



CALL FOR PROPOSALS WS2023

Whiteness and racialization in/between East and West

“Racialization, Whiteness and Politics of Othering in Contemporary Europe” (Study Circle 5)

Nordic Summer University

Winter symposium: 27-28 March 2023

Place: Roskilde University, Denmark

Invitation

The Nordic Summer University study circle 5 “Racialization, Whiteness and Politics of Othering in Contemporary Europe” is pleased to invite proposals for the winter symposium to be held 27-28 March 2023 (Monday-Tuesday). The symposium will take place in Roskilde University in person. If some of the participants would not be able to travel to Denmark, we are considering a possibility to host the symposium in a hybrid format.

Theme of the symposium

Historically entrenched cultural and political divisions between East and West continue despite the fall of the Iron curtain already three decades ago. With the establishment of the Schengen zone, the inner European borders were not erased, but only pushed further East, producing varying categories of mobile bodies and citizens. Contemporary labour migration flows, stimulated by uneven economic developments, have not necessarily diminished socio-economic disparities. Instead, they tend to reinforce old hierarchies of power, social inequalities, and practices of othering and racialization. The increased intra-European mobility is used to mobilise fears over integrity of European states, emphasised by voices advocating the recreation of national borders. At the same time, the apparent moral and political failure of Eastern Europeans to assist with the so-called “refugee crisis” has been brought up as an argument to question the region’s aspiration to become a legitimate member of the European community, defined by liberal values, presumed tolerance and whiteness.

This symposium will explore how racialization and whiteness shape contemporary Nordic, Baltic and European spaces, identities and politics. In particular, we aim to engage with identity struggles over Europe and discuss recent upsurges of right-wing populism and revival of nationalism, often fuelled by Islamophobia and migration-related fears.

The symposium provides an opportunity for open discussions and facilitates access to scholarly activities for persons from different backgrounds of society. We welcome participants who are working on these and related issues either as academics, activists, artists, independent researchers or practitioners, as well as others who are interested to discuss the above topics. When applying please tell us why you are interested to participate and indicate how you would like to contribute to the symposium.

Format

The symposium will take place over two days of work-in progress sessions and in-depth discussions (with breaks), focusing on the participants’ needs, for instance, exploration and playfulness, advice on publishing, or comments related to coherence, and/or a sense of community with other scholars working in relatively isolated circumstances. We will group the abstracts by topic and circulate abstracts in advance to enable the presentations to be relatively brief, giving more time to discussions and exchange of ideas.

To apply

Please fill out the google form by **9 January 2023**: <https://forms.gle/J83P8hsSegc6XEeF9>

In your application, please indicate the following:

- Short biographical statement
- Title and abstract of your presentation explaining your interest in the topic (up to 350 words)
- What do you hope to get out of (and contribute with) at the symposium?
- Would you like to travel to present in person? (travel and accommodation costs are covered by participants; participants from Baltic and Nordic countries are eligible for reimbursements thanks to NordPlus grant)

NSU membership and participation fee

Participation in the seminar requires NSU membership. To join NSU, please visit:

<https://www.nsuweb.org/product-category/nsu-membership/>.

The membership is connected with a small *membership fee* for 2023:

- Students, unemployed and independents, West Nordic & Baltic residents: 10 EUR
- Those associated with institutions or companies: 25 EUR

In addition, there will be an additional *participation fee* of 40 EUR for *in-person* participants.

Participation without presentation

If you would not like to present your work, but you would be interested in attending the symposium, you can join as a *non-presenting participant*. Each year we invite at least a few non-presenting participants. In terms of NSU membership and participation fee, same rules apply to non-presenting participants (see above). The participants intending to attend in-person can also apply for travel and accommodation reimbursements from NSU. To apply as a **non-presenting participant**, fill out this google form: <https://forms.gle/ZSZKRQskSstNsCeE8>

About the circle

The study circle ‘Racialization, Whiteness and Politics of Othering in Contemporary Europe’ discusses how processes of racialization and ideas of whiteness shape present Nordic, Baltic and European spaces, identities and politics. The circle invites interdisciplinary debates about Europe’s condition/integrity and poses questions about who and what counts as “European”, “Nordic” and “Baltic” from different locations, practices and subject positions. The circle wants to broaden and develop existing research networks on race, racialization and whiteness in the Nordic with perspectives and knowledge from the former Soviet countries in order to enrich existing scholarship by combining post-Soviet and post-colonial perspectives.

Circle coordinators

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About NSU

The Nordic Summer University ([NSU](#)) is a Nordic network for research and interdisciplinary studies. It is a nomadic academic institution that organises workshop-seminars across disciplinary and national borders. Since it was established in 1950, NSU has organised forums for cultural and intellectual debate in the Nordic and Baltic region, involving students, academics, politicians, artists and intellectuals from this region and beyond.