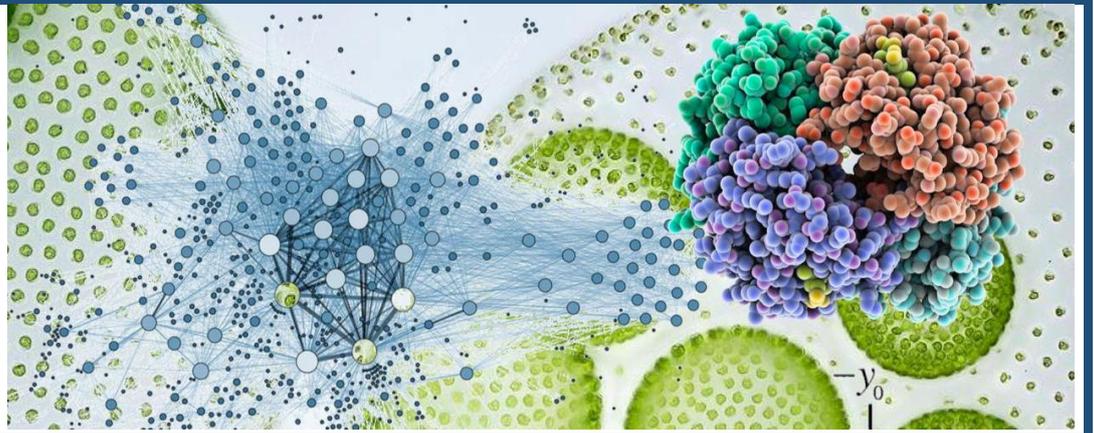


NEWSLETTER

Department of
Informatics



No. 09/2018
12th October 2018



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

Dear colleagues,

This week, the government announced the national budget for 2019. This time no new study slots were handed out, and universities in general are disappointed about the moderate increase in the budget for higher education and research. The budget increase for higher education is 0.8%, whereas the budget increase for research is 1.2%, which is the same as the overall increase of the whole national budget. It is interesting that the government is not putting more resources into education and research, when Norway now seriously needs to get prepared for the “post oil era”.



However, there are some good news in the budget that are particularly interesting and pleasant for our department and our research directions. The government promises an increase of 65 million NOK to support fundamental research in ICT, nanotechnology, biotechnology, and advanced production processes. It is the first time I am seeing “fundamental research in ICT” being listed at all, and this time even on the first place, in a [press release from the government](#). This is excellent news for our research groups, and I am really happy and grateful that our hard work involving meetings with the government and with the Research Council of Norway has paid off. In addition, the government promises 17,5 million NOK more to support research in information security, which is highly relevant for us, as well as 25 million NOK more for educational projects that will help students learn more and better.

According to the signals we got from the Research Council last time I met with them, the additional funds to fundamental ICT research will most probably be channeled via the FRIPRO program, either as an earmarked part of FRINATEK or as a special branch FRIICT. In any case, the call will allow project proposals written “from the bottom of our hearts” without having to tweak them into particular areas. I am thus strongly encouraging every group to submit proposals for the spring 2019 call of FRIPRO. This could be a once-in-a-long time opportunity! Mind the early deadline, though. It is already early April 2019. And to get sufficient help from our project economists to set up the budgets, you might want to start thinking about this already now. I am crossing my fingers and wishing all of us good luck! ☺

I wish you all a very nice weekend!

-Pinar

Next Faculty and permanent staff lunch will be on 17th October

Please remember our next Faculty and permanent staff lunch on Wednesday 17th October. We will be celebrating Jaakko's 50th birthday and Uwe's 60th birthday.

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: [Frå skrivebordsøvingar til verkeleg krise](#) - [Et godt omdømme bygges i det hverdagslige](#) - [Slik kan vi få til omstilling og forbedring](#)



Welcome new employees!



