a certain standard, since we had noticed they were – as now – in high demand, or a model where we – as this year – exploited the currency asymmetries and went to the Baltic countries, where we could good standard for less money, but – in those days – with bigger costs for transportation. The assembly was clearly in favor of the comfort model, but at that time we had already booked Brandbjerg, but I think Majvik 2010 was one of the results of this process.

This taste for planning and participatory democracy went into a lot of details on other areas. Let me mention the production of books that was restructured by Dag to become a virtual production machine, culminating in the production of 14 books, or more than 3 books annually, in the years 2007-2010, where the production in the previous four years had been two books, i.e. one every two years. This was achieved by Dag's invention of the concept of a standard NSU book, which made it possible ask for prices at various producers and compare the offers, analyze the production process, and describe in detail, how to do the things, making it possible to let the editors and writers go directly into production of the books, relieving the board of both work and responsibility.

Another example was the handling of a crisis in Kääriku, Estonia 2006. Here, at my first year as acting spokesperson, we experienced a revolt already the first day at the session. The place was rather simple, only few rooms had private bathrooms, some of dormitories were fungus infected, the food proved to be very basic – vegetarian

### **Druskas Avisas #3 — July 21, 2015**

food was peeled tomatoes from the can! – and photocopying was not functioning etc. etc. Arrkom from Finland experienced the work to prepare everything as exploitation, where they had expected to have enriching experiences as part of an academic community that they did not know beforehand. That put the finger a really sore practice that had developed over the years, and which I think has regained its hold over the organization again the last years.

The practice was the following: The one in the board from the country of the planned summer session was in reality sole responsible for attracting an Arrkom, and it was only done after the previous summer session, i.e. during the winter time. In this procedure the participants in the summer sessions were free of any responsibilities to take part in the organization as members of the Arrkom, and the responsible board member alone had to attract members of the Arrkom, of course using some sweet talking to make them work for almost nothing for a whole week. The result was that it was very rare that Arrkom member continued in the organization, having gotten a very bad impression of the solidarity. And NSU did not see that, because we circulated, leaving behind the Arrkom member with an experience of exploitation around in the Nordic countries. The revolt by the Kääriku Arrkom forced us as board to think through the situation, and the result was that we demanded of the participants at Kääriku that we had to have four members of an Arrkom elected for the following summer before leaving Estonia.

That was a hard fight, since the participants had become used to not being forced to take responsibility in this way. As board we had to say, that without an Arrkom elected among the participant, there would be no next summer session. We would not as board continue luring people into NSU to work for us almost freely. It worked and the result was in the coming years Arrkom again became integrated in the NSU, and, because everybody know worked for free, i.e. both board and Arrkom, we could all participate in a winter seminar in Åre, Sweden, where we skied in the morning and worked in the afternoons and evenings, all provided by NSU. That was great fun and secured a real working cooperative that could plan ahead, and for the budget it was neutral.

Enough for now, it is great fun writing it, so maybe I continue another day.

## Druskas Avisas #3 — July 21, 2015

<b>TUE 21</b>	Circle 1 (room 601)	Circle 2 (room 4)	Circle 3 (room 1)	Circle 4 (room 604)	Circle 5 (room 2)	Circle 6 (room 602)	Circle 7 (room 3)	Circle 8 (room 5)	Circle X
08.00- 09.00	Breakfast								
09.00- 10.30	Visit other circles	Bryony Randall: "Specialist discourse in the one-day novel"	Adam Nétzen: "The Question of Values"	Elizabeth Hughes: "Addiction and Narcissistic Shame: Repression and the Fantasy Of Omnipotence"	Oleg Bresky: "Citizenship and civic ethos"	Olof Gross: "Interfacing with biosensors"	9:00-10:00: Notes from yesterday  10:00-10:30: William Card and The Writing Group Presentation	Synne Myrebøe & Kasper Kristiansen	X
10.30- 10.45	Coffee								
10.45- 12.15	Workshop: "Gender and body in post- modern welfare society"	Eret Talviste: "(Re)discovering magic in Hélène Cixous's Hyperdream"	Erik Bendtsen: "The Ideals of Democracy and their fragility"	Visit other circles	Readings: Arendt	Johan Söderberg: "A Case study of Wifi activism in the Czech Republic, 2001-2006"	10:50-11:10: Sara Ibañez O'Donnell  11:20-12:10: Lucy Lyons, Larissa Lilly	Moa & Johanna Sjöstedt: "Ordinary affects"	X
12.15- 14.00	Lunch								
14.00- 15.15	Visit Circle 6	Stephanie Boland: "Reforging the sensible: The Futurist Cookbook"	Jacob Rendtorff: "Peter Koslowsky's Theory of ..."	Visit other circles	Readings: Arendt	Workshop: Datamining Swedish Official Reports, 1922-2015	14:00-14:40: Davide Giovanzana  14:50-15:15: Anne Marie Kristensen: "Dancing Taboos"	Text seminar: Spinoza, Balibar and Deleuze	X
15.15- 15.30	Coffee								
15.30- 17.00	KEYNOTE: Ben Highmore (ROOM 3)								
17.00- 18.00	Beer & Soft Drinks								
18.00- 19.00	Dinner								
19.00- 22.00	Soundscapes of Čiurlionis (followed by a surprise in the restaurant after returning!)								