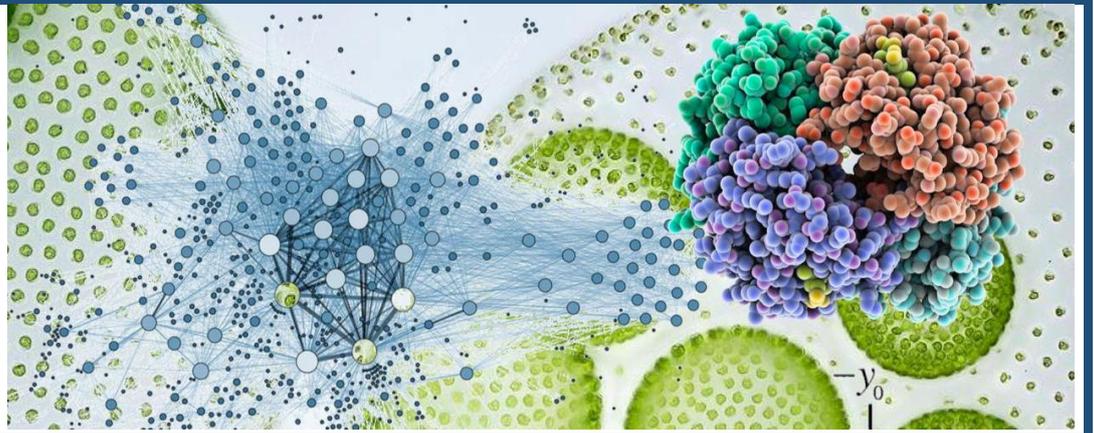


NEWSLETTER

Department of
Informatics



No. 05/2019
8th March 2019



Editor-in-chief: Pinar Heggernes. Editor: Linda Vagtskjold. Contributions or comments to the newsletter are very welcome.

Dear colleagues,

Happy Women's Day! ☺

About a month ago, we could read in [Tekna Magasinet](#) that ICT as a business branch is in an exceptional position: women in leadership earn more than men in leadership! It is particularly pleasing that this otherwise extremely rare phenomenon happens exactly in our own field. This is yet another reason for women to study informatics and become researchers and professionals in ICT. Although the percentage of women in scientific positions at our department has increased dramatically during the last 10 years, unfortunately we perform far from satisfactorily, especially when it comes to leadership. We still have only one female full professor in informatics. On the bright side, this number is likely to increase 100% in just a few weeks, 300% in a couple of years, and 500% in five years. That is at least what we aim for! At the same time, we need to recruit more women in associate professorships, and we need to recruit more female students. This is not for the benefit of the women, but simply for the benefit of our field. We cannot afford to miss out on the bright brains of half of the population!



They say that girls tend to choose studies that will give them good prospects of permanent jobs and stable working conditions. The current and forecasted future demand for IT experts is so high that I hope ICT is now being perceived as a safe and predictable business area for career planning. The field itself, on the other hand, is so exciting and unpredictable that it has the potential to attract and satisfy all bright and creative minds who want to make a difference. I guess you all know how attractive our students are for companies for the moment. But did you know that 75% of our master graduates choose Oslo region as the location of their first job?

Companies in Bergen are complaining that they are currently lacking 600 qualified IT experts. At the same time most of them would like to hire people with a few years' experience. I am afraid this is a very laidback position for the Bergen business life to take. The Oslo region seems to be much more proactive and future oriented. Companies in Oslo are very heavily hiring fresh graduates from all over the country. Many of our master graduates get their first jobs at consultancy agencies like Bekk and Computas in Oslo. These companies, despite the fact that they do not even have branches in Bergen, are very active in their communication and close collaboration with our student council. By recruiting fresh graduates they are investing in their future. Bergen, on the other hand, is witnessing a serious "brain drain" of bright and fresh IT expertise.

Academia and business life in Bergen need to collaborate to stop this, and we need to act now! In my opinion we can do this in three ways: by convincing more young people to study informatics, by Bergen companies being more active to recruit fresh graduates, and by Bergen companies and academic institutions together showing our current students what kind of interesting and exciting job opportunities and future relevant job tasks exist in Bergen. Without such an action plan, Bergen business life is doomed to lose the digitalization race.

I wish you all a very nice weekend!
- Pinar

The Dean's Blog – Helge K. Dahle

[The Dean's blog](#) aims to inform us of ongoing work and processes at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences.

