



#nordictalking

Call / Invitation to the Workshop

Nordic Talking III: Gleichheit – Gerechtigkeit – Glück

Thursday & Friday, 5th & 6th of May 2022
Schader-Forum, Goethestraße 2, 64285 Darmstadt

„The location of the North depends first and foremost on the geographical standpoint of the person looking north“, Bernd Brunner laconically states in „The Invention of the North“. It is thus dependent on our own expectations, ideas, and goals which knowledge the study of the Nordic countries produces. We have to admit, we have taken a liking to Nordic countries – both as the Schader Foundation and amongst the partners of this project. The Nordic countries have no rival when it comes to the creation of an idealized image of equality, a firm idea of justice, and a brilliant marketing of happiness. These three allegedly Nordic ideals are to be confronted with actual and empirical reality and examined more closely.

What about issues of (social) sustainability?

Social sustainability enters the limelight when it comes to equality and justice among urban residents and the challenge to counteract existing disadvantages of certain ethnic groups and individuals. These disadvantages can be due to migration experiences and/or various socio-economic reasons. Thus, the focus is on diversity and spatial planning both in metropolitan and in rural areas.

The large cities in Denmark, Finland, Norway, and Sweden have in common that they are all trying to develop former industrially used inner-city or city-near waterfront areas. Especially considering the growing influx of urban dwellers, these waterfront areas are useful development areas for modern living, although the new living space often ranges in the top-price segment.

Do people live more equally?

Housing estates such as Rosengård in Malmö form a contrast to these waterfront areas. Industrialized apartment blocks with high rates of unemployment and criminality as central features. Poor quality housing, built in isolation at the outskirts of the city and only becoming a place of arrival for those who cannot afford to live elsewhere. To sum it up: an unattractive melting pot for the left behind (Rosengård: 86% with migration background, 60% unemployed). On the bright side, the Nordic cities no longer try to hide these areas but valorize them with municipal investments. But how can these changes be reconciled with the commonly held ideals of the Nordic welfare states?

Do people in Scandinavian societies live happier lives?

What is there to observe, what can we learn from our neighbours in the North? While we might be great admirers of the Nordic countries, we are also pragmatic analysts of the reality of life – or of the Northern marketing strategies. The practical guiding question „How do we do things up here?“ should thus be complemented by its scientific counterpart „Why do we do things this way up here?“.

Furthermore, it is important to compare Nordic experience with the German lifeworld. Especially integration-specific approaches, not matter whether from city planning or from societal perspective, encourage comparison and debate about best and worst practices: What can the North teach us, where can it instruct us, and where/when do the amiable Nordic ideals fade from the spotlight?



Invitation to the workshop

We would like to discuss these topics as well as related ones in a workshop with experts from social sciences, with political observers and practitioners who have an either biographical or research interest in the Nordic countries. The goal of the workshop is both the discussion on the Nordic countries' ideals and the networking between the attendees, which ideally starts a process that can offer an ongoing connection of like-minded people.

The workshop is organized by the Schader Foundation in cooperation with researchers from the University of Heidelberg, the Hessian University of Police and Administration, and the University of Osnabrück.

According to the current status of our infection protection plan, we expect to be able to hold the workshop in presence, in compliance with the "2G+" rule. It will take place on Thursday and Friday, May 5th and 6th, 2022, at the Schader-Forum, Goethestrasse 2, in 64285 Darmstadt.

Call for Contributions!

If you would like to participate in the workshop and join the discussion, please send us your proposal for a short contribution or discussion impulse. You are invited to address the abovementioned phenomena or to think further. We would like to facilitate a variety of content-related and professional perspectives. Thus, the call is not intended to select but to encourage a wide range of contributions. If you are interested to participate but cannot attend in person, it will be possible to attend virtually as well. Discussions will be conducted in German and in English.

The programme for the event will be drawn up on the basis of the suggestions and abstracts submitted. A documentation of the event is planned.

Please send your proposal for possible contributions or impulses **until January 15th, 2022** to: call@schader-stiftung.de

Promoted within the project „Integrationspotenziale finden Stadt“, conducted by the Schader-Stiftung:



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Venue:

Schader-Stiftung

Goethestr. 2

64285 Darmstadt

Operator:

Schader-Stiftung