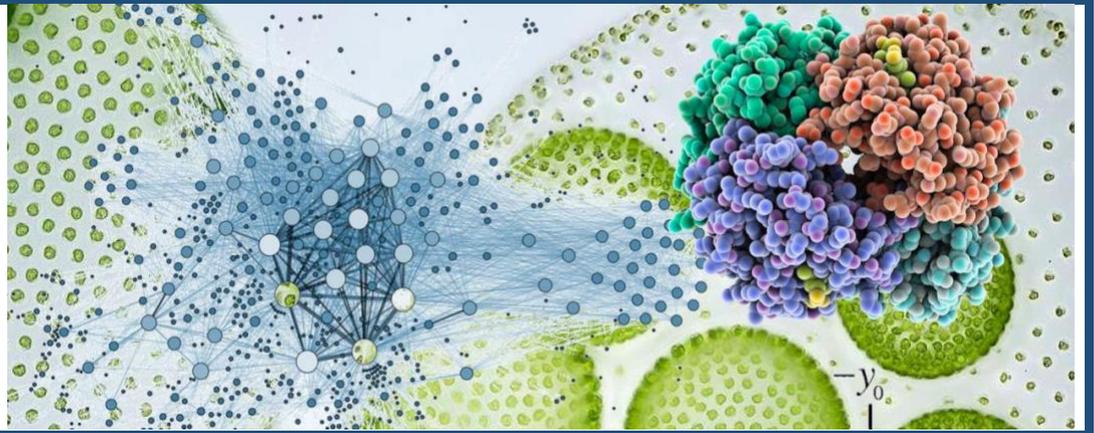


NEWSLETTER

Department of
Informatics



No. 10/2020
22nd May 2020



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

Dear colleagues,

Several of you are right now busy with finishing your proposals for the Research Council of Norway's FRIPRO call. This year we are submitting 12 proposals coordinated by colleagues from our department and two partner proposals, in total applying for more than 110 million NOK. In addition, we have several proposals that are currently being assessed for the IKTPLUSS call, as well as proposals submitted to Trond Mohn Foundation and Norwegian Cancer Society, just to mention a few. I know how hard, and at times frustrating, work it is to write project proposals, and I thank all proposed project managers and partners very very much for your wonderful efforts. Project funding is crucial not only for the project manager and participants, but also for the department, faculty and the whole university. In fact, our regular activities depend on quite a fair share of externally funded projects, and by applying you are not only aiming for personal success but indeed success and prosperity for all of us. I wish us all good luck! ☺



One opportunity where I truly believe that several of our professors have a very high chance of success is the ERC advanced grant. Its current call has deadline August 26, but unfortunately, I do not know of concrete plans of applications from our department. These grants are extremely appreciated by the Norwegian government, and one gets additional funding from Norway on top of the ERC grant if successful. There are also very strong incentives from our university leadership, for example an immediate substantial increase of salary for grantees. At the department we are also facilitating for writing ERC grant proposals by releasing the applicant from teaching duties for a semester while working on their proposal. With all these incentives and all the excellence that is present at our department, I am hoping that more of our colleagues will consider applying in the future calls.

Speaking about excellence, I would like to draw your attention to the list of accepted papers for the IJCAI-PRICAI 2020 - The 29th International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence and the 17th Pacific Rim International Conference on Artificial Intelligence. This is the premier conference bringing together the international AI community to communicate the advances and achievements of artificial intelligence research, and this year the acceptance rate of submitted papers was 12%. It is therefore a great pleasure to announce that our department is represented by four accepted papers at this conference this year! Two papers from the algorithms group and two papers from the machine learning group. Congratulations to all the co-authors and thank you for making us proud and placing our department so visibly in the forefront of the international artificial intelligence research arena.

Another thing that many of you are very busy with right now is of course preparing the exams of the current semester. I have been following your interaction with the students towards the exam, and I have witnessed some very impressive dedication, concern, caring, and clear communication. Thank you! Our students are our most important assets, and I am grateful to you for taking such good care of them towards an exam period the preparations of which I know have been very challenging both for you and for our students.

