



Nordic Summer University



European Humanities
University

**Study Circle 5:
Patterns of Dysfunction in Contemporary Democracies
Impact on Human Rights and Governance
Joint Venture Between NSU and EHU.**

CALL FOR PAPERS SUMMER SESSION 2018

GLOBALIZATION AND DEMOCRACY

The winter session will take place from **Saturday 28th of July to Sunday 5th of August at the island Fårö (close to Gotland), Sweden.**

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The deadline to submit proposals is 1st of May 2018. Please send title and abstract to both coordinators

Preliminary program to be announced: 15th of May 2018 on www.nordic.university where you can also find more information about NSU. (See <http://www.nordic.university>)

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For the summer session 2018 we would propose a special opening focus on:

GLOBALIZATION AND DEMOCRACY

An opening focus will head the program of the session sincerely welcoming other subjects related to our six themes in the program to follow.

Economic globalization is made responsible for the loss of jobs; critics claim that benefits have been taken away by the elite. Who profited from globalization and where certain stretches of society abandoned along the road? What would the European societies have looked like without globalization? Politically, free trade and liberalization of capital movements have prompted some to ask whether democratic decision-making decides anything any more. Are politicians only adapting to circumstances they do not control. This reproach has been directed against globalization as such and the EU in particular. The EU treaties have established free trade and movements of goods, services and persons as a basic principle. The WTO imposes rules of free trade on all its members. Does this engage the member countries in fierce competition leading to lower levels of pay and working conditions? Are democratic institutions no longer able to decide about the kind of society which should be instituted? How should we cope with this in terms of justice?

([http://opendemocracy.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?](http://opendemocracy.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9c663f765f28cdb71116aa9ac&id=1b0a762d04&e=20c21a5d20)

[u=9c663f765f28cdb71116aa9ac&id=1b0a762d04&e=20c21a5d20](http://opendemocracy.us1.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9c663f765f28cdb71116aa9ac&id=1b0a762d04&e=20c21a5d20)) Are governments powerless faced with multinational corporations such as Google? The latest EU tax complaint against Google will say something about the balance of power between government and corporations.

This problem also concerns labour law and collective bargaining. Existing structures are challenged by competition from the outside and it is difficult to maintain higher standards, if products, services and persons from the outside can propose cheaper solutions. This was poignantly illustrated by the Polish plumber during the French referendum on the EU Constitution Treaty. The fear of the Polish plumber probably decided for a no to the treaty. Should democracies then be autarchic republics as Plato recommends in the Republic? They have, of course, never been like that, but support for democracy, political participation and interest in politics can wane if democratic decision-making is no longer seen as pertinent.

Bibliography

See end of CFP for bibliographical information.

Other themes are:

1. Populism and democracy

The reason for populist movements are many and we have probably not understood these movements properly yet. Reasons vary from country to country, but there seems to be some standards such as hostility to globalization and distrust of the so-called establishment. There is a strong wish to be heard, that one's vote count, and a feeling that they have been forgotten. In many countries populism has been fuelled by fear of immigration and social instability. It is often seen as a challenge to representative democracy. This was clearly illustrated by the Brexit referendum, where a parliamentary majority to remain was defeated by a popular vote to leave.

Rosanvallon argues that bureaucracy together with the judiciary, the regulatory bodies and electoral representation have its own kind of legitimacy which is part of our general notion of democratic legitimacy. (Rosanvallon 2008) Populism, on the other hand, pretends to appeal directly to the people against politicians and technocrats, and research does confirm a gap between citizens and leaders. (Startin & Krouwel 2013) It has been argued that populism and technocracy actually reinforce each other by a common critique of party politics. (Bickerton & Accetti 2015, Leonard 2011) From a left-wing perspective Laclau proposes to short-circuiting party politics by constructing a political subject from a large range of social demands which is construed as the people and supposed to subvert and reconstruct society. (Laclau 2005) In its turn, this view has been criticized as the construction of an imaginary people without any fixed contours. (Zarka 2016)

Lately populism has surged as a consequence of the migration crisis. Elections in Austria and Germany have given very high scores to populist anti-immigration parties. Support for these parties is also high in Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Holland and France. What are the ideological suppositions of these parties? How should we understand them? It is puzzling that Mecklenburg-Schwerin, which receives so few refugees and experience an economic upturn (though still one of the poorer parts of Germany), is so anti-immigration? Are the Media responsible or should we look for some other reason?