David Dolan

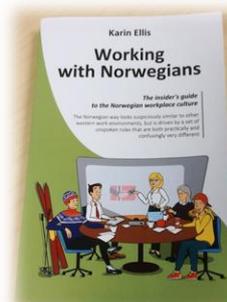
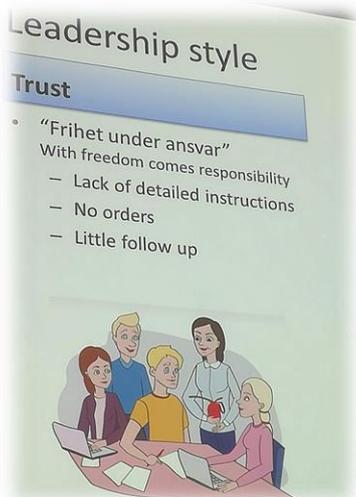
David started this week as CBU's new service scientist (researcher). He will be part of the help desk of ELIXIR Norway and within the Service group at the Computational Biology Unit. The position is directed towards analysis of high-throughput data from technologies such as NGS sequencing and proteomics as well as more general bioinformatics analysis projects.

David is from Britain. He did his PhD in Systems Biology Approach to DNA Damage Repair at the Newcastle University in 2012. His last position before he came to us was as Computation Biology Facility Manager/Bioinformatics Experimental Officer at the Durham University.

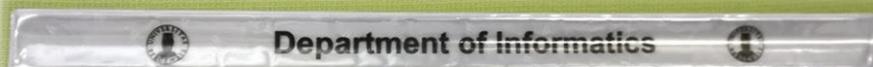
Actualities [På Høyden](#) - [Khrono](#) - [Gemini](#) - [bioCEED news](#)

Report from HSE-seminar 11 October: "Working in a multicultural environment"

Around 30 of us were gathered in large auditorium yesterday for this year's HSE seminar «Working in a multicultural environment» by Karin Ellis from Ellis Culture. [Please find her presentation here](#). The Department has bought 20 copies of her book «Working with Norwegians», and handed out two copies to each group to make them available for all group members in the lunch rooms in all floors/groups.



A small HSE related gift were also handed out, - reflex with department name on it. For those of you who did not attend the seminar, you can adress Ingrid in the Reception to get your reflex. Please use it to be more safe outdoor in this dark season!



Report from ICT Research School seminar 4th – 5th October

The ICT research school 2018 took place on 4th - 5th October at Fjordslottet hotell on Osterøy. More than 30 PhD students and faculty members participated in the event, and 11 talks were given on a variety of subjects. Six of these talks was a 'seminar on a self-elected topic' given by PhD students in order to complete a part of their training component. The topics were very diverse - some were more general, some rather technical, yet accessible to a regular Computer Science audience. The participants also had an opportunity to meet colleagues from different research groups and exchange ideas among each other and socialize, as well as have enlightening discussions with the faculty members.



Bot-Anna rides again: Digital verification of travel expenses claims and reimbursement of expenses

As a continuation of the pilot project for the digital verification of travel expenses claims, the virtual assistant «Bot-Anna» will now also perform a digital verification of reimbursement of expenses.

Starting from October 27, 2018, if Bot-Anna finds any errors, the travel expenses claim/reimbursement of expenses will be automatically returned to the employee together with information about what needs to be corrected. When the employee submits the corrected version, this will be sent directly to the financial section, who will verify that the indicated corrections have been made.

Guidelines for completing travel expenses claims and reimbursement of expenses

1. Enter each expense item on a separate line, and upload the receipt for this expense on the same line. You can no longer scan several receipts in one file. When you complete the travel expense form, it will be clear what type of expenses require a receipt.
2. The amount you enter must be identical with the amount on the receipt – including the exact decimals! This also applies to foreign currency.
3. Make sure that the dates you enter are within the journey's start and end dates. On pre-purchased tickets, type the travel date, not the date of purchase.
4. Please upload information stating where the costs should be charged (institute/department, project, analysis/activity), approved by the project manager or leader/BDM.

Activate the HR-portal on your mobile phone – this will enable you to take pictures of your receipts as you receive them and to upload them directly and continually into your travel expense claim / reimbursement of expenses. However, you should hold on to your original receipts until the expenses have been refunded. [More information about the mobile phone version of the HR-portal](#) (in Norwegian only).

