



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 2020

THE ELITE-PEOPLE GAP

The winter session will take place from **the 26th of July – 2nd of August 2020 in Oslo, Norway**

Contact Information for Coordinators:

Oleg Bresky
oleg.bresky@ehu.lt

Mogens Chrom Jacobsen
chrom.jacobsen@gmail.com

The deadline to submit proposals is 1st of May 2020. Please send title and abstract to both coordinators

For those who wish to apply for scholarship and grant, please consult this web page:
<http://support.nsuweb.org/arrkom/scholarship-and-grant-program/>

At the same web page you can get information about the West Nordic and Baltic Travel Scholarship

Preliminary program to be announced: 15th of May 2020 on www.nordic.university where you can also find more information about NSU. (See <http://www.nordic.university>)

Table of contents

- 1) Opening Focus: The Elite-People Gap
- 2) Other Themes
- 3) Practical Information
- 4) Presentation of European Humanities University, the Nordic Summer University.

For the summer session 2020 we would propose a special opening focus on:

THE ELITE-PEOPLE GAP

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

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?

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?

2. Globalization and democracy

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.

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?

Bibliography

- Andersen, Lars Erslev (2016). "Denmark: From state security to security state. The Invention of Preventive Security", in de Graaff, Bob & M. Nyce, James (eds.), *The Handbook of European Intelligence Cultures*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield.
- Bickerton, Christopher & Accetti, Carlo I. (2015). "Populism and Technocracy: Opposites or Complements", *Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy*:1-21
- Buchanan, Allen (2002). "Political Legitimacy and Democracy", *Ethics*, 112.4: 689–719.
- Buchanan, Allen (2004). *Justice, Legitimacy and Self-determination*. Oxford: OUP.
- Bårdsen, Arnfinn (2015). *The Nordic Supreme Courts as Constitutional Courts; main features as seen from the Norwegian perspective*. (<https://www.domstol.no/globalassets/upload/hret/artikler-og-foredrag/nordic-constitutional-courts---vienna-29102015.pdf>)
- Dahl, Robert A. (1982). *Dilemmas of Pluralist Democracy, Autonomy vs. Control*. New Haven: Yale University Press.
- Dahl, Robert A. (1989). *Democracy and its critics*. Yale: Yale University Press
- Dahl, Robert A. (1998). *On Democracy*. Yale: Yale University Press.
- Egupova, Masha (2012). *Russia: The Vanguard of 'Authoritarian Democracy'*. (<https://futurechallenges.org/local/russia-the-vanguard-of-authoritarian-democracy/>)
- Freedom House (2016). *Anxious Dictators, Wavering Democracies: Global Freedom under Pressure. Freedom in the World 2016*. (www.freedomhouse.org)
- Føllesdal, A. & Hix, S. (2005). "Why there is a Democratic Deficit in the EU; A Response to Majone and Moravcsik". *European Governance Papers C-05-02*. EUROGOV.
- Gwiazda, Anna (2015). *Democracy in Poland. Representation, participation, competition and accountability since 1989*. London: Routledge.
- Hooghe, L., and G. Marks (2001). *Multi-level governance and European integration*. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield.
- Kant, Immanuel. 1917. *Perpetual Peace. A Philosophical Essay*. London: George Allen and Unwin Ltd.
- Kreppel, Amie (2006) "Understanding the European Parliament from a Federalist Perspective – The Legislatures of the USA and EU Compared", in Schain, M. & Menon, A. (eds.), *Comparative Federalism: The European Union and the United States*. Oxford: OUP.
- Laclau, Ernesto (2005). *La raison populiste*. Paris: Seuil.
- Majone, Giandomenico (1998). "Europe's Democratic Deficit", *European Law Journal*, 4.1: 5–28.
- Montréal International Forum Global Democracy: Civil Society Visions and Strategies (G05) Conference Report http://www.world-governance.org/IMG/pdf_G05_Report.pdf
- Moravcsik, Andrew (2002). "In Defence of the Democratic Deficit", *Journal of Common Market Studies*, 40.4: 603–624.
- Müller, Jan-Werner (2007). "A general theory of constitutional patriotism". *International Journal of Constitutional Law*, 6 (1): 72–95.
- Papakostas, Apostolis (2012) *Civilizing the Public Sphere: Distrust, trust and corruption*. London: Palgrave.
- Peters, Anne (2015). *Global Constitutionalism*. (http://www.mpil.de/files/pdf4/Peters_Global_Constitutionalism2.pdf)
- Pogge, Thomas (2008). *World Poverty and Human Rights*. Cambridge: Polity Press.
- Priest, Dana & Arkin, William M. (2011). *Top Secret America: The Rise of the New American Security State*. New York: Little, Brown and Company.
- Roberts, Andrew (2010) *The Quality of Democracy in Eastern Europe. Public Preferences and Policy Reforms*. Cambridge: CUP.
- Rosanvallon, Pierre (2010). *La légitimité démocratique : impartialité, réflexivité, proximité*. Paris: Seuil.