3. The Digital Revolution and democracy

Will digital, AI, robotic and other technologies maintain or advance democracy, or will they constitute an indispensable tool for emerging autocracies or totalitarian ideologies? The digital revolution enables global gossip, plebiscites, polls and populism which challenge representative democracy. The careful scrutiny of proposals for new legislation and its consequences, which at least ideally is part of representative democracy, is run over by various direct expressions of popular sentiment. Can these expressions no longer be channelled through these representative processes? Is the speed of the information flow simply too fast and reactions too immediate for representative democracy to connect with people? (See Andrew Sullivan <http://nymag.com/daily/intelligencer/2016/04/america-tyranny-donald-trump.html>) Is the huge importance of the media fuelling this process, and what kind of manipulation does control of media allow within these processes to the detriment of democracy. Enormous amounts of money and investments are involved in the news and information services so crucial for the good functioning of democracy. In the early times of European democracy the press was generally motivated by political interests in this or that party or part of the population. Today the media might have a stand, but they are often more preoccupied with the audience. To this it will be said that media has to be independent and private ownership secures this independence. This independence should secure pluralistic sources of information, but if all are running after some statistical idea of the audience, information delivery could become rather monotone.

4. Security and democracy

Terrorism, social instability and other threats have considerably augmented measures of control and surveillance leading to growing interference in the private life of citizens. The scandal surrounding the NSA monitoring of internet activity and collection of big data concerning telephone conversations did attract much attention, but other measures such as increasing video surveillance, checking of credit card data and the like has considerably enhanced the monitoring of the individual as well. Will such measures fragilize the citizen in relation to the control the very same citizen should exercise on its own democratic institutions and politicians? Are we about to construct the infrastructure for authoritarianism ready for take over when the political situation is ripe or have we found a reasonable compromise between security concerns and democracy? (Priest & Arkin, 2011; Andersen, 2016)

5. Democratic Deficit in the EU and Global Governance

Several Nordic countries and all the Baltic countries are members of the EU. Questions of democracy in these countries are therefore linked to the EU. Is the EU undermining national democracies? How does EU participate in the regional and local levels? Many authors have argued that the European Institutions have a democratic deficit (for example Føllesdal & Hix 2005), but others like Moravcsik (2002) and Majone (1998) have maintained that Europe is sufficiently democratic and compares reasonably well with democratic institutions elsewhere like those in the US. (Cf. Kreppel 2006) Arguing that the EU is legitimate or could become legitimate by some odd reform will not necessarily be sufficient to make people believe that it is legitimate. Normative ideas about legitimacy like the one's espoused by Simmons (1999) and Buchanan (2002) are, of course, interesting in their own right, but they will not necessarily tell us very much about the challenges facing the EU. One might very well wonder whether a more democratic Europe or other institutional changes would silence Eurosceptics or make them enthusiastic followers. It seems like their real grievances lies elsewhere even though any argument ready at hand will be brought to use. The real problem might not be that there is any particular fault with the EU institutions, but rather that some other source of legitimacy is more appealing to many people. Many Eurosceptics to the right or the left sees the EU as an obstacle to their own project whether it is socialist one hammering into the single market and globalization in general, or Catholic conservative blaming EU for upholding a secular society protecting abortion and equal rights, or a nationalist one protecting home grown culture and community through sovereign rights.