Use Eurocard when travelling. When you have paid for a travel related expense with a Eurocard it is easy to transfer the expense from the card directly into the travel expense claim in the HR-portal. You are still required to upload the receipts for these expenses. NB. The card must only be used for travel related expenses in connection with work. You will find [more information about Eurocard here](#)

Bot-Anna uses the comments section to register the results of the controls. If you find that Bot-Anna has made a mistake, you can comment on this in the same comments section and forward this in the system. If you have any questions, or need help to activate the HR-portal on your mobile phone, please contact your VLA.

National Security Awareness Month at the University of Bergen

October is National Security Awareness Month. The University of Bergen (UiB) will have an extra special focus on security in October. UiB should be a safe and secure place to study and work, and we want all students and employees to be security aware.

This year we will focus our attention on the following topics:

- Information security
- Security when travelling
- Safe use of access cards
- Life-threatening violent situations

Various activities will be held throughout the course of the month. We encourage all students and employees to participate in these activities in order to increase their knowledge of safety and security. This is how we can create a safer place to study and work for everyone.

More information about the security month at UiB and the various activities can be found online at uib.no

Wishing you a safe and secure October!

Best regards,

Dag Rune Olsen and Kjell Bernstrøm

Launch of the Science and Innovation Network in Norway



Michael and Frances and others from UiB were invited to the British Embassy in Oslo for the launch of the Science and Innovation Network in Norway.

Research, Science, and Seminars

Large scale data processing improves patient treatments



Personalized medicine is a promising approach to provide better and more efficient patient treatment for a wide range of diseases and the Computational Biology Unit (CBU) is heavily involved in this research. [Learn more here.](#)

Welcome to popular science writing course for researchers on 16th January

The course focuses on writing suitable texts about research and showing you how these can be used and adapted to different genres and media. The course is free of charge, and will be held in English. The target group is scientists from PhD-students to Professors and science communicators.

The course participants will receive personal coaching on their own texts, both during the course and for the next two weeks. A draft should be submitted one week before the course and can be up to one page long. Submitting text is recommended, but not mandatory. Our goal is that every participant will end up with a published text.

[Sign up here](#) Deadline: 31st December

Questions? Please contact Asbjørn Leirvåg, ph. 41423341, asbjorn.leirvag@uib.no

Program

- 09:00 Introductions.
Practical exercise: This is what I do.
- 10:00 What can you write? Where can you write it? What is an Op-Ed?
Practical exercise: What am I trying to say?
- 11.00 Language: Difficult subjects in simple terms.
Practical exercise: My favorite word.
- 11.30 How to make your text interesting. News criteria, translated to academic tribespeak.
Practical exercise: This is why my text is worth reading.
- 12.30 Lunch.
- 13.30 Feedback on submitted texts.
- 14.30 Why you should be a part of the public debate.
Practical exercise: My favorite explanation.
- 15.00 How to attract your readers. Tips for headlines and openings.
Practical exercise: This is my new headline.
- 15.30 End

There will be coffee breaks between the agenda items. The goal is to get the texts from the course published as features or debate contributions, either with us at forskning.no or in other newspapers or media. If the text is written in English the goal will be to publish it in ScienceNordic.com

Academic affairs and PhD Updates

There's a new PhD in town – congratulations Tetiana Yarygina!!



PhD defence – Siddhartha Kumar



Siddhartha Kumar will defend his thesis *"Privacy, Security, and Repair in Distributed Storage Systems"* on 17th October at 10.15, VilVite auditorium. All are welcome!

- Opponent: Associate Professor, ph.d Salim El Rouayheb, Rutgers University, Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering, USA
- Opponent: Professor, ph.d Camilla Hollanti, Aalto University, Department of Mathe Systems Analysis, Finland
- Committee member: Senior Researcher, ph.d Håvard Raddum, SIMULA@UIB, Norge
- Custos: Professor Stefan Bruckner, University of Bergen

Please find [the press release here](#)

PhD defence – Sergej Stoppel



Sergej Stoppel will defend his thesis *"User-Centric Parameter Specification for Interactive Virtual and Physical Visual Representations"* on Friday 19 October at 10:15, Large Auditorium, Datablokken, HIB. All are welcome!

- Opponent: Associate Professor, PhD Pere-Pau Vázquez, Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya, Spain
- Opponent: Associate Professor, doc. Ing. PhD Daniel Sýkora, Czech Technical University in Prague, Czech Republic
- Committee member: Professor, Dr.rer.nat. Jan-Joachim Rückmann, Department of Informatics, UiB
- Custos/ Leader of the defence: to be decided

Please find [the press release here](#).