- Schimmelfennig, Frank, Engert, Stefan & Knobel, Heiko (2003). "Costs, Commitment and Compliance: The Impact of EU Democratic Conditionality on Latvia, Slovakia and Turkey". *Journal of Common Market Studies*, Vol. 41. Nr. 3: 495–518
- Schmidt, Vivien A. (2015). *The Eurozone's Crisis of Democratic Legitimacy: Can the EU Rebuild Public Trust and Support for European Economic Integration?* Discussion Paper 015. European Commission's Directorate General for Economic and Financial Affairs.
- Simmons, John (1999). "Justification and Legitimacy", *Ethics*, 109.4: 739–771.
- Startin, Nick & Krouwel, André (2013). "Euro-scepticism Re-galvanized: The Consequences of the 2005 French and Dutch Rejections of the EU Constitution", *Journal of Common Market Studies*, 51.1: 65–84-
- The Economist Intelligence Unit (2016). *Democracy Index 2015 Democracy in an age of anxiety*. (http://www.eiu.com/public/topical_report.aspx?campaignid=DemocracyIndex2015)
- Tilly, Charles (2007). *Democracy*. Cambridge: CUP.
- Tonkiss, Katherine (2013). "Constitutional patriotism, migration and the post-national dilemma". *Citizenship Studies*. 17: 491–504.
- van Eijken, Hanneke (2015). *EU Citizenship & the Constitutionalisation of the European Union*. Groningue: Europa Law Publishing.
- Wöll, Alexander and Wydra, Harald (eds.) (2009) *Democracy and Myth in Russia and Eastern Europe*. London: Routledge.
- Zarka, Yves Charles (2016). *Métamorphoses du monstre politique et autres essais sur la démocratie*. Paris: PUF.

Practical Information

Newsletter with the latest news. Problem viewing? [View in browser.](#)



NORDIC SUMMER UNIVERSITY
Nordic Networks for Interdisciplinary Study and Research

Information from NSU no.1, 2020

Summer Session 2020 in Oslo, Norway

26th of July – 2nd of August



Apologies for any cross posting

NSU Newsletter 1 2020

Dear all! The time has finally come for the first Newsletter of 2020. In this Newsletter you will find the following:

- Invitation to the Summer Session 2020
- Study program 2020
- How to apply and register for the Summer Session
- Save the date! 30th of July – Anniversary festival
- Presentation of keynote speakers
- Price list for the Summer Session
- Scholarship and grant program
- Presentation of the Arrangement committee, aka Arrkom
- Call for Youth Leaders and a Mentor for the Children's Circle
- News from the Board

Invitation to the Summer Session 2020

The Summer Session 2020 will take place from the 26th of July until the 2nd August at Rønningen Folkehøgskole in Oslo, Norway. Whether arriving in Oslo by train, plane, bus, boat or car, Rønningen Folkehøgskole is accessible by public transportation from the city centre. The venue is located near the Oslo woodlands, and there are several nature sites for walking in the forest, along the Aker river, and swimming in nearby lakes as well as the Oslo fjord. From the school, you can see a lovely view of the city, as well as the nature park. The city of Oslo offers an array of cultural programs, sightseeing opportunities, nightlife, and nature options. The Oslo area is a lovely place to explore in the summertime. To learn more about the venue, visit <https://ronningen.fhs.no/>.

