

29th Democracy & Diversity Summer Institute Reimagining Our Future - Wroclaw, Poland, July 2-18, 2020

Application Form

* Required

1. Email address *

Full Program Information

The Democracy & Diversity Institute, organized annually by the Transregional Center for Democratic Studies (TCDS), is admired as an intimate international forum for lively but rigorous debate on critical issues of democratic life, offering an interdisciplinary, comparative, and interactive approach to the social, political, and cultural challenges facing today's world.

Given the combination of a diverse student body from various parts of the world, a dedicated New School faculty, a challenging curriculum, and a setting conducive to debate on both the past and the future, the Institute offers an intellectually, professionally, and personally transformative experience.

Located between Berlin, Prague, and Warsaw, and saturated with the history and memory of these three distinct cultures, Wroclaw (formerly Breslau), is a beautiful and booming city that uniquely conveys both the challenges and the promise of a united Europe. Drawing on Wroclaw's culture of the borderland, TCDS's network of distinguished collaborators and alumni, and The New School's reputation stemming from our long-term engagement in the region, the Democracy & Diversity Institute offers a program of critical inquiry on some of the most pressing problems of our time.

The program will be complemented by study tours of Lower Silesia's political, cultural, and historical landmarks as well as evening gatherings featuring intellectuals and artists from the region. This year the Institute will conclude with a special two-day Democracy Seminar symposium attended by senior intellectuals from the region.

Our focus this year is on the need -- and the opportunities -- for Reimagining Our Future

ACCOMMODATION

Participants will be housed in the 'Brownstone Under the Angels' Residence located adjacent to the historical city center: <http://kamienicapodaniolami.pl/en/>

ELIGIBILITY

- i. Graduate applicants: Applicants should have completed their undergraduate studies by the time of the Institute and should be either enrolled in postgraduate degree programs or working as junior university teachers or researchers. Preference will be given to those applicants who can demonstrate active involvement in civil society and civic life.
- ii. Advanced undergraduate applicants: Applicants must be enrolled as juniors or seniors. Preference will be given to those applicants who, while academically inclined, can demonstrate an active interest in civic life.

PROGRAM COSTS

- Participants from The New School:
Tuition: Tuition for applicants from The New School is based on the tuition they pay at their respective home divisions. New School financial aid is applicable. Please contact the Office of Financial Aid for more information.

Program Fee: The program fee of \$1,500 covers participants' room and board (breakfast and lunch) for the duration of the Institute, as well as the cultural program, lectures, tours, opening and closing receptions, etc. Travel costs are not included. Successful applicants can apply for support in their respective divisions. New

School for Social Research (NSSR) students may apply directly to TCDS for support in covering the program fee. We encourage all applicants to look for outside funding sources.

- Participants from other institutions in the US and abroad:
Program Fee: The program fee of the 2020 Graduate Summer Institute for non-New School students is \$1,500, covering tuition (non-credit), room and board (breakfast and lunch), and the cultural program of lectures, tours, opening and closing receptions, etc. Travel costs are not included. We strongly encourage all applicants to look for funding sources from their home institutions and local organizations.

SCHOLARSHIPS

TCDS offers a limited number of partial scholarships to cover a portion of the program fee. All applicants are considered for these scholarships and no additional application forms are required in order to be considered for a partial scholarship.

In addition, TCDS offers a limited number of full scholarships to students from Eurasia (Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Armenia, Georgia, Turkmenistan, Belarus) & students from Turkey! Full scholarships include travel to and from Poland, room and partial board (breakfast and lunch every day, dinner is not included), and tuition.

HOW TO APPLY

i. All Applicants from The New School need to submit:

- o This completed application form
- o CV or resume
- o Application essay (300 - 500 words describing how the Institute would complement one's academic experience to date and enhance educational and professional goals for the future)
- o New School academic transcript (unofficial)

ii. All other Applicants need to submit:

- o This completed application form
- o CV or resume
- o Application essay in English (300 - 500 words describing how the Institute would complement one's academic experience to date and enhance educational and professional goals for the future)
- o One letter of recommendation sent from the e-mail address belonging to its author or as an upload to this application form if scanned
- o TOEFL or other evidence of substantial English language skills is required if coming from a non-English speaking country
- o Applicants affiliated with an NGO or a civic organization should also include a brief description of the nature of the work undertaken by their organization.

WHERE TO SUBMIT

- Applicants from The New School: Please submit application materials through this online application.
- Applicants from Eugene Lang College: Please submit application materials through this online application. Please be sure to send a copy of your application to LangStudyAbroad@newschool.edu
- Applicants from Poland: Please submit application materials through this online application.
- All other Applicants: Please submit application materials through this online application.