Plan to defend in 2018? – this is your deadline for submitting the PhD thesis

If the defense is to be held before Christmas (last possible day is 19 December), the thesis and suggested committee must be submitted by 24 October at the latest. Please contact Pål M. Gunnestad for more information.

Seminar about the use of mentors for students 18 October

UiB has decided that a mentor should be available for all students within 2019. Who can be a mentor? When do the students need a mentor? If you are interested in these questions and how we should solve the challenge in our department, sign up for the seminar which is held October 18th!

The seminar will be in Norwegian. For more information [see this page](#)

Welcome to bioSEMINAR: «The slacker's guide to teaching in the Active Learning Spaces»

From a different institution: When the University of Minnesota constructed a building with 19 active-learning classrooms, among the biggest [but short-lived] hurdles was the faculty. Associate Professor Sehoya Cortner, in the Department of Biology Teaching and Learning, was an early adopter, and began the experience with what was "the worst week of my teaching career." In this interactive presentation, she'll discuss her experience transitioning from traditional to active classrooms, the evidence she gathered that transformed her teaching, and some easy strategies for making effective use of these spaces. [Sehoya Cortner](#) is associate professor at bioCEED.

Date: Tuesday, October 23.

Time: 11:15-12:00

Place: Realfagsbygget, the active learning room, 1st floor

Note that this is not a guide to this specific room, but to active learning spaces in general.

[Link to registration](#)

“Shut up and write”

*Are you a PhD or Postdoc, and struggling with finding the time to sit down and write? Come and join us for **Shut up and write** at the science library!*

Shut up and Write is an informal gathering with the aim of giving you **a dedicated time and space to focus on writing**. It consists of:

- A distraction-free workspace: no phones, no emails, no interruptions.
- Structured working blocks: 45 minutes writing, 15-minute break
- Coffee, biscuits and chat with other writers during the break

The event will be run every **Wednesday, 14.00-16.00 (-18.00) at the Library for Mathematics and Natural Sciences** (ground floor, Realfagsbygget/the Science building, Allégaten 41). While the main event is 14.00-16.00, the workspaces will be reserved for SUaW until 18.00, and you are welcome to join at any break (the first 10 mins of every hour e.g. 14.00-14.10, 15.00-15.10, etc. – doors close and writing begins at 10 past!). Begins **26th September**.

There are Shut up and Write events in libraries, universities and cafes all over the world, with the aim of helping people to get writing. The idea is that writing along with others in a structured and relaxed environment with defined periods of active writing and breaks, gives you increased inspiration to write yourself. See <http://www.shutupwrite.com/>, and <https://thesiswhisperer.com/shut-up-and-write/> for more information.

MNT-konferansen 2019

Mye spennende og viktig arbeid med undervisning og læring foregår innenfor MNT-utdanning, og konferansen er en god anledning til å dokumentere og dele.

«Constructive Alignment» er overordnet tema for [årets konferanse](#)



Tidsfrister og innsending av bidrag

Melding av interesse. Inntil en sides sammendrag: 31.10.2018

Tilbakemelding om akseptert bidrag: 30.11.2018

Ferdig 3-5 siders konferansebidrag (Finished conference paper): 28.01.2019

Tilbakemelding til forfattere (Notification to authors): 01.03.2019

Presentasjon på MNT-konferansen: 28. – 29.03.2019

Funding

NCI Opportunities for Member University Researchers

UiB's membership in [Nordic Center India \(NCI\)](#) enables our fellows, postdocs and researchers to apply for financial support and practical help (visa application, contacts, apartment in New Delhi, etc.) from NCI to develop projects and cooperation with Indian partners. The NCI Study in India also provides study opportunities (vacation and summer programs) for our students at several reputable Indian NCI partner institutions.

OS-funding

Studieadministrativ avdeling lyser ut OS-midler (Organisational Support) for studieåret 18/19. Midlene skal brukes til tiltak som fremmer utveksling eller integrering av internasjonale studenter. Forslag til tiltak sendes Ida Rosenlund.

