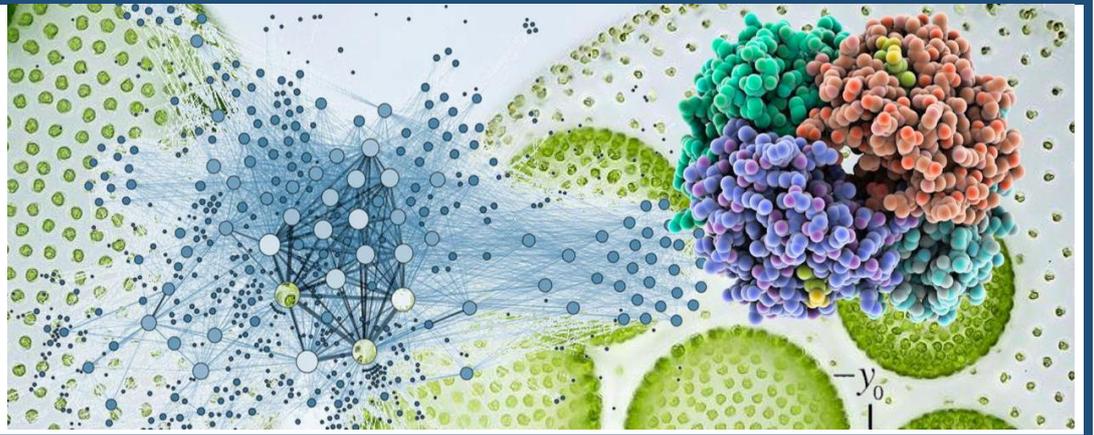


NEWSLETTER

Department of
Informatics



No. 1/2020
17th January 2020



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

Dear colleagues,

Happy new year!

The new year started with a brand-new [national strategy for artificial intelligence](#), released by the minister of digitalization earlier this week. It was a pleasure to browse through it and see that substantial emphasis is given to strengthening of fundamental computer science research and education. Excellent research in the most central areas of computer science gives a solid fundament for pushing forward the frontiers of research in AI. An example of this, among many, from our department comes from the fact that several of our algorithm researchers are nowadays publishing at the top AI conferences. Focus on fundamental research and education fits very well with the recommendations that we gave to the ministry for the strategy, both from the University of Bergen, and from [NORA](#) – Norwegian AI Research Consortium, which we are a part of.



AI has a 30-year long history at our department, dating back to 1990. Did you know that our research group in bioinformatics grew from a previous research group in AI? And what a success story it has been, with the subsequent foundation and growth of our [CBU](#) - Computational Biology Unit! Our machine learning course is already almost 20 years old; we have been teaching (variants of) it since the early 2000, and its predecessor was a course in AI which we taught throughout the 1990s. Nowadays, the research conducted by several of our research groups is tightly connected to AI. The new strategy shows how timely it was for our department to start a research group in fundamentals of machine learning in 2018. I want to thank my predecessor Petter for his foresight in this matter. Applied machine learning research is now becoming a part of many sciences, however only few universities and departments are focusing on theoretical aspects and development of new methods, tools, algorithms for machine learning. I am very proud that ours is one of those, and evidently it is not only our machine learning group who is conducting research in this direction. I believe it is this kind of research that will bring the field forward, deal with the undesired effects of existing methods and design new ones to fully exploit the potential of the field. Of course, the success of AI is heavily based on huge amounts of data that has become so easy to collect, store and process, and clearly AI cannot advance without excellent data science research. With the launching of our Center for Data Science - [CEDAS](#) about a year ago, I daresay that our department is now actually a real power house in AI research!

Although some universities and departments (with less research than ours in AI) have been very heavily waving the AI flag, we have not been highlighting our activities in AI that much. I think in the future it will be important to make our contributions to the field more visible and better known. In this respect, NORA will play a very central role. NORA has very quickly become a clear voice that the government, the research council and other authorities listen to and seek advice from, and thus NORA is our way to reach out both to our collaborators and to our funding agencies. My new year's resolution for 2020 is to make NORA more visible at our university and make our contributions in AI more visible to NORA partners and authorities.