One way to get around difficulties concerning unity and cultural diversity is through the implementation of the subsidiarity principle which has potential for a better understanding of the evolution of democracy. Subsidiarity creates an area of public action for the individuals giving them both responsibility and a definite personality. This important principle of EU law should be implemented creatively. It is an important fact that the subsidiarity principle is uncommon in Eastern Europe, something which merits further investigation.

Global governance as it is today is not democratic. The UN has, of course, a general assembly, but the Security Council has the last word. Should we try to democratize this institution or heed Kant's words that a universal republic would be the worst tyranny? (Kant, 1917) Could global governance be democratized in other ways, through social movements, ONG's or other? Should we rather count on some kind of global constitutionalism? (Peters, 2015) Others like Thomas Pogge and Allen Buchanan would consider global governance in terms of justice rather than democracy. (Pogge, 2002; Buchanan, 2004) Are there limits to democracy and how should democracy fit into global governance? It seems that some people feel estranged from a complex and opaque global system, which impacts their daily life in ways which are difficult to discern. Are there limits to how global we can get, or should we accept that democracy has a limited applicability?

There are important difficulties in the system of representation on the global level. What kind of representation should one use in the global system of governance? What is the connection

between social complexity and global governance? How can global actors participate in global governance? How should religious communities and churches participate in global governance?

6. The Elite-People Gap

To conclude we should consider the elite-people gap. Does it really exist? Who are the elite? Is this just a manipulating term? Do we rather have split societies, where some parts have profited while others were left behind? Is this phenomenon generational? Is it rather due to new yearnings of democracy, which the traditional model cannot fulfil? Should we consider new forms of democracy or political participation? Do illiberal democracies manage to fill the gap trading security (social, internal, external) against obedience? Is the elite-people gap somehow inherent in liberal democracies?

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Practical Information

Summer Session at Fårö, Sweden 2018 July 29th - August 5th

Fårö Lighthouse. Photo by Helen Simonsson (copyright and origin in alt. img html source).

Apologies for any cross posting

Summer Session 2018: July 29th - August 5th, Fårö, Sweden.

In this newsletter you can read about:

- Location
- Keynote speakers
- Application process and deadlines
- Prices and accomodation
- Scholarship and Grant Program
- ECTS
- Information for parents with children
- Call for youth leaders and a mentor to the children's circle

Location

The summer session of 2018 will take place in Fårö, Sweden, from July 29th until August 5th. Situated in the Baltic sea just north of Gotland, Fårö island displays an idyllic landscape of white sand beaches and limestone formations. Fårö Kursgård, a camp built during World War II that has been rebuilt into a modern conference center, will be our venue. Right next to Fårö kursgård is the Bergman center, a foundation dedicated to the the art of Swedish filmmaker Ingmar Bergman, several of whose films were shot in Fårö. In addition 2018 marks the centenary of Bergman's birth. Curious?

You can reach Fårö by public transportation from Visby, the main city of Gotland, by a 30 minutes flight from Stockholm, or 3 hours by ferry from Nynäshamn.

More information about the location: <http://www.farokursgard.se>

More information on transportation: <http://www.gotland.net/en/travel>

Ferry timetables and prices: <https://www.destinationgotland.se/en>

Keynote speakers

Bojana Kunst is a philosopher, performance theoretician and a full professor at the Institute for Applied Theatre Studies / ATW – Institut für Angewandte Theaterwissenschaft, Justus-Liebig University Giessen, Germany. Kunst is a member of the editorial board of Maska Magazine, Amfiteater and Performance Research. Her essays have appeared in numerous international journals and publications and she teaches and lectures extensively in Europe. Among her publications are Impossible Body (Ljubljana, 1999), Dangerous Connections: Body, Philosophy and Relation to the Artificial (Ljubljana, 2004), Processes of Work and Collaboration in Contemporary Performance (Ur.), Amfiteater, Maska, Ljubljana, 2006, Artist at Work, Maska, Ljubljana, 2013, Performance and Labour, Performance Research 18.1. (ed. with Gabriele Klein), 2013, and Artist at Work, Proximity of Art and Capitalism, Maska, 2013.