Idea Competition 2018

Win 500.000,- to the development of an innovative idea! Sparebanken Vest and BTO gives researchers in Bergen a unique opportunity to win 500.000,- in the Idea Competition 2018. This can be the kick-start your idea needs. Fill out a short form to submit an idea today! [Learn more](#)

Application process

1. Fill out the [short idea description form](#) according to the best of your knowledge.
2. Send the form to idea@bergento.no **Deadline:** 18th October 2018



Vacant positions

PhD positions (2) in information theory

Closing date: 15.10.2018. Please find [the announcement here](#).

Associate professor in optimization/operations research

Closing date: 07.11.2018 Please find [the announcement here](#)

Tenure Track Associate Professor in software

Closing date: 25.11.2018 Please find [the announcement here](#).

Department Christmas Party 23 November

This year's Christmas Party will be at Hotel Scandic Ørnen on 23 November. More information and registration will come in the next newsletter.



Election for new safety delegate – suggestions of candidates

There will soon be held election for a new safety delegate and deputy for the period 2019-2020. Please send your suggestions for candidates to Linda Vagtskjold as soon as possible, but at the latest 25th October 2018. Here you fill find some more detailed information on [the election and the Safety Delegate's role](#).

New security company at the UiB

Securitas is UiB's new security company effective from 1st October. UiB's guard and emergency number 55 58 80 81 consists. If you call 55 58 80 81 and are switched to the alarm station, it is the Stanley alarm station that answers. Stanley and Securitas collaborate on the assignment. Securitas delivers security guards. Stanley alarm station answers the phone.

Reminder: Fire extinguishing courses



All employees at our university are required to attend a fire extinguishing course at least once.

These are the next course dates offered this semester: 18th October and 25th October (in English).

[Learn more.](#)

Reminder: Yoga on Wednesdays!

Yoga is a great way to reduce stress and tensions from work.

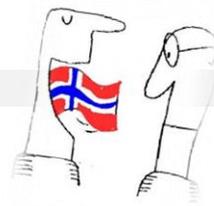
Yoga classes are held on Wednesdays at 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 pm at the Meeting room in 5th floor.



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

Reminder: Kakeklubben on Mondays

Kakeklubben møtes til lunsj hver mandag kl. 12.00 i spiserommet i 4. et. Alle tar med sin egen lunsj. Vi spiser kake, snakker norsk sammen og kanskje vi også bryner oss på noen quiz-spørsmål fra Bergens Tidende. Alle er velkomne!



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. We hope for volunteers among the club members to bring cakes, and we plan to make a department cake recipe book after some time. All are welcome!

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

Have you registered vacation days?

Autumn is upon us and soon it will be a new year. And whether you are planning on spending the rest of your 2018 vacation days under the sun or in the snow, there is one thing you have to do right away: Register your rest-vacation for 2018 in PAGA. It is a requirement that everyone registers their vacation, and it is the general rule that all vacation days has to be taken within the calendar year.

Not sure when you'll be going or taking days off? Register it now anyway (you can change it later), and avoid running the risk of someone else deciding when you're going to take days off. You will also be relieved from the stress of being followed up through emails and visits from the administration.

Further information on how to register vacation can be found here (in Norwegian): <http://pagaweb.b.uib.no/ansatte/5-ferie/> If you have any questions regarding vacation or the registration of vacation I PAGAWEB, please contact your local HR professional at your department, [Lene Engelsgjerd](#).

New application period for the cottages at Ustaoset and Tingviken – winter 2019

It is now opened to apply for U-heimen, Ottesheimen and Butten at Ustaoset and Tingviken at Utne for the winter period from 06 January until 31 March 2019.

Please use the [UoB electronic cabin system](#) by logging in with your registered username and password. Upon initial application you must enter some information. All applications must be registered in the electronic cabin system to be included in the draw.

The application deadline is 1st November. Drawing will be done 2nd November.