My strongest wish for the next semester is that we get to meet as many of our students as possible physically, at least the freshmen. It seems quite certain that the next semester will not be a normal one, either, and I am afraid we will have to plan for a combination of online and physical lectures and group sessions. However, no matter how the next semester turns out, I know that our students will be taken very well care of, thanks to your wonderful efforts.

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: [Vi kan fort oppleve å igjen måtte gjennomføre all undervisning på digitale plattformer](#) - [Alle konkurrerer mot alle. Dei som taper må bygge ned aktivitet](#) - [_Realfag – et smart sted å begynne!](#)



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

17th May video

Have you seen [this 17th May video](#) from UiB in which also students and colleagues from our department feature? The first song is the “national” song of Bergen, whereas the last song is the national song of Norway. Our rector, in his speech between the two songs, thanks all of us, as well as giving some interesting historical facts binding the national day of Norway to our university via Wilhelm Christie.

Corona – some updates

Check the UiB Corona webpage

It is utmost important that everybody checks [the coronavirus information page of the UiB](#) frequently.

Access to campus

On [this webpage](#), new from last Friday, you will find information from the UiB regarding the updated regime of access to campus and an overview of recommended protective measures.

If you want to register for coming back to your department office, please follow these steps:

1. Read thoroughly the 18th May email from Pinar.
2. Take [this course](#). You must pass the test at the end of the course.
3. Fill out and submit [this form](#). The university wants to keep an eye on how many of us are using our offices and how often, so therefore you must fill out the form before starting to use your office. You need no longer a confirmation from Linda or Pinar; you can start using your after filling out the form above and taking the online course on contamination control.

Note that there is no pressure to come back to the department premises. If you are happy with working from home, and you can perform your tasks fully from your home office, you are still encouraged to work from home.

We will let you know as soon as there are changes in the rules. In the meanwhile, let us please be very conscientious in following the rules, so that we don't risk closing down again. If things continue to go well, we can hopefully meet our students physically in August. Please keep yourself updated on the [latest rules and regulations from both the local and the national authorities](#)



Have you registered vacation days?

Are you ready to go? Summer is soon upon us, and whether you are planning on spending all of it in sunny Bergen or making other arrangements, there is one thing you have to do right away: Register your vacation in the HR-portal (some also call it PAGA). It is a requirement that everyone registers their holiday, and it is the general rule that all vacation days has to be taken within the year.

This year we encourage you to take as much of your vacation in the period between 1st of June and 30th of September. This is due to the Corona pandemic situation. We want as many of you at work when the situation hopefully will be more like normal for det autumn semester.

Not sure when you'll be going? Register it anyway (you can change it later), and avoid running the risk of someone else deciding when you're going on holiday. You will also be relieved from the stress of being followed up through emails and visits from the administration. The deadline for registering the summer vacation has already passed, so please make it a priority.

[Further information on how to register vacation can be found here](#). If you have any questions regarding vacation or the registration of vacation, please contact your local HR professional at your department, [Lene Sørheim](#).

PhD updates

NORBIS Annual conference - SAVE THE DATE!

NORBIS Annual conference will be arranged November 2-4th, 2020! If the national guidelines allow, we will gather at beautiful Ullensvang Hotel in Hardanger for student talks, poster sessions, invited speakers and other fun activities.

The conference aims at bringing together students and researchers, fostering collaboration between groups. The participants will learn about each others' research, discuss science, be inspired by keynotes from leading researchers, and improve their scientific network. In particular the meeting gives an opportunity for the students to work on their presentation skills as each student gets feedback on her/his presentation from an appointed panel.



The conference is open for everyone. We cover travel and accommodation costs for all PhD students, while master students and post docs can apply for support. We also want to encourage supervisors and other researchers to join our meeting, both to facilitate discussion across several levels of experience, to inspire our students, and to increase your own national network. [More information at our website](#)

ICT Research School Annual Meeting 2020: Save the date & call for volunteers

As every year, we would like to encourage you to organize and participate in the annual meeting of the department's ICT research school!