His latest postings: [Hva får oppegående mennesker til å omfavne konspirasjonsteorier og forkaste seriøs vitenskap?](#) - [Vestlandet må utnytte disse mulighetene](#) - [Derfor betyr studiebarometeret mer enn vi tror](#)



Welcome new colleagues!

	<p>Stefanie Meyer</p> <p>Stefanie is our new research coordinator at the department, and one of her main tasks will be to support our researchers in the process of coordinating, writing, and compiling funding applications. She has experience from working both pre- (advisor) and post-award (scientific project manager of NFR and EU projects).</p> <p>Stefanie is from Germany, and she speaks and writes perfect Norwegian. She has a diploma in biotechnology (TU Braunschweig, Germany, 2006) and a doctoral degree in marine microbiology (University of Bremen / Max Planck Institute for Marine Microbiology, Germany, 2010). After a short Postdoc period, she discovered her passion for project management and research coordination. She was able to obtain a scientific manager position in a large collaborative climate project at the Geophysical Institute (UiB, 2013-2015) and thereafter continued as research advisor for external funding at the Faculty of Psychology (UiB, 2015-2019).</p>
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	<p>Eric Mörth</p> <p>Eric has just joined our department as a PhD student, and he is from Austria. He has a master's degree in Medical Informatics from the Medical University Vienna, and is currently wrapping up a second master in Biomedical Engineering at the TU Vienna.</p> <p>He will be working in the Visualization group on medical visualization under the supervision of Noeska Smit.</p>
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	<p>Lilah Toker</p> <p>Lilah has joined CBU in the Jonassen group in a joint position between CBU and the faculty of medicine in the Parkinson Omics (ParkOme) project, led by Charalompos Tzoulis.</p> <p>Previously, she was a postdoc at the University of British Columbia, working on understanding the impact of cell type specific component on bulk tissue omics data, specifically brain tissue from psychiatric patients.</p>
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Actualities [På Høyden](#) - [Krono](#) – [News from NFR](#) – [News from UiB](#) – [Informatics on Facebook](#)

Report from the visit by the Research Council of Norway on March 7

Olaug Råd and André Mlonyeni from the Research Council of Norway visited our department, and we had a very fruitful and constructive dialogue about the IKTPLUSS research programme. The message from the Research Council is very clear: our research fits very well within the scope of IKTPLUSS. We should submit more proposals to this programme, which aims to fund ground breaking fundamental research and competitive research environments.



Visual Computing Forum

<http://vis.UiB.no/vcf/>



Computational Data Analytics on the Web for Better Food Decision Making



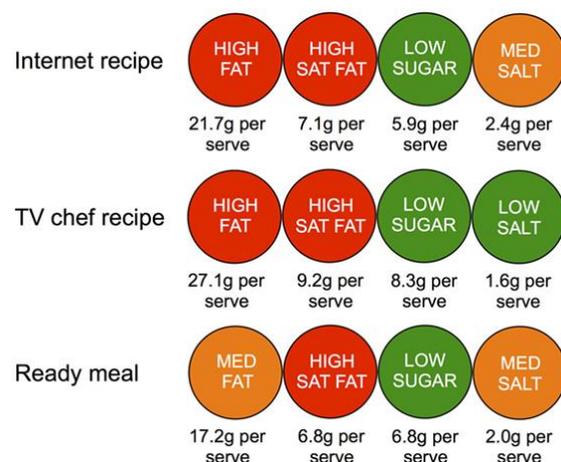
Friday, 15th of March, from 10:15
Høyteknologisenteret, rom 302O1
(Thormøhlens gate 55)

Christoph Trattner
Associate Professor
@ University of Bergen

Abstract:

According to the World Health Organization around 80% of cases of heart disease, strokes and type 2 diabetes could be avoided if people were to implement a healthier diet. Computational data analytics approaches have been touted as a valuable asset in achieving the ambitious goal of understanding user behavior and being able to develop intelligent online systems, which can positively influence people's food choices. In this talk, I will present our latest research on computational data analytics approaches to understand, predict and potentially change food decision making in an online context. First, I will show to what extent online food interactions can be linked to real-world health issues such as obesity on a large-scale. After that, I will show how people upload, bookmark or rate online recipes in large online food communities and how contextual factors and biases such as seasonality, temporality, social context or presentation of recipes have an impact

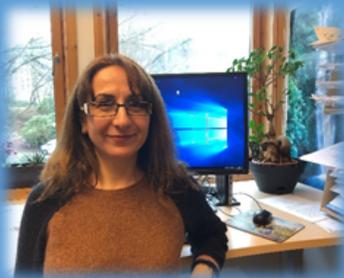
on popularity and how they are perceived. Furthermore, I will reveal to what extent these factors and biases can be exploited to model and predict the users' online food choices. To conclude, I will present some preliminary work aiming to nudge people towards food choices and recent work on learning to recommend similar items from human judgments in that domain employing crowdsourcing.