I wish you all a very successful, prosperous, and happy 2020! May all your papers get accepted and all your proposals granted! ☺

-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: [Det viktigaste for fakultetet i 2020](#) - [Julenissen kom ekstra tidlig i år](#) - [Betyr det noe at vi skal bli et klimanøytralt universitet?](#) - [Å hegne om den akademiske fridomen](#)



Welcome new colleagues!



Olaf Sarnow

Olaf started last week as our new IT chief engineer. Together with Stanislav, he will be working with system administration of the department's Linux server infra structure and local IT-support for our department. He will also operate and develop national e-infrastructure services in collaboration with CBU Service Group.

Olaf is from Germany. He has more than 18 years of experience with operating of large high-availability environments in ecommerce companies. The technical focus of his IT experience is in Unix, databases (Oracle), HA operation and DevOps. His latest position before he joined us, was as a systems engineer for the itelligence AG Dresden, Germany.



Øystein Keilegavlen Bondevik

Øystein started last week in his one year position as student advisor – substitute for Ida Rosenlund during her maternity leave. He will be serving as administrator and student advisor for our bachelor programs

Øystein is Norwegian. He holds a Master's in psychology from the UiB in 2018. He came to us directly from a similar position as student advisor at the Faculty of Medicine, UiB.



Nidhi Purohit

Nidhi is a new PhD student in the Algorithms group. The position is funded by Saket's ERC project LOPRE "Lossy Preprocessing". Her supervisors will be Saket and Fedor.

Nidhi is from India. She holds a Master's in Computer Science from École Normale Supérieure de Lyon, France in 2019.

Current Issues [På Høyden](#) - [Khrono](#) – [News from NFR](#) – [News from UiB](#) – [Informatics on Facebook](#)

Invitation Day Zero 5th February

We are approaching the time for UiB's great conference on UN's Sustainable Development Goals on the 6th and 7th of February. Like last year we have a day of events in advance of the conference, on the 5th, called Day Zero.

You can attend a number of very interesting seminars and workshops, all with different approaches to sustainability. If you teach students, perhaps it could be relevant to bring them to one of the events. Day Zero is of course free and a truly unique offer. There are more than 30 events to choose from, and the themes range widely. Take a look at the list of events by following the link: <https://www.uib.no/en/sdgconference/128007/day-zero-wednesday-5-february-2020>

Hope you have a nice day, and that you learn a lot from the many events at our university on February the 5th.

With best regards
Rector Dag Rune Olsen

Please register your publications in the CRISStin database by 31st January!

[CRISStin](#) (Current research information system in Norway) is a research information system for hospitals, research institutes, and universities and university colleges. One of the primary purposes of the system is to collect all the registrations and reporting of research activities of institutions within the three sectors in a common system.

UiB requires a full-text version of all research articles to be uploaded in Cristin. [Information on the instruction and guidance on uploading publications in Cristin](#)

The budget of our department is partly dependent on the publications that our scientific staff are authors and coauthors of. We therefore ask everybody to kindly register all their publications that have appeared in 2019 in the [Cristin Database](#): after logging in, please choose “Research results” and then “Register result”. Some publications are automatically gathered from various journals, so please search for your publications via “Search in results” and register only the missing ones. Also, you need only to register the publications on which your affiliation is University of Bergen.

Please try to complete this by **January 31st at the latest**. This is very important, not only for the budget, but also for the visibility of our research production, as more and more official information is from now on based on what is registered in the national Cristin Database. The research groups will be rewarded according to their registered publication points.

Student affairs

bioCEED seminar 29 Jan 13:15: Helping students grow as disciplinary writers

Interested in learning more about supporting students developing their academic writing? bioCEED invites you to a seminar with Lene Nordrum (Lund University) on Wednesday 29th January 13:15-14:00, Aud 4, Realfagbygget

Helping students grow as disciplinary writers, by Lene Nordrum, Lund University

Disciplinary literacy – how to read, write, and talk in a specific discipline – is the key to knowledge and success in university education. Yet, many university teachers find it challenging to help their students develop such literacy. It may be easy for language and communication experts, but not necessarily a walk in the park for teachers with other disciplinary backgrounds. In this seminar, we will zoom in on how writing skills can be developed across the disciplines. The focus will be on how we can get students to write and how we can help them structure their texts. As such, the overall aim is to find keys to how we can help students grow as disciplinary writers, without being language teachers.