This year's meeting has been scheduled for **26-27 October 2020 in Park Hotel Vossevangen**. We hope that these dates will be suitable for (most of) you. Due to the current outbreak of the Coronavirus we had to react fast and change already existing hotel reservations for other events (for April) in order to avoid huge financial losses. As not all of these events are "repeatable" at a later time of the year, we decided to use some of the existing bookings for the ICT Research School Annual Meeting.

We will, of course, closely monitor the situation and follow all rules and recommendations set by the Norwegian government and university leadership in relation to the outbreak of the Coronavirus. The meeting will only be held (at those dates in Voss) if it is safe for you and other department members, as well as potential presenters from outside the department joining the event, to participate! If this should not be the case, then we can still consider to hold a virtual meeting.

At this point, we would like to ask for **2-3 volunteers** who would like to contribute to **organizing the Annual Meeting 2020** (agenda, registration, website etc.)! To ensure continuity and sharing of best-practice routines, we would like to suggest that at least one former meeting participant is among the members of the organizing committee.

If you are interested in contributing to the organization of the event in 2020, then please send an email by **24 May 2020** to Stefanie.Meyer@uib.no with the following details: your name; the research group you belong to; I have participated in a previous annual meeting of the ICT research school yes/no; I would like to volunteer as organizer of the ICT research school Annual Meeting 2020.

For those of you who are not (yet) familiar with the research school's activities: The aim of the annual meeting is to strengthen networking and collaboration among the department's PhD candidates. Depending on the PhD candidates' own ideas, the program can include one to several keynote talks from local, national and/or international researchers, but the main part of the program is dedicated to presentations from fellow PhD candidates. The latter are usually held as "seminar/lecture on [an] individually selected subject", which contribute to the dissemination part of the training component.

UiB Department of Informatics Writing Workshop 2020 – Save the date!

Welcome to the Department of Informatics [Writing Workshop 2020!](#)

The aim of this workshop is to learn about clear and concise writing and to motivate each other to communicate our science in the best possible way!

At the end of November (23-27 Nov 2020), Mathew Stiller-Reeve will lead us through an exciting week of writing advice, group discussions and individual work.

You will have the opportunity to bring a piece of your own writing and develop it throughout the week. We will start with some concise lectures on writing skills and tips that you can apply directly to your own texts. We will cover topics like structure, flow, active voice and cutting clutter. We will also discuss different sections of a scientific article and how to construct a powerful title. All these activities will be spread across the week to give as much time as possible for your own writing! Mathew will guide the activities and be there the whole week for individual and group discussions.



Mathew has a lot of experience with peer-learning with the writing groups he has previously set up. In this workshop, we will develop a community of peer-learning and collaboration around writing. You will be put into small discussion groups to discuss your writing processes and practice giving each other constructive feedback and ideas.

You are free to choose what type of text you want to work on during the week, but priority will be given to scientific articles. If you want to work on something else, like your PhD introductions, then make sure you let us know in the registration form.

Registration will open after the summer break and be announced in a separate email. [Please find more detailed information here.](#)

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

NORA webinar, May 29

Join us for webinar!
NORA invites you to webinar:
Learning Description Logic Ontologies



Ana Ozaki, Associate Professor, Department of Informatics, University of Bergen



Register at
nora.ai/events

Friday May
29th, 2020
14:00 – 15:00

Department seminar, May 28 at 14:15 on Zoom: Student peer assessment as an educational tool by Roy Andersson



At our department gathering which was to take place in Voss April 27-28, we had planned a series of talks on educational issues. One of these was a tutorial by Roy Andersson. We are delighted to be able to offer a part of this tutorial as a department seminar via Zoom instead.

How can we help our students get the most out of lectures and exercise sessions? This is a question we have been focusing quite a lot on at our department recently. In this seminar we will learn about student peer assessment as a useful tool in this direction.

