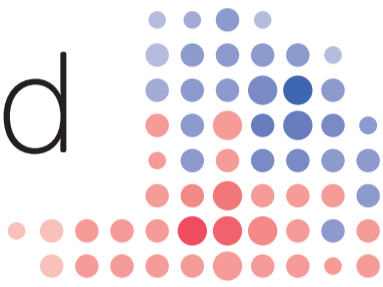




Photo: Ainur Elmgen

Second Nordic Challenges Conference



Dates: 7–9th March 2018

Place: University of Helsinki, Main building

CALL FOR PAPERS Welcome to the **Second Nordic Challenges Conference** arranged by the Centre for Nordic Studies (CENS) at the University of Helsinki in collaboration with UiO:Nordic. It is an international cross-disciplinary conference, gathering scholars from the humanities, social sciences and beyond under a wider umbrella of Norden-related study and research. The language of the conference is English. The conference is the follow up to *Global Challenges – Nordic Experiences* arranged by UiO:Norden at the University of Oslo in March 2017.

The conference is a response to an articulated need for new research on the Nordic region and its global relations, and to promote debate on current challenges facing the Nordic societies. The conference theme is **narratives of uniformity and diversity**. We invite all individual scholars as well as research groups from any discipline working with themes connected to the Nordic societies and cultures.

The Nordic countries have a recognized place on the global scene. Continuously at the top in rankings in quality of life and a whole range of other surveys and a steady reputation as stable and prosperous societies form a main content in the perception of the Nordic. There is a global demand for knowledge about the Nordic societies. Whether it concerns the economics of the tripartite model, the politics of gender equality, penal and other kinds of humanitarianism, Nordic cooperation, or the cultural innovations of New Nordic cuisine, Nordic design and Nordic Noir, researchers

and policymakers from across the globe see the Nordic region as a dynamic research object with ideas worth probing.

We especially invite papers dealing with tensions between uniformity and diversity. The Nordic societies are often said to be marked by a high degree of social, political and cultural uniformity and coherence. The resilience of the Nordic societies is regularly explained by reference to the consensual political landscape, the strong universal welfare state, or the uniformity culture established through the Reformation. Does this still apply? How have the traditional narratives of uniformity been challenged and transformed by the recent emphasis on diversity and plurality?

The proposed papers and sessions should be addressed to one of the following preliminary streams:

1. Cultural diversity and Nordic societies
2. Nordic cooperation and the transforming geopolitical context

3. The Nordic way of doing politics and reforms
4. Welfare state, labour markets and gender equality
5. Imagining Norden - Branding and Nordic reputation
6. Nordic culture, public sphere and media

The proposals can be single papers, single sessions (3–4 papers), double sessions (6–8 papers), or a panel discussion/round-table. The duration of a single session is 1,5 h. Projects can also propose longer open work streams for a full day on Thursday 8 March (send specific mail about this to peter.stadius@helsinki.fi)

The deadline for the call is 30 September. Registration for the papers and sessions accepted will open on 20 October. Abstracts can be submitted here: <https://confedent.eventsair.com/cens-2018---second-nordic-challenges-conference/abstracts>

For more information: peter.stadius@helsinki.fi



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More information and instructions, visit:
<https://www.helsinki.fi/en/news/cfp-second-nordic-challenges-conference>