Department of Informatics



Optimal Cryptographic Functions



Trial lecture in connection with recruitment for Professor position in information security

Lilya Budaghyan

Monday 18.03.19 at 14:15
in room 510N3 5th floor.
Refreshments will be served.

Abstract:

Optimal cryptographic functions are discrete functions (usually Boolean functions) with optimal cryptographic properties. Such functions are universal, in a sense that they define optimal objects not only in cryptography but also in many other domains of mathematics and information theory. On the other hand, in most cases these functions are difficult to study or construct, and currently just a few classes of these functions are known. In this talk we discuss properties and classification problems of these optimal functions.

Department of Informatics



Scientific Computing in Oil & Gas Industry



T. Matthey received his PhD in Computer Science applied to Molecular Dynamics at the University of Bergen, Norway in 2002. During his PhD he worked on a joint program on Molecular Dynamics with the University of Notre Dame, IN, USA. From 2002 to 2005, he worked at Unifob / University of Bergen, Norway as Post Doc on Molecular Dynamics and Parallel Computing.

In 2005 he joined SPT Group, Bergen, Norway and worked on developing desktop drilling software (Drillbench, Advanced Blowout Control and OLGA) with emphasize on scientific computing and drilling simulator engines. He joined Schlumberger in 2013 when SPT Group got acquired by Schlumberger.

Abstract:

This talk shall give some insights on how scientific computing plays its role in the oil & gas industry and how we apply it. And some examples to illustrate how simulation software can help us to make oil & gas industry more safe.

Large Auditorium 2nd floor Datablokken
Thursday March 21th at 14:15 – 15:00
Refreshment will be served from 14:00

Department of Informatics



Annual Department of informatics gathering, April 29-30



Our annual department gathering will take place on April 29-30, 2019 at Solstrand.

The main discussion theme will be the department's research and education strategy for the next five years, but also profiling, branding and how to make ourselves more visible will be focused on.

A bus will pick us up from in the department building at 08:00 on Monday 29th of April, and it will bring us back in the afternoon Tuesday 30th of April.

The program is planned to start at 09:00 Monday morning at Solstrand, and last until around 14:00 Tuesday.

All faculty members are expected to attend this gathering, and all other employees are most welcome. PhD-students are encouraged to share room two by two. Others who want to share a room are also most welcome to do so.

[Please register here by 10th of April](#)

Academic affairs and PhD Updates [bioCEED news](#)

Informatics – Optimization Supply Chain Online Competition, Norway 2019

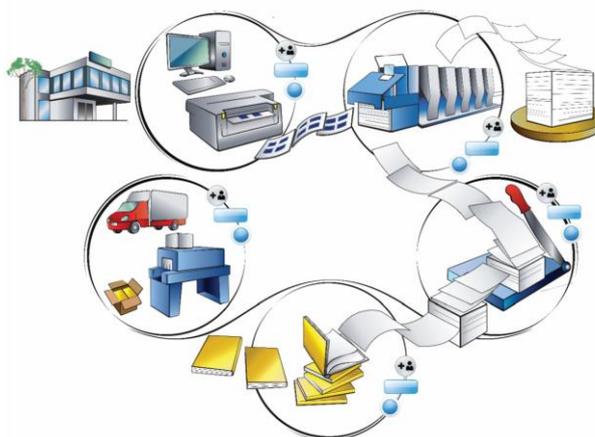
Our own Ahmad Hemmati is organizing a nation-wide Business Simulation Game for all students in Norway! The game starts at 14:00 on Wednesday afternoon, April 3, 2019.

Please encourage all your students at all levels to participate!

This is a competition that lets you test your ability in managing a Supply Chain (SC) in a competitive virtual environment that mimics many aspects of the reality. The winners are those with the best profit at the end of the game.