<https://www.inst.uni-giessen.de/theater/en/staff/prof-dr-bojana-kunst>

Jason de León is Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Michigan. He directs the Undocumented Migration Project (UMP), a long-term anthropological study of clandestine migration between Mexico and the United States that uses a combination of ethnographic, visual, archaeological, and forensic approaches to understand the violent social process of migration. He has published numerous academic articles and his work has been featured in a variety of popular media outlets. de León was named a National Geographic Emerging Explorer in 2013 and was the Weatherhead Resident Scholar at the School for Advanced Research in Santa Fe, New Mexico for the 2013-2014 academic year. He was awarded the 2016 Margaret Mead Award for his book The Land of Open Graves: Living and Dying on the Migrant Trail (featuring photos by Michael Wells). He is also on the Academic Board for the Institute for Field Research, a nonprofit organization operating over 42 field schools in 25 countries across the globe.

http://jasonpatrickdeleon.com/?page_id=6

Application process and deadlines

The application process for the summer session has two steps: (1) Application to coordinators for acceptance. Application starts 1st of April and closes on 1st of May. Prospective participants should first choose a study circle, and then contact the coordinators of the study circle in question by email for acceptance to participate. The call for papers for the study circles will be published March 15th: <http://nordic.university/study-circles/> After you have been accepted, the next step is (2) Registration and payments, which closes on 1st of June. All registration and payment will be done electronically. More information will be sent out in the next newsletter 1st of April.

Prices and accommodation

The summer session will be held at Fårö Kursgård, which has the configuration of a

small village with different cottages and smaller buildings, as well as larger buildings where meals and seminars will take place. We will also rent rooms at a nearby inn. For those willing to fully embrace the outdoors summer camp spirit, you can bring your own tent or caravan and camp at the site!

The total price per adult person ranges from 2100 SEK - 7000 SEK depending on what kind of accommodation you choose. Grant and scholarship recipients will be given accommodation in shared 4-bedrooms. The participation fee is 600 SEK for grant holders and 400 SEK for scholarship recipients. All prices indicated are per person for a total of 7 nights and include full board (breakfast, lunch, coffee breaks and dinner). More detailed information about the summer session, including all available room types and family prices, will be sent out in the April newsletter.

Scholarship and Grant Program

NSU will provide 18 scholarships for students and 18 grants for others in need of a subsidy in order to attend the summer session. The application period is from 1st April to 15th April. For more information on the application process,

see <http://support.nsuweb.org/arrkom/scholarship-and-grant-program/>

Please note that people who receive grants and scholarships are expected to help ARRKOM with small tasks for example writing blog posts, sharing their experience, distributing information if needed, and helping out with setting up and cleaning up the picnic.

ECTS

PhD and MA students are eligible for up to five ECTS points for participation and presentation of a paper. See also: <http://nordic.university/study-circles/>

Parents with children

We welcome families at the Summer Session. Just like previous years, there will be a separate circle for children between 3 and 15 years. In the children's circle, we offer a variety of activities for children and youth, running parallel to the other study circles. See also: <http://nordic.university/study-circles/childrenscircle/>

Call for youth leaders and a mentor for the children's circle

We are looking for several youth leaders to lead the children's circle and one person to mentor the youth leaders. The application period is from 1st to 15th of April. For more information about the tasks and where to submit the application,

see: <http://support.nsuweb.org/children-leader/>

Excursions

2nd of August will be excursion day; the different options are listed below:

1. To visit Visby, the main city in Gotland and a Unesco cultural heritage site. In Visby you can explore a variety of historical buildings of the medieval time, like the city wall from the 13th Century, as well as the Botanical Garden.
2. To have a family day at the summer resort and waterpark Kneippbyn. Here you can visit Villa Villekulla, the house famous from the Pippi Longstocking films.
3. To be part of a guided hiking tour to the sea stack fields of Fårö, large vertical rock formations that have been shaped by the sea.
4. To spend the day at Sudersand, one of the largest and famous beaches of Fårö.