Lene Nordrum is a senior lecturer at English Studies at Lund University. She is also an educational developer who specializes in academic writing.



Centre of Excellence in Biology Education

PhD Updates

There's a new PhD in town – congratulations Andrea Tenti!



Andrea successfully defended his thesis “*Sufficiently overdetermined random polynomial systems behave like semiregular ones*” on Wednesday 18th December”.

[Here you can learn more about his project.](#)

Congratulations to Andrea, the Selmer group and supervisors Igor and Tor!



PhD defense – Kornel Labun



Kornel Labun will defend his thesis "*In silico design and analysis of targeted genome editing with CRISPR.*" on Monday 27 January 2020 at 10:15 in the small auditorium, Datablokken.

- Opponent: Professor, PhD Jan Gorodkin, University of Copenhagen, Denmark
- Opponent: Group leader, PhD Emma Haapaniemi, Centre for Molecular Medicine, University of Oslo
- Committee member: Professor, PhD Inge Jonassen, Department of Informatics
- Leader of the defense: Associate Professor Nello Blaser, Department of Informatics, UiB

All are welcome! Please find [the press release here](#)

VISUM 2020 :: Vision Understanding & Machine Intelligence Summer School



Do you want a **great opportunity to get on the cutting edge** of Computer Vision and Machine Learning fields? Check on **VISUM 2020**. The 8th edition of the Vision Understanding and Machine Intelligence (VISUM) Summer School will take place between **2 and 10, July 2020**, at Universidade Portucalense (UPT), in **Porto, Portugal**. [Learn more here](#).

Research, Science and Seminars ScienceNorway.no - forskning.no

NORA PhD symposium, February 25-26



NORA is organizing an informative, exciting, two day lunch to lunch PhD symposium about AI-related topics for PhD students; followed by an informal dinner. This event will also serve as network meeting for establishing NORA's Research School in artificial intelligence.

Time and place: NORA PhD symposium Feb. 25, 2020 11:30 AM–Feb. 26, 2020 12:30 PM, Tøyen hovedgård. [Registration deadline 10th February](#). [Learn more](#).



List of speakers:

- [Klas H. Pettersen](#), CEO of NORA
- [Michael Riegler](#), SimulaMet
- [Hans Ekkehard Plesser](#), NMBU
- [Robert Jenssen](#), UiT
- [Valeriya Naumova](#), SimulaMet
- [Simon Wolfgang Funke](#), Simula research laboratory AS
- [Arngeir Berge](#), NORCE
- [Stefano Nichele](#), OsloMet
- [Anders Malthe-Sørenssen](#), UiO
- [Vinay Jayarama Setty](#), UiS
- [Tonje Hessen Schei](#), director of movie: iHuman movie
- [Christian Walter Peter Omlin](#), UiA
- [Nello Blaser](#), UiB
- [Leon Moonen](#), Simula research laboratory
- [Ivan Dragicevic](#), NORA