[Please find more information, game instructions and the registration link here.](#)

Deadline for registration: March 31, 2019 - 23:59.
The competition is free, but we have a limited capacity.
Prizes for first, second and third place = gift cards!



PhD students: Represent our department at the Young Researcher Grand Prix!

Forsker Grand Prix er Norgesmesterskapet i forskningsformidling for PhD studenter.

Som deltager får du en fantastisk mulighet til å lære mer om hvordan du når fram med budskapet ditt til et stort publikum. Dessuten får du formidlingspoeng for å delta.

Vi oppfordrer våre PhD-studenter til å melde seg på denne konkurransen, og vi lover god støtte dersom noen av dere tar sjansen.

Her finner du [mer informasjon og påmeldingslenke](#).

Fristen er 30. april.

FORSKER GRAND PRIX

Meld deg på årets Forsker Grand Prix!

Påmeldingsfristen er 30. april.



Andreplassen i Forsker Grand
Johanne Lundevall, fra Kjem
Ganesh Eknes

Department Boat Trip and Summer Party – save the date 22nd August!



On the 22nd of August, in the afternoon, we are planning a summer party combined boat trip for all our employees together with all our new students of the fall semester of 2019!

Two boats will come and pick us up from Marineholmen, close to the department building. Food and refreshments will be served. There will be games and entertainment.

We encourage everybody to reserve the date in their calendars and plan to join this event!

Funding opportunities

Peder Sather Grant Program



The Peder Sather Center for Advanced Study supports projects carried out by researchers at UC Berkeley in collaboration with researchers from nine Norwegian universities. The Center offers grants of between \$10K and \$25K. Funds are made available for one academic year.

Grants can support activities such as workshops, mini-conferences, virtual intellectual exchanges, the undertaking of exploratory and pilot studies, activities such as PhD student exchanges, longer-term stays for Principal Investigators, the collection and analysis of data, and other core research activities.

[More information and application form](#). Closing date: 1st April 2019.

ERC Advanced Grants course

Date: 13th March at 9:00 – 15:00. Venue: Hotell Ørnen.

The workshop is divided into two main sections. First we will lay the foundations of the ERC grant. Then, we focus on conveying to the participants information which cannot be found in the ERC official documentation. This training will clarify the basic knowledge and requirements of ERC alongside the more elusive and conceptual parts of this unique grant. [Learn more here](#).



Research Science and Seminars

Bergen AI & Machine Learning symposium, 25-26 March 2019



Our department, together with the Department of mathematics and Department of information and media sciences, is organizing a workshop to gather all AI and machine learning researchers in Bergen.

The meeting will be at Solstrand, and the organizing committee consists of Ketil Malde, Marija Slavkovic, and Hans J Skaug.

If you are interested to participate, please get in touch with the organizers. [More details can be found here](#).

Den store formidlingsprisen 2019

Fakultetet ønsker å stimulere til økt formidling, og oppretter fra i år av en egen pris på 50 000 kroner som deles ut i forbindelse med bachelorseremonien i Universitetsaulaen i juni.

Kandidaten skal vurderes på bakgrunn av følgende kriterier:

«Formidlingsprisen skal inspirere til å ta formidlingsoppdraget alvorlig. Prisvinneren skal strekke seg langt for å bidra til å opplyse samfunnet, skape debatt, synliggjøre forskning og utdanning ved Det matematisk-naturvitenskapelige fakultetet, stimulere til formidling eller på annen måte være en viktig bidragsyter til kunnskapsspredning og samfunnsdebatt.»

Alle som studerer, arbeider eller forsker under Det matematisk-naturvitenskapelige fakultetet oppfordres til å [sende inn nominasjoner her](#) innen **15. mai 2019**.

Vacant positions

PhD position in cryptography and data security

Closing date: 10.03.2019. Please find [the announcement here](#)

PhD position in machine learning

Closing date: 17.03.2019. Please find [the announcement here](#)

Postdoctoral Research Fellow position in Bioinformatics

Closing date: 22.03.2019. Please find [the announcement here](#)

Senior engineer

Closing date: 01.04.2019. Please find [the announcement here](#)

HR, Health, Safety and Welfare sikresiden.no – [UiB employees welfare benefits](#)

Reminder: Do you look like this on your personal UiB webpage?



Well, then please come to the next photo session on Wednesday 13th March, any time between 09:00 and 17:30

Our photographer Fredrik Bergesen will be waiting for you on the 3rd floor, room 305M1 (Biblioteket).

