

Call For Abstracts

Bio-communism - Reconceptualizing Communism in the Age of Biopolitics

What could Bio-communism be? Perhaps it is a form of communism where the workers freed from the tyranny of capitalism has reconnected with their species-being (Gattungswesen)? Or rather a form of communism which aims to emancipate not only human but also non-human workers from their bonds? Maybe it is neither, and instead, it is a form of communism which stresses the need for creating new relationships with the environment by abolishing private property?

Nordic Summer University and GSSR
25-26th January 2020, Warsaw, Poland.
Contact: Biocommunism@gmail.com

Deadline for abstracts: 1st December, 2019.

The organizers would like to invite interested academics, students and independent thinkers from various fields to submit their abstracts and to take part in our symposium on the topic of Bio-communism. The symposium will take place as a closed workshop with paper presentations by each participant, and as such we do not expect the workshop to be open to the general public. This format is chosen as we hope it will facilitate closer cooperation and the creation of lasting connections between the participants. We do however hope to make the keynote addresses open to the public (keynote speakers will be announced in early January).

The workshop is funded by both the Nordic Summer University and the Graduate School for Social Research (IFIS PAN). The latter have also been kind enough to lend us the venue.

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By arranging this workshop we hope to facilitate an earnest discussion on what the communist promise of emancipation might mean in our post-(post?)-modern world. A world which has increasingly become, at least in works of some theorists, open to the possibility of recognizing both biological, mechanical and ecological entities as acting both within and upon it. Hence, under the umbrella term of Bio-communism, we invite each participant to voice their vision, critique or comment on the communist promise and how it could be reconceptualised in a Bio-political age. Such a discussion seems needed because of those present

conditions in which biological, ecological, and economic catastrophes seem to multiply at an ever-increasing pace, and because the status quo upheld by late capitalism has proven itself ill-suited to respond to these calamities. We, therefore, invite interested researchers, students, and independent thinkers to answer our call for abstract and attempt to reconceptualizing the communism promise of emancipation.

As an inspiration for topics we suggest the following list:

- alienation: biological and ecological perspectives
- species-being: is non-speciesist communism possible?
- species-being: is racism an integrated problem of Marxism?
- species-being: a perspective of contemporary Marxism
- the future of labour: in times of environmental catastrophe reconceptualizing communism under new prefixes (eco-, bio-, zoe-communism)
- utopian and dystopian visions of communism: possibilities of the emancipation/enslavement of the human species
- biopolitics: governing population of whom (humans? non-humans? or life itself?) biopower and its relation to alienation
- feminism: mutual influences of eco-feminism, new materialism and Marxist theory

Purpose of the symposium

The general goal of this symposium is to create both an experimental and a theoretical space which can facilitate cross-fertilization of methodologies, research interests and points of view.

Presentation format

Each presentation is allocated 20 minutes with an additional 10 minutes for comments. Each presentation is part of a one and a half hour long panel with two other presentations.

Submission

→ To submit a proposal please send an abstract via email to the coordinators at Biocommunism@gmail.com

Please submit a written abstract (maximum 400 words) with a title and descriptive subtitle. This text should include an descriptive abstract of your paper/presentation and a list of any facilities you might need (technical equipment, powerpoint).

As of now, we do not accept participants who are not also presenters. This might change in the future but for now, we are seeking to fill the first round of applications with presenters.

→ **The deadline for submitting abstracts is the 1st of December, 2019.** The final program will be announced by email in early January 2020 and on www.nordic.university.

In case of receiving more submission than we can accommodate we reserve the right to accept those most fitting with the theme of the symposium.

Registration and fee

Upon acceptance each presenter will be asked to pay a membership fee of 25€ to the NSU in addition to the 10€ registration fee for attending the workshop. The membership fee goes towards the future existence of the NSU, i.e. it helps them fund workshops, conferences and summer schools. Additional details will be provided in the acceptance letter. In individual cases where a participant is not able to pay the full fee organizers may decide to reduce the amount to 10€.

At the workshop, there will be coffee, tea and snacks, two lunches and one dinner (vegetarian/vegan food only). Please specify any dietary needs in your application.

Participants should apply to their institutions, art councils, local foundations or sponsors to have their travel costs covered as we are currently not able to provide any such funding.

The Nordic Summer University

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.



The Nordic Summer University is committed to the principle of sustainability. At our symposia we offer vegetarian/vegan food only and aim towards zero waste. We thus invite members to bring their own reusable coffee cup and water bottle to the symposia and to consider carefully the carbon footprint of their travel choices.

For more information see www.nordic.university

The Nordic Summer University is funded by Nordic Council of Ministers.



**Nordic Council
of Ministers**

The Graduate School for Social Research

The Graduate School for Social Research (GSSR) of the Institute of Philosophy and Sociology of the Polish Academy of Sciences educates students in English at the postgraduate level. The institute has just celebrated its 25 year anniversary in 2019 and continues to teach and conduct research of a high standard. For more information please visit: <http://www.gssr.edu.pl/>