THE APPLICATION DEADLINE

Please email us your initial expression of interest (an email will suffice) by latest March 15th at tcds@newschool.edu.

For all New School applicants, complete applications are due March 30, 2020.

For all other applicants, complete applications are due April 6, 2020.

For more information, please visit our website: <http://blogs.newschool.edu/tcds> or contact us by e-mail at tcds@newschool.edu or by phone at 212 229-5100 ext. 3136.

Courses Offered

New School students register for 2 courses and receive 6 credits. Other participants will receive Institute certificates. All participants select 2 out of the following 4 graduate-level seminars:

I. Ann Snitow Memorial Seminar

We live in (yet another) age of backlash against feminism’s victories: reproductive rights have been rolled back, global alliances have been formed to attack sexual rights and reinstate religiosity, and gender studies programs are being starved of funding or dismantled altogether.

In what ways might feminism matter in the 21st century? With the rise of nationalist right-wing movements that has once again pitched feminists against state and nation, this course proceeds from two key interventions by feminist scholars -Ann Snitow and Silvia Federici -which figure hope and uncertainty as ethical and affective choices.

Drawing on Federici, who emphasizes co-operation and responsibility against the closures of nationalism, we will consider ‘islands of hope’ in unexpected places. From Snitow, we will take seriously the insight that feminism must embrace uncertainty if it is to have a future.

How might feminism escape its own internal tensions, and move beyond its complicities with the democratic impasse? Can feminism reinvent itself without the gender binary? How is the relationship between labour and care being reconstituted in the current phase of capitalism? What are the relationships between bodily forms and gender identities? How is the idea of home and nation being reconstituted by the right, and what might a feminist response look like? Can the idea of equality encompass sexual freedom? What kinds of projects, relevant to the present, can mobilize the people as the makers of the future?

II. THE POLITICS OF RESISTANCE AND THE ISSUES OF DEMOCRATIC CITIZENSHIP

Jeffrey C. Isaac – Professor of Political Science, Indiana University

A specter is haunting Europe and the United States: the ascendancy of right-wing populist political leaders, movements, and parties that are explicitly hostile to liberalism, claim to act in “defense of the nation” against enemies foreign and domestic, and sometimes claim to institute a new and more authentic form of “illiberal democracy.”

This seminar will center on three interrelated questions: (1) what are the responsibilities of democratic citizenship under such circumstances? (2) how should we understand, evaluate, and judge practices of dissent and civil resistance under such circumstances? (3) how should we understand the relationship between protest and dissent, on the one hand, and more “normal” forms of electoral politics on the other?

This seminar intends to generate ethical-political discussion about contemporary events and challenges that confront us as scholars, intellectuals, and citizens of the world.

Authors that we will discuss include John Rawls, Jurgen Habermas, Albert Camus, Martin Luther King., Jr., Hannah Arendt, and Judith Butler.

III. THE POWER OF SOCIAL IMAGINARIES: Making Sense of the Political Today

Elzbieta Matynia – Professor of Sociology and Liberal Studies, NSSR

What has happened to that revolutionary imaginary that emerged in 1989, the one that promised comprehensive systemic change without bloodshed, and became a site of tangible hope wherever unfreedom and political violence still reigned? Are today’s reversals of democracy a necessary outcome of the alienation caused by today’s representative mode of democracy that relies on experts, incumbents, and money? Would not an exploration of shifting social imaginaries -- those collective interpretive frameworks -- help us make sense of the political and the social today?

This forward-looking seminar is organized around three sets of discussions, which examine the factors that made it possible for hope to take root in the first place; those that have facilitated both the unprecedented setbacks to democracy and the growing appeal of its alternatives; and those factors that sustain the promise of a reclaiming of democracy. We will examine the emergence of an infrastructure of public hope and its association with the performativity of democratic politics; we will discuss factors that led to the gradual dismantling of a shared narrative, such as the instrumentalization of public memory, history, and imagination; and finally, we shall focus on the notion of the public square, and explore the possibilities for a renewal of the political.

The readings will include Cornelius Castoriadis, Charles Taylor, Hannah Arendt, Thomas Mann, Paul Ricoeur, Vaclav Havel, Chantal Mouffe, Judith Butler, Jacques Ranciere, Adam Michnik, Bernard Crick, Achille Mbembe, and Olga Tokarczuk.

IV. RETHINKING UTOPIA

Dmitri Nikulin– Professor of Philosophy, NSSR

In this course, we will discuss the possibility of rethinking utopia within the context of contemporary philosophy, politics and art. As such, utopia will be compared and contrasted to dystopia, which becomes prevalent in modern thinking and action. The readings will include classical writings on utopia by Bacon, More and Campanella, as well as those by contemporary thinkers, such as Agnes Heller and Rainer Forst. We will also trace the treatment of utopia and dystopia in literature (in Zamyatin, Ursula Le Guinn and N.K. Jemisin) and film.