Visual Computing Forum

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

Challenges in Translational and Clinical fMRI



Friday, 24th of January, from 10:15
 Allégaten 41 (Realfagbygget)
 Auditorium 2

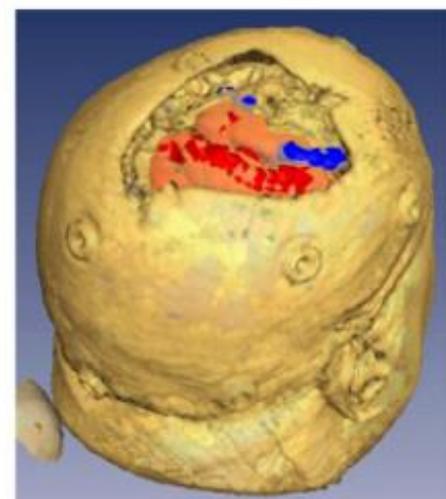
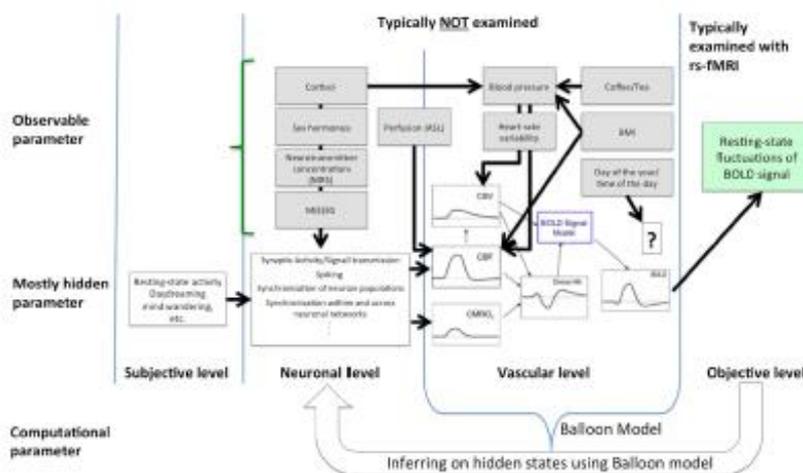
Karsten Specht
 Professor of Neuroscience
 @ University of Bergen

Abstract:

Although fMRI was introduced almost three decades ago, it is predominately used as a research tool but has very limited applicability as a clinical tool. By today, presurgical mapping is the only application of fMRI that is routinely used in the clinics.

In this presentation, the focus will be on the development of functional neuroimaging over the last decades and from low to high fields and its applicability in clinical fMRI studies. In the light of the "replication crisis," three aspects are of relevance:

First, the fMRI signal itself, second, current fMRI praxis, and, third, the next generation of analysis strategies. One major concern is that the fMRI signal shows substantial within- and between-subject variability, which affects the reliability of both task-related, but in particularly resting-state fMRI studies. Furthermore, the lack of standardized acquisition and analysis methods hinders the further development of clinical relevant approaches.



Funding opportunities [Research support services](#) - [Upcoming funding opportunities](#)

On a monthly basis, the department releases a comprehensive overview over [upcoming funding opportunities](#) on its website for [research support services](#). Note: The first detailed overview for the coming year will be available in early February 2020. **Please inform research coordinator [Stefanie Meyer](#) about all planned and ongoing funding applications!**

At this point, we would like to highlight the following upcoming calls and funding-related events:

Local funding

TMS Starting Grants, call 2020

"The [Trond Mohn Foundation Starting Grant programme](#) is open to departments and faculties at the University of Bergen (UiB) aiming to recruit young national or international candidates with outstanding academic merit and research potential. [...] TMS now calls for proposals for four-year grants beginning in 2021. Cross-disciplinary project proposals and proposals from all disciplines are welcome, if they correspond to the research strategies and recruitment needs at UiB. [...] UiB faculties may nominate candidates that meet the eligibility criteria as follows: (i) Candidates who hold a permanent position as an associate professor or professor at UiB are not eligible for nomination. (ii) A candidate cannot be nominated two consecutive years. (iii) Candidates who have reached the age of 40 by 16 March 2020 are normally not eligible. The age limit may be extended for a maximum of two (2) years [under certain] circumstances." **Application deadline for the prequalification: 16 March 2020.**

PhD positions in Climate and energy transition

Also this year you have the opportunity to apply for PhD-funding from UiB within the university's strategic area "Climate and energy transition". The university's deadline is 15 February, which is a Saturday. As we cannot just send the application to UiB via email but have to upload it in our archiving system ePhorte, we need to receive your proposals **LATEST BY 13 February!** Please send the proposals and CVs as one pdf to Stefanie.Meyer@uib.no.