Since 1950, the Nordic Summer University (NSU) actively supports the cultivation of new ideas and growing research networks in the Nordic countries. As an independent, non-profit academic institution, NSU fosters the development of new research areas and emerging researchers in the Nordic and Baltic countries. Committed to egalitarian and interdisciplinary modes of learning, the NSU is open for senior scholars, doctoral and master students, as well as artists and professionals with relevant backgrounds. NSU is a non-profit organization, funded by Nordic Council of Ministers / Nordic Council (www.norden.org).

Please forward to anyone who may be interested.



[Nordic Summer University on Facebook](#)



[Nordic Summer University Homepage](#)



European Humanities University (<http://www.ehu.lt/en>) is private non-profit liberal arts Lithuanian University with unique origin and history. Founded in 1992, the university has been headquartered in Vilnius, Lithuania since authorities expelled it from Belarus in 2004. EHU is the only Belarusian University that has succeeded in maintaining its independence and commitment to academic freedom. EHU offers both high residence and low residence (distance learning) degree programs in the humanities and social sciences that fully accord with European standards and norms.

Approximately 1800 students are enrolled in European Humanities University (1/3 high

residence students and 2/3 low residence), 249 (99 full-time and 150 part-time) faculty members conduct teaching and research activities in EHU within Historical, Socio-political, Law and Media academic departments and 10 research centers (see: <http://www.ehu.lt/en/research/centers-laboratories-and-institutes>).

The EHU provides students from Belarus and the region with an education in the European liberal arts tradition in a free and democratic environment - an opportunity, unfortunately, not available in Belarus today. At EHU, students can learn media and communications skills in a state-of-the-art [media lab](#), become election observers through a hands on program conducted together with [Belarusian Human Rights House](#) and [Belarus Watch](#) called [Election Observation: Theory and Practice](#) (EOTP), study European politics and policy as part of the political science and European studies program, and many other opportunities. Law students learn about human rights law from Western experts and practice their courtroom skills and meet students from around the world at the Philip C. Jessup International Moot Court Competition. New center for Constitutionalism and Human rights was established in 2012 <http://www.ehu.lt/en/research/research-centers/center-for-constitutionalism-and-human-rights/activities> along with announcement of new academic journal with the same title <http://chr-centre.org/>

These and other opportunities make EHU a unique place for young people from Belarus and the region. The commitment of EHU's faculty, students, staff, and donors is an important signal to Belarusian authorities and society that there is an alternative to state ideological control. For Belarusians who seek the freedom to think creatively and critically—to study, learn, teach, and conduct research without ideological restrictions—EHU provides a home away from home.

The [Nordic Summer University](#) (NSU) is an independent and open academic institution, which organises seminars crossing academic and national borders. NSU is a democratic institution organized and run by its participants through different study circles.

Through two yearly seminars the cross-disciplinary study circles fertilise collaboration between academics, build up networks and contribute to create research agendas throughout the Nordic/Baltic countries as well as establishing contacts "abroad". The research in the study circles is documented in publications link: [NSU-Press](#)

The two yearly seminars take place in the Nordic/Baltic countries. In the winter each study circle organize their own seminar; in the summer all circles are brought together for also enhancing further cross-disciplinary collaboration. Furthermore, the summer meeting is also the political organ of NSU inviting all participants to exercise their influence on the activities of NSU.

It is the policy of NSU to maintain an environment that encourages and fosters appropriate conduct among all persons and respect for individual values. NSU opposes any policy or practice, which discriminates against any individual or group on grounds of race, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, class, age, disability, creed, and ethnic/national origins. NSU aims at being an open and inclusive organization.

NSU receives financial support from the [Nordic Council of Ministers](#) and operates in cooperation with [Foreningerne Nordens Forbund](#) (FNF).