The department organizes these photo shoots to encourage our employees to update their personal and official UiB webpages with a nice picture of themselves. If you already have a picture on your webpage, you are still very welcome to come and have a new one taken if you'd like.



Fire extinguishing course

All employees at our university are required to attend a fire extinguishing course at least once. There are several courses in May, and one in June which is held in English. [Information about the courses and sign up here.](#)

Please notice that they are offering one course in English only once per semester. This semester the course in English will be held on 23rd May.



Reminder: Informatics yoga on Wednesdays

Yoga is a great way to reduce stress and tensions from work. Yoga classes are held at our department on Wednesdays at 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 pm at the Meeting room in 5th floor.

Our professional yoga instructor, Kjersti Næss, is teaching in English. No signing up, and no participation fee. Please bring your own yoga mat. We also have some mats for loan.



Reminder: Kakeklubben on Mondays



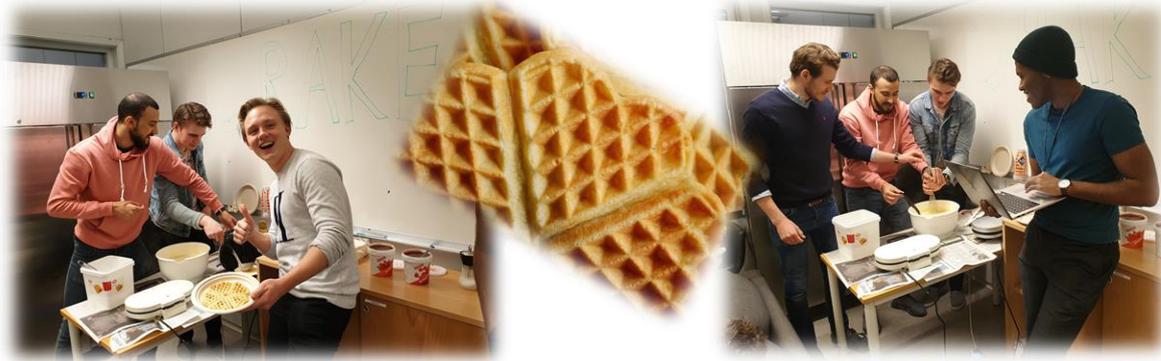
Kakeklubben aims to help our international colleagues to practice Norwegian while spending nice time together with people across group borders. Club meetings are held on Mondays at 12 o'clock in the lunchroom, 4th floor.

You bring your own lunch, and we share a cake or fresh baked waffles. All are welcome!

We hope to see you there, both internationals and Norwegians!

Reminder: Waffle-Oracle every Thursday – employees are very welcome!

Did you know that our students serve waffles every Thursday between 14.00 and 16.00? All faculty and other employees of the department and most welcome, too! Our students would like to see more employees at the waffle sessions!



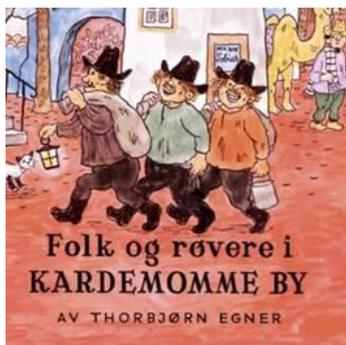
Survey on travel habits - Reisevaneundersøkelse

You have all received an email from Klimapartnere Vestland og Hordaland fylkeskommune feedback@questback.com. This is a survey about the travel habits of the employees of our university.

UiB is a member of the Climate partners network (Klimapartnere Vestland) and is participating in a travel survey that is being performed by the group. This is a follow-up of the survey that was done in 2017. We hope that you can participate in the survey which will help get a better overview of how people are traveling to and from work. This is an important tool to see what works in reducing climate impact, and whether the organization is meeting its targets.

The survey is financed by Hordaland County. It will take you about five minutes to complete the survey. **We encourage all of you to please respond by Tuesday March 19.**

Welfare offer from the UiB: Folk og røvere i Kardemomme by



Festen fortsetter i Kardemomme by frem til påske!

Ta med små og store barn på denne varme og fine versjonen av Folk og røvere i Kardemomme by!

Lørdag 6. april kl. 16.30 på Store Scene. UiB pris kun 100,-

Bestill [her](#) eller ring 55 60 70 80 innen 22.mars!

[Mer informasjon.](#)