[Roy Andersson](#) is a senior lecturer at Lund University, Sweden, associated with both the Department of computer science and the Center for engineering education of that university. At the same time he holds an adjunct associate professorship at the Department of biology of our university, associated with the bioCEED center of excellent education.

In this seminar, Roy will teach us about "Student peer assessment" and how it can be used as an educational tool in lectures as well as in exercise sessions. "Peer assessment is a powerful meta-cognitive tool which increases students' learning. By activating students in peer assessment, the students have to reflect and critically evaluate their peers and thereby also their own knowledge and performance".

The seminar will be held on Zoom, and the link will appear [on the web calendar](#) in due time. This is going to be an active seminar, where we will get tasks to perform during Roy's lecture. The seminar will last 60 minutes.

Everybody is most welcome!

Department/CEDAS seminar, June 4 at 14:15 on Zoom: "What I currently think about machine learning in health" by Arnoldo Frigessi



What I currently think about machine learning in health, is that it will lead to better health in the world I will try to touch several issues, using examples from the literature and mine (this will be mainly breast cancer models for personalized therapy), among which bias, intelligence (the dynamic one and the hard-coded one), explain black box models (or stop using them?) and slow-AI.

The seminar will be held on 4 June 2020 between 2.15-3.15 pm in Zoom. For more information and the meeting link, please visit [this website](#)

Everybody is most welcome!

Data management plan workshops for PhDs, postdocs and researchers, May 26



A data management plan (DMP) describes how data in a research project will be collected, processed and made available.

The Norwegian Research Council and Horizon 2020 require projects to submit a DMP. They and many scientific journals also require that the research data is made openly available to others. A DMP will help you to consider every aspect of sharing your data at an early point of the project and thereby save time in the publishing process.

This workshop introduces you to *what* a data management plan is, *why* you need it, and *how* to write one.

[Please join through link at this website.](#)

The Nordic Nanopore-Seq Network Meeting 2020, September 14

The Valen Lab at the Computational Biology Unit Bergen is hosting a **conference to get to know Oxford Nanopore Sequencing and its applications**.

The **free-of-charge, one-day** meeting aims at bringing together Nanopore experts with interested scientists from various disciplines. Experts from the company as well as experienced scientists will cover a wide range of scientific areas.



Additionally, this conference aims at **founding a network of Nanopore Sequencing users in the Nordics**.

If you are interested, find out more information at [the conference website](#)

NIKT 2020 - Invitation and Call for Papers

NIKT 2020

23rd - 25th Nov. 2020

Norwegian Conference for ICT Research and Education (NIKT) 2020

23–25 November 2020, Sundvolden

<https://nikt2020.usn.no/en/index.php>

University of South-Eastern Norway will arrange Norwegian Conference for ICT Research and Education (NIKT) from 23.-25. November 2020 in Sundvolden. The conference consists of four tracks: NIK (Norwegian Informatics Conference), NOKOBIT (Norwegian Conference for Organizations' Use of Information Technology), NISK (Norwegian Information Security Conference) and UDIT (Norwegian Conference for Education and Didactics in IT subjects).

NIKT is a broad national conference aimed at being an important national venue for discussions, networking and dissemination of research and advanced development work in information and communication technology, computer science, information science and information systems. Each of the four tracks on the conference has its own call for papers. [More information](#)

Olav Thon Stiftelsens priser for fremragende undervisning og støtte til studentaktive forskningsprosjekter innen naturvitenskap og medisin 2021

Olav Thon Stiftelsen ble etablert i 2013. I stiftelseserklæringen § 7a) er det fastsatt bl.a. følgende oppgave for Stiftelsen:

Støtte kan ytes til formål innen det matematisk-naturvitenskapelige og medisinske fagområde. Som en del av de midler som styret måtte stille til rådighet for dette formål kan det utdeles følgende priser:

Inntil 10 priser, hver på NOK 500 000 - femhundretusen -, kan tildeles norske og utenlandske akademiske forskere som yter fremragende undervisning av studenter innen det matematisk-naturvitenskapelige og medisinske fagområde ved norske læresteder. Midler kan også utdeles til forskningsprosjekter, under forutsetning om videreformidling av den ervervede kunnskap ved norske læresteder.