2. Please indicate the two courses you would like to take: *

Check all that apply.

- FEMINISM BEYOND NATION
- THE POLITICS OF RESISTANCE AND THE ISSUES OF DEMOCRATIC CITIZENSHIP
- THE POWER OF SOCIAL IMAGINARIES – MAKING SENSE OF THE POLITICAL TODAY
- RETHINKING UTOPIA

How to Apply

i. All Applicants from The New School need to submit:

- o This completed application form
- o CV or resume
- o Application essay (300 - 500 words describing how the Institute would complement one’s academic experience to date and enhance educational and professional goals for the future)
- o New School academic transcript (unofficial)

ii. All other Applicants need to submit:

- o This completed application form
- o CV or resume
- o Application essay in English (300 - 500 words describing how the Institute would complement one’s academic experience to date and enhance educational and professional goals for the future)
- o One letter of recommendation sent from the e-mail address belonging to its author or as an upload to this application form if scanned
- o TOEFL or other evidence of substantial English language skills is required if coming from a non-English speaking country
- o Applicants affiliated with an NGO or a civic organization should also include a brief description of the nature of the work undertaken by their organization.

WHERE TO SUBMIT

- Applicants from The New School: Please submit application materials through this online application.
- Applicants from Eugene Lang College: Please submit application materials through this online application. Please be sure to send a copy of your application to LangStudyAbroad@newschool.edu
- Applicants from Poland: Please submit application materials through this online application.
- All other Applicants: Please submit application materials through this online application.

THE APPLICATION DEADLINE

Please email us your initial expression of interest (an email will suffice) by latest March 15th at tcds@newschool.edu.

For all New School applicants, complete applications are due March 30, 2020.
For all other applicants, complete applications are due April 6, 2020.

For more information, please visit our website: <http://blogs.newschool.edu/tcds> or contact us by e-mail at tcds@newschool.edu or by phone at 212 229-5100 ext. 3136.

1. PERSONAL DATA

3. **First Name:** *

4. **Last Name:** *

5. **Middle Name:**

6. **Current Address:** *

7. **Permanent Address (if different from above):**

8. **Telephone:** *

9. **Date of Birth:** *

Example: December 15, 2012

10. **Age:** *

11. **Country of Birth:** *

12. **Sex (as identified in passport/identification documents):** *

13. **Preferred pronouns:** *

14. **Are you a U.S. citizen? ***

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

15. **If no, country of citizenship:**

16. **If not U.S. citizen, are you a permanent resident in the United States?**

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

17. **New School ID number (New School students only):**

18. **Signature: ***

(no electronic signature is needed, just type in your full name to sign)

19. **Date: ***

Example: December 15, 2012

2. ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION

20. **NSSR Students – Please list department & degree:**

21. **Other New School Students – Please list New School division, department & degree:**

22. **Non-New School Students – Please list the name and country of your current university as well as your department and academic degree OR employment affiliation, position and area of employment:**

23. **Please list all universities attended: (Name of university, dates attended, degree received) ***

24. **List any employment or community activity relevant to your participation in this program: ***

25. **Have you ever lived or traveled abroad? If so, list where and when: ***

26. **Please list the two D&D courses you are planning to attend: ***

New School students please indicate whether you plan to register each seminar for credit or audit only. (Please note that preference will be given to students registering for full credits.)

3. REFERENCES New School students only

Please provide two names and email addresses, preferably of your NS Division's faculty, who can be contacted by TCDS via e-mail: (Non-NewSchool students are required to submit one letter of recommendation, see below)

27. **Reference letter 1 (name and email)**

28. **Reference letter 2 (name and email)**

4. ATTACHMENTS

Please attach the following supporting materials:

29. **CV or Resume ***

Files submitted:

30. **Application Essay ***

A short essay (300 - 500 words) describing how the Institute would complement your academic experience to date and enhance your educational and professional goals for the future.

Files submitted:

31. **Transcript - New School students ONLY**

An unofficial ALVIN copy is acceptable.

Files submitted:

In addition, non-New School students need to include:

32. **TOEFL or other evidence of substantial English language skills**

(i.e. statement by an English speaking faculty member, university instruction in English language or comparable)

Files submitted:

33. **One Letter of Recommendation**

Recommendation letters must be sent to tcds@newschool.edu by the application deadline from the e-mail address belonging to its author or uploaded below if scanned.

Files submitted:

A copy of your responses will be emailed to the address you provided

Powered by

 Google Forms