National funding

Research Council of Norway: Student entrepreneurship

Students who have recently received their master degree can, in collaboration with a Norwegian university or university college, apply to the RCN to get funding for [realizing a "business idea"](#) or to carry out crucial activities that will mitigate technology- and concept-related risks by providing the answers to uncertainties that are preventing the project from moving forward in the commercialisation process". UiB has initiated an [innovation hub for students](#) where those who want to apply can get help. **RCN application deadline: 12 February 2020.**

Research Council of Norway: Annual eScience Event from 2020 to 2025

The RCN has announced funding for an annual eScience event. The event shall provide a meeting place for young researchers to "learn about new ideas, methods, and theories within eScience as well as build a professional network". **RCN application deadline: 12 February 2020.**

Research Council of Norway: Application deadline 2020 for researcher projects

Do not forget: Next year's main application deadline for researcher projects (including young research talents projects) will be **6 May 2020!**

International funding

COST

COST is the [European Cooperation in Science and Technology](#). The organization provides funds for researchers from all fields to set up international, interdisciplinary research networks (so-called COST Actions). COST Actions run on average for 4 years and require the participation of at least seven COST Members. **Application deadline: 29 April 2020.**

Events

ERC info event (at UiB)

UiB offers an [information event about ERC Advanced Grants](#) on 18 February 2020. "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." The course language will be English. **Registration deadline: 13 February 2020.**

Industrial Ph.D. scheme – Doctoral projects in industry

Do you have a master graduate who now works at a company and would make a great PhD student? Then perhaps, your former student, yourself and the company together could apply for this? Several of our research groups have used this opportunity with great success. [Please find more information here.](#)

Fridtjof Nansens belønning for yngre forskere 2020

Utlysning med frist for å nominere 10. februar 2020. Fridtjof Nansens belønning for yngre forskere er todelt; én i humaniora og samfunnsfag og én i realfag og medisin. Hver av belønningene er på 75 000 kroner og ett diplom. Belønningen tildeles norske forskere eller forskere fast bosatt i Norge, som ennå ikke har fylt 40 år.

Forslagsrett har medlemmer av Det Norske Videnskaps-Akademi og forøvrig professorer ved våre universiteter og vitenskapelige høyskoler. Forslag til prisvinnere med kort begrunnelse (inntil 2 sider A4) samt kortfattet CV og publikasjonsliste sendes til Line Therese Nævestad på e-post: l.t.navestad@dnva.no

Kurs 18. februar: Konkurransedyktige søknader til ERC Advanced Grants

I år er det siste frist for ERC Advanced Grant i Horizont Europa (26.8.2020) og ERC vil ha ca.15% mer midler tilgjengelig - det betyr at suksessraten kan komme over de vanlige 11-13%. Vi har satt opp et kurs for de som vil søke AdG enten i år eller til neste år. Kurset er 18.2. på Hotell Ørnen.

Dagen etter (19.2.) kan man lese innvilgede ERC søknader her ved UiB. NFR tar med en stor koffert og rådgivere kan nå også delta på [lesedagen](#). Våre trenere fra Enspire Science er ekstremt dyktige. Vi har fått mange gode tilbakemeldinger fra faglige ansatte som deltok i fjorårets kurs.

[Påmeldingslenke](#). [Lenke til kalenderoppføring](#).

Vacant positions

Senior engineer/ chief engineer (System Developer)

Closing date: 15th February 2020. Please find [the announcement here](#)

Postdoctoral Research Fellow position in informatics – optimization

Closing date: 1st February 2020. Please find [the announcement here](#)

Associate professor in Algorithms

Closing date: 31st January 2020. Please find [the announcement here](#)

Postdoctoral research fellow in informatics - programming theory

Closing date: 31st January 2020. Please find [the announcement here](#)

Postdoctoral research fellow in informatics - data science

Closing date: 27th January 2020. Please find [the announcement here](#)

Postdoctoral Research Fellow position in informatics: logic and graph theory

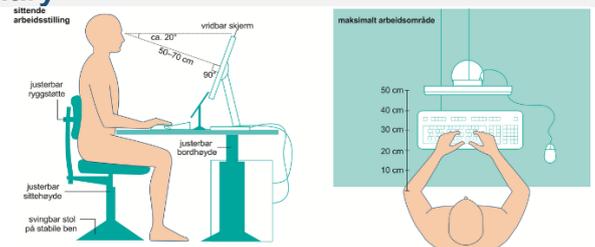
Closing date: 20th January 2020. Here you will find [the announcement](#)