Pris for fremragende undervisning: inntil 3 nasjonale priser vil bli tildelt i 2021.

Finansiell støtte til studentaktive forskningsprosjekter: inntil 3 forskningsprosjekter vil bli støttet i 2021.

Frist: 15. september 2020. [Her finner du hele annonsen med mer detaljert informasjon.](#)

Publishing Open Access

The University of Bergen Library has prepared very good websites on the current status of local, national and international open access (OA) policies as well as their services related to OA publishing. Please have a look at their websites and make yourself familiar with the different policies as well as the existing publishing deals with several of the academic publishers. Furthermore, UiB has a publication fund for OA that can cover the article processing charges (APC) when publishing in eligible open access journals.

Before you (your group) pay(s) any fees for making an article openly available, please consult the webpages to see if you are entitled to a discount, may get the fees refunded through the publication fund, or maybe don't even have to pay anything based on an existing agreement with the publisher!

If you have questions, please contact the department's research coordinator [Stefanie Meyer](#).



**Publication fund for
Open Access at UiB**



**Open access
publishing deals**



**Open Access - what,
why and how**

Upcoming funding opportunities

On a monthly basis, the department releases a comprehensive overview over [upcoming funding opportunities](#) on its website for [research support services](#). Please inform research coordinator [Stefanie Meyer](#) about all planned and ongoing funding applications! **This includes both applications you coordinate yourself, and those where you are included as a partner/collaborator!** At this point, we would like to highlight the following upcoming calls and funding/research-related events:



IKTPLUSS. The Research Council has an open call on Artificial Intelligence, Robotics and Autonomous Systems. "The objective of this call is to further develop expertise and capacity in artificial intelligence, robotics and autonomous systems. Efforts are to help to move the research front, build vital competence and create new opportunities for people and society in the short and long term."

Please note that these are collaborative projects where two or more of the project partners have to come from outside academia (i.e. the private or public sector) and have to stand for at least 10% of the effort.
Application deadline: open-ended.



Collaborative and Knowledge-building Project.

The Research Council has pre-announced the following calls:

- Collaborative Project to meet Societal and Industry-related Challenges: topics from energy, climate, ocean, health, biotechnology (and more) are included
- Knowledge-building Project for Industry: topics from renewable energy, oceans (and more) are included

Two or more of the project partners have to come from outside academia. **Application deadline: 2 September 2020.**



Researcher Projects 2020. Do you want to know more about the evaluation process from the Research Council of Norway? Then this website can give you some more information:



[RCN assessment of proposals](#)



ERC Advanced Grant. “Are you an established, leading principal investigator who wants long-term funding to pursue a groundbreaking, high-risk project? The ERC Advanced Grant could be for you. Applicants for the ERC Advanced Grants [PIs] are expected to be active researchers who have a track-record of significant research achievements in the last 10 years. The [PIs] should be exceptional leaders in terms of originality and significance of their research contributions. No specific eligibility criteria with respect to the academic requirements are foreseen.” The call has now been opened with an **Application deadline: 26 August 2020.**



Fulbright stipends. The Fulbright Program annually allocates funds to:

- Norwegian researchers from all research fields to help them teach or conduct research in the US
- Norwegian students who wish to do all or part of their master or PhD studies in the US

Application deadline: 1 October 2020.



Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships. The MSCA Individual Fellowships are highly attractive mobility grants for experienced researchers as they actively support the individuals’ careers. Researchers from all scientific disciplines can apply, and funding includes an allowance to cover living, travel and family costs as well as costs for training, networking, research, management and indirect costs. Find out more about MSCA-IF on this website as well as here (webinar from the Research Council of Norway). **Application deadline: 9 September 2020.**



Positioning funding for Horizon Europe. The PES2020 scheme is designed to relieve the cost burden related to the preparation of project proposals to H2020/Horizon Europe (including ERC applications, MSCA applications, COST applications, Societal Challenges applications etc.). The PES2020 scheme at UiB involves support for the following categories: PES - Project Support for researchers and POS - Positioning funding (including category 1: POS for researchers who are positioning themselves towards a Horizon Europe-application). The Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences has an **extraordinary POS application deadline on 5 June 2020.** You can find the application template on the UiB website. Please send your applications to Stefanie.Meyer@uib.no.



How to write competitive ERC StG & CoG Grant applications.

The University of Bergen, together with Enspire Science and The Research Council of Norway, organize a workshop about ERC Starting and Consolidator Grant writing. **Event: 2 December 2020. Registration deadline: 26 November 2020.**

Need help?

Please contact research coordinator Stefanie Meyer if you have questions with regard to your planned and ongoing funding applications! In addition, you can have a look at our websites for research support services. There you will find a list of our services as well as a comprehensive overview over upcoming funding opportunities.

NB: Please also inform our research coordinator about all ongoing **contractual work** (contracts with funding sources, collaboration agreements with other institutions related to externally funded projects)! The department has to (co-)sign, and therefore needs to be informed about and approve, all agreements!

Corona update

Several funding agencies and institutions have updated their websites with special information and guidance. Please inform the department's research coordinator if you are affected.

Information from the Research Council of Norway: RCN's service updates related to COVID-19

Information from the EU (Horizon 2020): FAQ on COVID-19

Information from the EU (ERC): Coronavirus - business continuity measures at the ERC

Information from the Trond Mohn Stiftelse: Information for PIs and partners

Information from the University of Bergen: Externally funded projects influenced by COVID-19

COVID-19 Data Portal: "EMBL-EBI and partners have set up the COVID-19 Data Portal, which will bring together relevant datasets submitted to EMBL-EBI and other major centres for biomedical data."

Vacant positions

Førsteamanuensis i informatikk fagformidling og utdanning (informatikk-fagdidaktikk)

Please find the announcement [here](#). Closing date: 25.05.2020.

Postdoctoral Research Fellow position in informatics - applied cryptology

Please find the announcement [here](#). Closing date: 15.09.2020.

PhD position in informatics - applied cryptology

Please find the announcement [here](#). Closing date: 15.09.2020.

Health, Safety and Environment

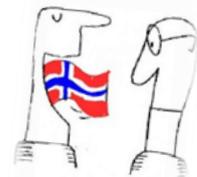
Takeklubben online!



Kakeklubben is a social initiative for all colleagues who would like to practice their Norwegian language skills. The meetings are in Norwegian, at a pace that is easy for everyone with basic skills in Norwegian to follow and participate.

Kakeklubben meets every Wednesday at 12:00. In normal settings, we meet at the 4th floor lunch room, and the department orders cake. In the current situation, we are meeting on [Skype](#) at 12:00 every Wednesday.

[Please do join us!](#)



New application period for the cottages at Ustaoset and Tingviken - Autumn 2020



It is now opened to apply for U-heimen, Ottesheimen and Butten at Ustaoset and Tingviken at Utne for the autumn period from 16th August until 18th October 2020.

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

The application deadline is **12th June**. Drawing will be done 17th June.

Follow us on social media – like and share!

Social media channels are important for both recruiting new students and communicating our work. By following us and liking or sharing our content (or simply watching it, in some cases), you can help lift our brand and reach more people and potential future students. At the same time, you will keep yourself informed about our outreach activities.



If you use these media, please follow us there:

[Department of informatics at UiB on Facebook](#)

[Department of informatics at UiB on Instagram](#)

[Department of informatics at UiB on Twitter](#)

[Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences at UiB on YouTube](#)

[Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences at UiB on Facebook](#)

[Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Science at UiB on Instagram](#)

[Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences at UiB on Twitter](#)