



CALL FOR Presentation 2017

Political arts and aesthetics in the everyday.

Appearances of the Political 5/6

Winter Symposium: 2 – 4 February 2018

University of Copenhagen, Denmark

We invite scholars, students, artists and third sector agents to study together the many forms, appearances and the aesthetic functions in which we experience the presences of political reality. We wish to approach it from social, artistic, aesthetic and cultural analysis and to articulate the ideological forces underlying today's political thinking. We also want to inaugurate a debate on the role of cultural approaches in political analysis. We aspire to break new paths in connecting the cultural humanities and the political sciences and invite participants to bravely explore new ways of studying these issues. We believe that experimentation is crucial for rethinking the political.

Theme of the symposium: Political arts and aesthetics in the Everyday.

Those in power, whether in the recognized forms of established institutions and regime interests, or more oblique manifestations of structural inequality, have always had an alliance with art, defining and supporting art as an official appearance of the ruling ideology. This is no less the case today; The powers simply have transposed, from kings to consensual ideologies in the representative democracies. At the same time, a whole margin of contemporary art considers itself actively activist, insisting on arts ability to impact both politics and the art world. Last summer we convened to speak about activism as such. This winter, we would like to continue those investigations by looking specifically at the political arts. What are the tactics of political arts? What notion of politics is active in such an approach and what are its limitations?

To complicate these investigations, we would also like to take up a thread of the previous circle, inviting discussions on everyday aesthetics in relation to the political. Insofar as these two disciplines, art and everyday aesthetics, share an imperative as well as an overlapping history – think Alan Kaprow, the happenings, relational aesthetics, and the history of both modern literature and performance art – could we consider this relation itself as a phenomenon to examine? Does the move towards social practice art on the one hand and everyday aesthetics on the other, share a horizon of politics?

The circle would very much like to encourage artists, artistic researchers, and those with experimental work to join the already cross-scientific work of the circle, so that we may engender new, alternative ways of looking at the subject.

About the Study Group

The intention of *Appearances of the Political* is to create a platform for future collaborations and applications, and to exchange knowledge and share common interest. It is important for the group to consult a variety of fields as broad as possible including political theory, philosophy, communication, social sciences and cultural studies, and we hope that scholars from all areas of interest would join us.

Participating in this meeting of the group does not imply any obligation for participating in future meetings. We hope, however, that participants will be involved in building a strong community on this topic for future activities reflecting the diversity of interests in the community. We are open to any propositions concerning collaboration, partners and sites.

We have planned joined sessions with the circles 1 (Understanding Migration in Nordic and Baltic Countries) and 5 (Patterns of Dysfunction in Contemporary Democracies).

Format of the presentation

We encourage people to do both traditional and non-traditional presentations:

1) Oral presentation of ideas:

We strongly encourage giving a free oral presentation rather than reading a paper. We wish to facilitate open debates for sharing and ask for presentations creating platforms for debate. A presentation cannot exceed 20 min. but we encourage very short presentations (5-10 min.) of an idea and motivation making space for creating a discussion around this idea.

2) Performance, object or alternative forms:

You can present ideas, examples or reflections through other formats including inviting the participants to engage in experiments, situations, or individual and group activities. Please indicate the optimal time for this form of presentation, however there is a maximum of 30 min including time for feedback.

To apply, please send the following via email to Laine Kristberga and Raine Vasquez at circle2@nsuweb.org:

1. A written proposal (**max. 350 words**) with a title, its format its duration.
2. A short bio (**max. 100 words**).

If you would like to attend the symposium without presenting, please email a short bio. Participants with presentations will be given priority.

The deadline to submit proposals is 1st of December, 2017. Accepted applicants will be informed by e-mail and a preliminary program will be announced on 15th of December, 2017 on <http://nordic.university>, where you can also find more information about NSU and sign up for the newsletter.

After deadline we will keep submission open until we reach the maximum of participants we can be.

Registration and fee:

Professors, lecturers and other professional scholars associated with institutions: 50€

Students, unemployed, freelancers: 20 €

Baltic residents: 20 €

This cost includes lunches and dinners. Moreover, NSU will organize and pay for basic accommodation for all participants not funded by their institutions on the understanding they will share a double room. Participants who want single room must pay for the difference in price.

To help with this, we will also try to provide a number of private accommodations. Please indicate if you are interested and if you wish to share private accommodation with other participants.

Participants should apply to their institutions, Art Councils, local foundations or sponsors to have their travel cost covered.

The fee must be paid ABSOLUTELY NO LATER THAN JANUARY 10. The letter of acceptance will contain instructions for payment. Please notice that fee or other costs will not be reimbursed if the participant cancels.

Participants are also invited to support the participation of an asylum seeker as we try to reach out to a broader and more diverse audience. This takes the form of covering the participation fee (10€). For more info, please contact the coordinators.

The Nordic Summer University (NSU) is a Nordic network for research and interdisciplinary studies.

NSU is a nomadic, academic institution, which organises workshop-seminars across disciplinary and national borders. Since it was established in 1950, Nordic Summer University has organised forums for cultural and intellectual debate in the Nordic and Baltic region, involving students, academics, politicians, and intellectuals from this region and beyond.

Decisions about the content and the organisational form of the NSU lay with its participants. The backbone of the activities in the NSU consists of its thematic study circles. In the study circles researchers, students and professionals from different backgrounds collaborate in scholarly investigations distributed regularly in summer and winter symposia during a three-year period.

For more information <http://nordic.university>