HR, Health, Safety and Welfare sikresiden.no – [UiB employees welfare benefits](#) - [Credit card UiB](#) - [Fire extinguishing courses](#) – [Reporting of Deviations](#)

Ergonomic assessment of office workplace 4th February

UiB's physiotherapist will visit us on Tuesday 4th February at 09.00-12.00. Her mission is to help us with ergonomic assessment of our new employees' office workplaces.

If you are not among the new employees since September 2019, but still want us to visit you for an ergonomic assessment of your office workplace – please sign up by sending an email to [Linda Vagtskjold](#).



Rules for use of premises outside normal working hours

Specific rules have been adopted concerning the use of the University's premises for social gatherings, parties and informational/promotional activities. Because of considerations such as fire safety, security and cleaning schedules, the Department of Estate and Facilities Management (EIA) must be notified of any academic/social event or party that takes place or continues after 8pm. Please read the [Rules for use of unit's own premises outside normal hours](#) if you are planning an event. [Learn more and find link to the notification form here.](#)

How to register demand notice for building operations (Lydia)

Operations / Transport and supplies / Cleaning / Outdoor areas: is there anything that you think we (the UiB Department of Estate and Facilities Management (EIA)) should do or know about? [Here](#) you can register non-conformance, requirements or questions that can arise. [Learn more](#)

You have the opportunity to report the following through the Lydia-portal:

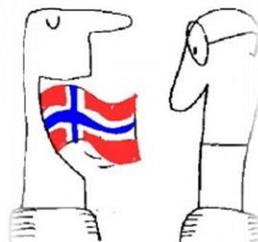
- Lighting, broken electrical outlets and other electrical issues (not IT which is reported to BRITA)
- Heating and ventilation
- Cleaning and waste
- Doors and windows
- Leaking taps and toilets
- External: graffiti, loose paving stones, holes in asphalt, park, stairs and ramps, etc.
- Transport and supplies (Employees only)

Welcome to the cake club (Kakeklubben) on Tuesdays!



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 Tuesdays at 12 o'clock in the lunchroom, 4th floor.

You bring your own lunch, and we serve cake and coffee. Everyone is welcome, no matter how much Norwegian you speak. We hope to see you there, both internationals and Norwegians!



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. All employees are welcome – also those of you who never tried yoga before.

And remember: When you are too busy to go to the yoga class – then is when you need it the most!

Department gathering at Voss 27-28 April - save the date!

The department gathering in 2020 will take place 27-28 April at Park Hotel Voss. Save the date!

Breakfast seminar 18th February: Det gode arbeidsmiljø



UNIVERSITETET I BERGEN

Det gode arbeidsmiljø

Arbeidsliv i endring – hva med arbeidsmiljøet?

Frokostseminar 18. februar

Sikkerhet – kompetanse – trygghet

Et godt arbeidsmiljø kjennetegnes av god ledelse, medvirkning fra ansatte og tydelige organisatoriske rammer. Kompetanse, god kommunikasjon, mestring og anerkjennelse gir både trygghet og trivsel.

Gjennom frokostseminarserien ønsker vernetjenesten ved UiB å sette fokus på betydningen av godt arbeidsmiljø. Her ønsker vi å belyse arbeidsliv og arbeidsmiljø under endring og omstilling. Hvordan tar vi vare på arbeidsmiljøet vårt og hverandre i en verdens om stadig er i endring? Hvordan løser vi fokus på effektivitet, kompetansebygging, fleksibilitet, bærekraft og nye digitale løsninger i arbeidslivet?

Målgruppen er alle ansatte og ledere. Samlingene vil bli holdt ulike steder på campus.

Det første frokostseminaret i 2020 som handler om sikkerhet, kompetanse og trygghet arrangeres tirsdag 18. februar kl. 0830-1000 i Stort auditorium, Lauritz Meltzers hus (SV-bygget). Dørene åpner kl. 0800 med enkel servering av kaffe/te og ett halvt rundstykke fra kl. 0815.

