

**Exploratory workshop organised by NordHOME:**

***Racism and Anti-racism in the Nordic Societies***

**Call for papers**

**June 1-2, 2017, Södertörn University, Stockholm, Sweden**

The research network *Multiculturalism, Cultural Homogeneity and Societal Security in the Nordic Region* (NordHOME) provides a critical approach to the narratives of social cohesion and cultural homogeneity that are usually taken for granted in the understanding of Nordic societal security and reflected in attitudes towards immigration and national minorities. The perception of the Nordic countries as exceptionally homogeneous in relation to culture and population is widespread in academic, administrative and public discussions. Such normative understandings neglect the histories of transnational migration and national minorities, as well as the colonial appropriation of land and assimilation policies in the Sami areas. Furthermore, such narratives have exclusionary and racialising effects on the lives of current migrants and minorities in the Nordic region.

This workshop will examine the patterns and changes of racist discourses, as well as the role of politics, policies and media coverage in producing and distributing such notions in current Nordic societies. Moreover, the workshop will explore the different responses and ways of organising that civil society actors have developed to counteract racism, including Islamophobia, and to develop ideas of a future beyond hierarchical divisions related to race, ethnicity, religion, class, gender and sexuality. How are notions of cultural/religious/racial homogeneity created and challenged in policies, media and civil society organising? What kinds of processes of securitisation and desecuritisation can be detected in Nordic societies? How are questions of security discussed in relation to racialised minorities, urban areas and gender? What kind of understandings and practices have antiracist and feminist groups, and other civil society actors developed in a time of increasing insecurity and hostility but also expanding influence through (social) media, political participation and collective action? How do diasporic communities and Muslim organisations contest securitisation practices and racism?

The workshop will take place at Södertörn University, Stockholm on June 1-2<sup>nd</sup> 2017. It is the last of a series of three exploratory workshops organised in 2016-2017 with the funding of NOS-HS (Joint Committee for Nordic Research Councils in the Humanities and Social Sciences).

**Confirmed speakers**

Prof. Halleh Ghorashi, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands

Dr. Karim Murji, The Open University, UK

Prof. Mattias Gardell, Uppsala University, Sweden

Dr. Suvi Keskinen, University of Turku, Finland

We are now inviting applications from scholars and PhD students affiliated with Nordic and Estonian universities, who wish to take part in the Stockholm workshop. **A short abstract (max. 200 words)** including name, e-mail address and institutional affiliation should be sent to the following address: nordhomeworkshops@gmail.com. Most participants should cover the travel and accommodation expenses by themselves. The organisers will be able to provide compensation on travel and accommodation costs to some of the accepted participants. In case you are interested in applying funding to attend the workshop, please send a travel plan with your application.

**Deadline for submitting abstracts: January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017**

Acceptance notification: by February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017

The accepted participants are expected to hold a presentation (20 minutes, followed by 10 minutes discussion) based on their own research. The workshop participation takes place only via invitation. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at: nordhomeworkshops@gmail.com.

More information about NordHOME –network at

<https://www.utu.fi/en/units/soc/units/sociology/research/mchssnr/Pages/home.aspx>