Putti Plutti Pott - Grieghallen



Fredag 30. november kl. 1900
Lørdag 1. desember kl. 1800
Søndag 2. desember kl. 1800

Pris per billett: 285,- (ord.kr. 365,-)

[Mer info](#)

Bestilling av billetter skjer via billettkontor ved Grieghallen eller tlf 55 21 61 50

Ved bestilling/betaling må en oppgi referanse for UiB pris: Ansattkortet

Mendelssohns fiolinkonsert



Fredag 19.oktober 2018 kl. 19.30 i Griegsalen

Robin Ticciati, dirigent
Alina Ibragimova, fiolin

Felix Mendelssohn Fiolinkonsert
Sergej Rachmaninov Symfoni nr. 2

Et romantisk mesterverk. Mendelssohns fiolinkonsert er en av mest spilte og folkekjære på repertoaret, og helt siden konserten ble komponert i 1844 har den vært spesielt populær blant unge solister. Kveldens solist, Alina Ibragimova, spilte denne konserten med Bergen Filharmoniske Orkester på BBC Proms i 2015. «Alina Ibragimova brought her gently luminous tone to bear on Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto in a performance that was as deeply personal as it was authoritative», skrev The Guardians anmelder den gangen. Rakhmaninovs rike og romantiske andresymfoni fikk en varm mottakelse da den ble urframført i 1908 under ledelse av komponisten selv. Følelsesladet og breddfull av vakre melodier står symfonien fram som et romantisk mesterverk.

Spesialtilbud til de ansatte ved UIB kr. 330 og kr. 290. Rabattkode: UIB-1

Velferdstilbud: Vildanden - fremdeles billetter igjen



12.sept - 17.nov

VILDANDEN

Klassisk familiedrama
i ny drakt. Fritt etter Ibsen,
konsept av Yana Ross.

Løgn, selvbedrag og illusjoner har lenge sikret fred og fordragelighet på hjemmefronten.

Men et uventet besøk truer med å ødelegge alt. Vil den vesle familien overleve?

UiB velferdstilbud:

Pris: UiB pris kun 250,-

Dato: Tirsdag 6.november.

Sted: Teaterkjelleren.

[Bestill UIB billetter innen 16.oktober](#)

Velferdstilbud: Bergen Kunsthall Plattform: Christopher Heuer 'The Vagrant Aesthetic' + boklansering: Andrea Büttner 'Beggars'

Lørdag 13. oktober, 14:00

Gratis inngang!

Arrangementet vil foregå på engelsk. [Les mer på facebook!](#)

Velkommen til et foredrag av lektor i kunsthistorie, Christopher Heuer (University of Rochester, USA), som utforsker gamle og nye ideer om det "fattige" bildet. Boken *The Liber Vagatorum* fra det 16. århundre, ble skrevet for å karakterisere, men også advare mot, vagabonden. Boken og dens illustrasjoner gjenspeiler forandringen av gamle ideer om veldedighet under Reformasjonen, hvor oppfatningen av ansvar og omsorg forandret seg betydelig.



Ved å ta for seg disse bildene, og andre eksempler på fattigdomsskildringer og deres kontekster, undersøker Heuer hvordan de urolige bildene gir gjenklang i dag, både innenfor kunstpraksisen så vel som i et samfunn preget av konstant presisjon. Innlegget er i tid tilpasset utgivelsen av Andrea Büttners publikasjon *Beggars*, som tar for seg kunstnerens forskning på representasjon av fattigdom, med nye tekstlige bidrag fra Anne Carson, Christopher P. Heuer og Linda Nochlin.

Christopher P. Heuer er lektor i kunsthistorie ved University of Rochester (USA), der han underviser i visuelle og kulturelle studier. Han har vært Samuel H. Kress Fellow ved Kunsthistorisch Institut for Rijksuniversiteit, Henkel-Stiftung Fellow ved Humboldt-Universität (Berlin, Tyskland), og han har hatt stillinger ved Departments of Art & Archaeology, Columbia University (2005-2007) og Princeton University (2007-2014). Frem til 2017 ledet han Clark Art Institute's Research and Academic Program (Williamstown, Massachusetts). Heuer er forfatteren av *The City Rehearsed: Object, Architecture and Print in the Worlds of Hans Vredeman de Vries* (New York og Oxford 2009) og medforfatter av *Vision and Communism* (New York, 2011). Hans nye bok, *Into the White*, vil komme ut på Zone Books / MIT Press tidlig i 2019. Heuer er grunnlegger av *Our Literal Speed*, et kunst- og mediekollektiv basert i Selma, Alabama, USA.