HUSK å ta med kopp til å få servert kaffe/te i.

Møteledere: June-Vibecke K. Indrevik, universitets hovedverneombud (UHVO) UiB og Michael P. Riisøen, vara UHVO UiB.

Program

0830 – Velkommen, universitetets hovedverneombud June-Vibecke K Indrevik

0835 – Sikkerhet – systemer og suksessfaktorer, ved seniorrådgiver ved eiendomsavdelingen Steffen Hauge Wolff

0850 – Bygging av sikkerhetskultur – hva kan du selv bidra med? Ved seksjonssjef ved HMS seksjonen, HR avdelingen Roar Nese

0910 – Du og jeg – en fare for sikkerheten? ved sjefsingeniør ved IT- avdelingen Sidsel Storebø

0925 – Brannikkerhet ved UiB, ved overingeniør, brann- og sikkerhetsingeniør ved eiendomsavdelingen Tore Reigstad

0940 Dialog og diskusjon, innspill til senere frokostseminar

Meld deg på her: <https://skiemaker.app.uib.no/view.php?id=7826961>

Velkommen!

New application period for the cottages at Ustaoset and Tingviken - spring 2020 incl. Easter

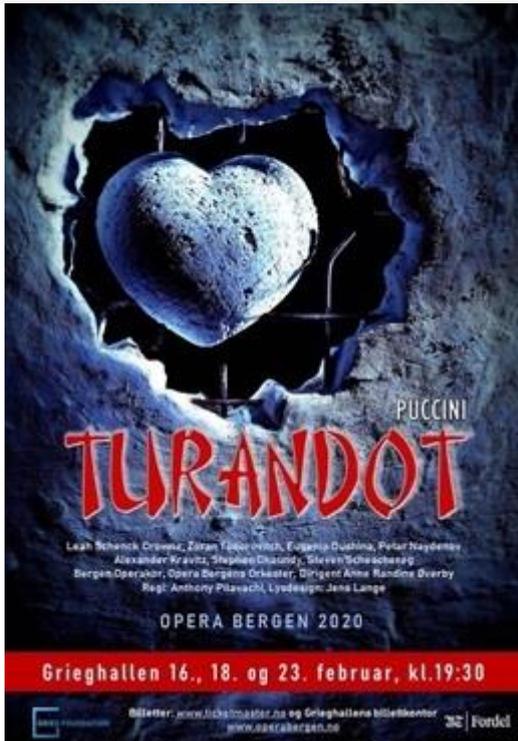


It is now opened to apply for U-heimen, Ottesheimen and Butten at Ustaoset and Tingviken at Utne for the spring period from 5th April until 21st June 2020.

Please use the [UoB electronic cabin system](#) by logging in with your registered username and password.

The application deadline is **14th February**. Drawing will be done 18th February.

Welfare offer: Opera Bergen tilbyr rabatterte billetter til TURANDOT i Grieghallen 16., 18. og 23. februar kl .1930



OPERA BERGEN presenterer en helt ny produksjon av Puccinis mest dramatiske opera - [Turandot](#) - i Grieghallen i februar. Kongemakt, byråkrati, undertrykkelse, mot og kjærlighet er sterke elementer i dette dramaet, som også byr på en av operalitteraturens store «svisker» – Nessun dorma.

OPERA BERGEN har gleden av å kunne tilby et begrenset antall gode rabatterte billetter til UiBs ansatte og studenter:
Billetter t.o.m. rad 27 kr 570,- (ord. pris 670,-)
Billetter f.o.m. rad 28: Kr. 370,- (ord. pris 470,-)
Studentbilletter f.o.m. rad 28: kr 250,-

Varighet: 2:30 inkl. pause

Hvis du ønsker å kjøpe billetter, sender du en e-post til post@operabergen.no der du oppgir

- Navn og din adresse
- Ønsket billetttype
- Antall billetter
- Om du vil ha billettene tilsendt i posten eller hente dem ved inngang før forestilling.