Study program 2020

The NSU has a total of nine study circles in its study program. Each circle is organized around a specific topic or field of research which the circle participants together with the circle coordinators, invest and explore throughout a series of seminars and paper presentations. The symposia take place two times per year: in the winter and, during the week-long Summer Session. The Summer Session could be considered as the core event of the NSU since it is the only occasion when all nine circles are gathered on the same site. It is usually very appreciated among our members since it gives the opportunity to visit several circles on the same conference and meet with participants from other parts of the study circles. To read about the study program and see which one of the circles that fits your interests best, visit NSU's official homepage: <https://nordic.university/study-circles/>.

How to apply and register for the Summer Session

Once you have found a circle you would like to partake in, the next step is to write an application to the coordinators of the elected circle. We encourage everyone interested to apply for the study program. There are no qualification requirements to receive an invitation to our activities and our symposia are usually visited by students, researchers, artists and freelancers of all ages and with all kinds of backgrounds; both from within and outside of the academia. Once you are accepted to the study program, you will automatically become a member of the NSU. The call for applications opens on the **15th of March**. The circle coordinators will upload their calls on their web page, at NSU's official homepage (same link as above). To read about our **scholarship and grant program**, see section below. More practical information will follow in Newsletter #2 which goes out on the 1st of April. So stay tuned!

Save the date! 30th of July – Anniversary festival

NSU turns 70 years old this summer, and we are marking the date with an Anniversary festival of exhibitions, performances, and film-screenings. Working with the Nordics' #TracesOfNorth campaign, ten artists and researchers have been digging into NSU's history - from Board crises to flared trousers - and each producing a dynamic trace from the last 70 years. Throughout the week of the Summer Session, these artistic responses to the past will be springing up on screens, in exhibition rooms, and across the airwaves. On **Thursday, the 30th of July**, we will have a whole day for you to explore the fruits of the projects, with live performances and special guests. You can follow the making of the projects already on <https://tracingthespirit.com/>.

Keynote speakers

Our first confirmed keynote speaker for the Summer Session is **Nora Bateson** who is a filmmaker, researcher, writer, educator, and President of the International Bateson Institute. Her work brings the fields of biology, cognition, art, anthropology, psychology, and information technology together into a study of the patterns in ecology of living systems. She has written, directed and produced the award-winning documentary, **An Ecology of Mind** (2010), a portrait of Gregory Bateson, a celebrated anthropologist, philosopher, author, naturalist, and systems theorist. In her book, **Small Arcs of Larger Circles** (Triarchy Press, 2016) she updates our thinking on systems and ecosystems by applying her own insights and those of her team at IBI to education, organisations, complexity, academia, and the way that society organizes itself.

More keynotes will be announced.



Price list for the Summer Session

The price range for the full week including lodging, meals and the program will be from 100 EUR to 650 EUR. Scholarship receivers would pay 100 EUR and be accommodated in triple rooms; grant receivers would pay 120 EUR for a bed in twin room. Other participants have a choice among few single rooms (550-650 EUR), a bed in a twin room if travelling alone (400-430 EUR for participants, 480 EUR for accompanying persons), a double room or a family room if travelling with children (1400–1500 EUR for two adults and two children aged between

3 and 12 years). Most of the rooms have private bathroom. All rooms at Rønningen Folkehøgskole are very good quality and most have beautiful view as well as the venue is located on the hill. The rooms include bed linen and towels. There are enough rooms to accommodate up to 200 people, so lack of beds should not be a problem this year. The webshop to register and reserve a room will be open from the 1st of May.

Scholarship and grant program

NSU offers two forms of funding options for which the participants at the Summer Session can apply. The scholarship is exclusively for Nordic and Baltic students, the grant is for anyone in need for support in order to participate. In addition to that, we also offer West-Nordic and Baltic travel grants. For more information, see NSU's support page: <https://support.nsuweb.org/arrkom/scholarship-and-grant-program/>. The application period for scholarships and (travel) grants opens on the same date as the calls: **15th of March**. Deadline is **1st of May**.

Presentation of the Arrangement committee, aka Arrkom

To ensure that the Summer Session runs smoothly, there will be an Arrangement committee at the site who will take care of NSU's participants. This year's Arrkom consists of five people: Hild Borchgrevik (The Chair/Treasurer), Oda Davanger (Communication Manager), Kai Green (Culture Program/Anniversary Festival), Dainis Silins (Logistics Expert), and Oddbjørn Ørbech Jensen (Activities and Children's Circle Coordinator). They are just as excited about the Summer Session as they appear in the cover picture of this Newsletter. They can be contacted at nsuarrangement@gmail.com. You will also be able to find practical information about the event on the Arrkom blog page (which is not fully updated yet, but will be loaded with information within the next few weeks). The address to the blog page is the following: <https://nsuarrangement.wixsite.com/nsu2020>.

Nota bene: Please be aware the NSU is solely founded on voluntary work. None of our members and co-workers, including the Arrkom, is paid to maintain the organisation. We are therefore asking participants to have indulgence if things do not always work as efficiently as one could have wished for.

Call for Mentor and Youth Leaders for the Children's Circle

Since many participants bring their families to the Summer Session, NSU arranges an additional tenth circle every summer, namely the Children's Circle. We are now looking for one Mentor and four to five youth leaders to lead this important circle for the whole week. The idea is to activate the children while the parents are partaking in the other circles. If the weather allows, these activities and games can be held outdoors. The Mentor and Youth Leaders will get their travel costs, accommodation and meals at the Summer Session covered. They are also offered a honorarium as compensation for their work. Anyone interested is welcome to send their application to Arrkom. For more information on the conditions and application process, visit: <https://support.nsuweb.org/children-leader/>. The deadline to send in applications is the **15th of April**.



News from the Board

In the last two months, the old Board of 2019 has been working with the Annual Report for 2019, which is now finalized and submitted to our main funder, the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM). We will get feedback on the report in March, when there hopefully will be a meeting with the NCM. The report can be found on our official homepage: <https://nordic.university/5-2/annual-report-2019/>.

For 2020 the NSU Board consists of Inta Balode (Latvia), who is our eminent Chair; Gustav Eek (Sweden) who is Vice chair; Nicole des Bouvrie (international) who is Treasurer; Laura Hellsten (Finland) and Erik Poulsen (Sweden).

In close collaboration with all the coordinators who helped out getting all the necessary paperwork, it was possible to send out an external funding application to the Nordics in February. Facing the challenge of less financial support from the main funders, the Board has been looking into new sources to keep the activities of NSU going. This specific application now sent out will hopefully cover the 2021 Winter Symposia. In case there is anyone interested in helping out with this ongoing task of securing external funding, you're very welcome to contact the Treasurer (nicole.nobyeni@nsuweb.org).

At the end of February, Inta Balode and Erik Poulsen went to Oslo together with all five members of the Arrangement committee (see presentation above) to prepare for the upcoming Summer Session. The meetings lasted for three days in the premises of Rønningen Folkehøgskole, which is a boarding school usually attended by young adults. During school breaks and summer breaks, however, the school is used as a hostel which makes it well suited to host conferences of NSU's caliber, since the buildings include plenty of classrooms already.

The meetings included a short guided tour around the site, planning for the Anniversary festival on the 30th of July, outlining budgets and room prices, and meetings with the hostel manager and the kitchen chef. They both look forward to having NSU as a guest!

The Board and the Arrkom can assure that the premises for this year's Summer Session look very promising. There will be lots of space to arrange additional workshops and other activities apart from the study program.

Right now, the Board is following the ongoing Winter symposia with great interests. We wish all participants an inspiring spring, and hope to see you in the summer!

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.

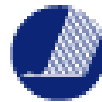


[Nordic Summer University on Facebook](#)



[Nordic Summer University Homepage](#)

The Nordic Summer University is mainly financed through funding from the Nordic Council of Ministers / Nordic Council.



norden

Nordiska ministerrådet

Nordiska rådet

You get this newsletter because you are a customer of ours or because you have signed up to our newsletter. If you want to unsubscribe, [click here](#).

Presentations

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).



[Nordic Summer University on Facebook](#)



[Nordic Summer University Homepage](#)

