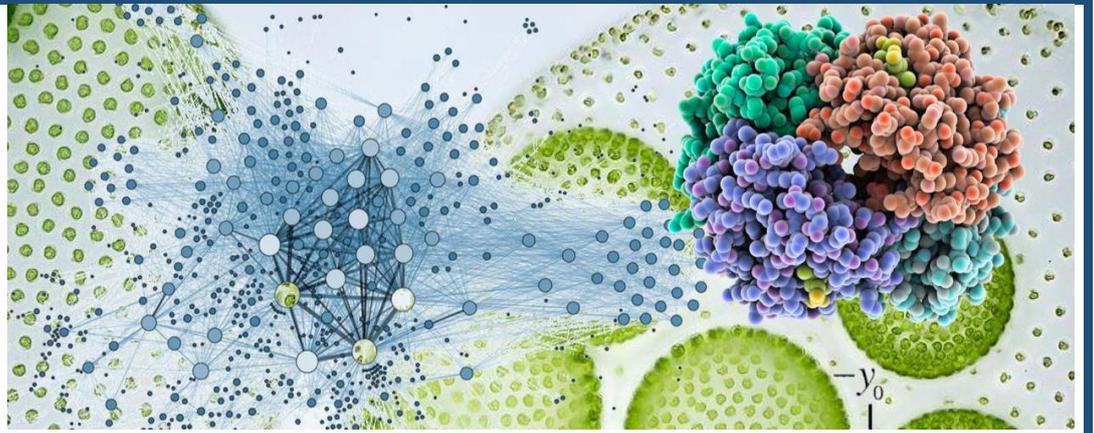


NEWSLETTER

Department of
Informatics



No. 12/2019
21st June 2019



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

Dear colleagues,

We are at the end of the academic year 2018/2019. We are saying farewell and good luck to a whole bunch of graduates, and we are looking forward to welcoming new students in August. For many of you, the break between the closing academic year and the next one to start is exactly when you can concentrate on writing proposals, going to conferences, and perhaps finishing those journal papers that have been waiting for you to find time. As scientific staff, we are used to working even when we are “off work”, but I hope that you will all make sure to take some time completely off work related issues, rest your brain, and gather new energy and strength for the next semester.



The closing of the semester has been extremely pleasant, as yesterday we received the Ugleprisen, the University of Bergen’s annual prize for good quality in education. The prize was given for Anya’s efforts in developing a new learning tool for programming, in which she also involved the students. The tool aims to make the students more active in learning, and Anya can already document improving results for our beginners’ courses INF100 and INF101 when such tools are used. This is a main focus of both us at this department and of the whole university at this point. In the monthly group contact meetings, we have been discussing how to make sure that the students learn better during the semester, well ahead of the exam. At the university leadership conference yesterday, the same theme was discussed thoroughly. There seems to be a general agreement that regular lectures where the professor talks for 90 minutes are not the way to continue. The same is true for exercise sessions. We have to make sure that the students are actively learning throughout these sessions, and not just passively receiving new material or solutions to exercises. This requires all of us to think in new ways. With the new efforts we have put into strengthening our educational system, I am hoping and believing that we will altogether manage to organize our courses in such a way that the students start learning already from the beginning of the semester, and keep a steady pace until the exam.

The academic year of 2018/2019 has brought many new opportunities of collaboration. Today, all faculty across the University of Bergen who is interested in artificial intelligence and machine learning is gathering at our department to be better acquainted with each other and to meet the director of NORA – Norwegian Artificial Intelligence Research Consortium. From 2020 on, all students at the Faculty of mathematics and natural sciences will take our INF100 course. Our rector has stated several times that he would like *all* students across the whole university to do the same. We are playing a more and more central role at several levels of our university, and our ambition is to play a more central role in the rest of the society also.

This is actually the last newsletter of this semester. I wish you all a very nice summer!

-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: [Alle kan google. Det vanskelige er å formidle konsekvensene av fakta](#) - [For meg er utdanningsarbeidet ved fakultetet noko av det viktigaste vi held på med](#) - [Nyttig matematikk](#) - [Er karakterer et hinder for læring?](#)



Welcome new colleagues!

	<p>Sherin Sugathan Sherin started this week in his new position as research fellow in visualization. His main supervisor will be Noeska Smit.</p> <p>Sherin comes from India. He did his Master's in Computer Applications at the University of Trivandrum in 2011. His latest position before he joined us, was as Senior Engineer for Siemens Healthcare where he worked with ultrasound imaging.</p>
	<p>Geevarghese Philip Geevarghese has joined us for a six months period as researcher at Saket's ERC LOPRE project. He has expertise in polynomial time preprocessing and will work on the lossy kernel of problems arising in graph theory. He will also work on the development of lower bound theory for approximate preprocessing.</p> <p>Geevarghese is from India. He did his PhD in Theoretical computer science at the Institute of Mathematical Sciences in Chennai, India in 2011. He works in Chennai as assistant professor and has previously held a postdoctoral position at the Max Planck Institute for Informatics in Germany.</p>
	<p>Roohani Sharma Roohani has also joined us for a six months period as researcher at the ERC LOPRE project. Her expertise is in traditional kernelization methods for graph problems. The project's one component is about graph sparsifiers for feedback set problems using linear algebraic and spectral tools, and Roohani will work on this component.</p> <p>Roohani is from India. She holds a Master's in Computer Science at the Institute of Mathematical Sciences in Chennai, India in 2015, and is currently working on a PhD.</p>
	<p>Nooshin Heidari Nooshin started last week in her new position as research fellow in optimization. Her main supervisor will be Ahmad Hemati.</p> <p>Sherin comes from Iran. She did her Master's in Amirkabir University of Technology, Industrial Engineering in 2010, and has been working as a System expert (Supply Chain Management, EFQM, ISO, CRM) at NIOC until now.</p>
	<p>Kari Merete Erslund Kari will substitute for Ragna Breines a period in a position as advisor/administrative coordinator for NORBIS – the national research school in bioinformatics.</p> <p>Kari is Norwegian. She holds a PhD in Genetics and Molecular Biology from the Faculty of Medicine, UiB in 2012, and comes from a researcher position at the Department of Clinical Science, Med, UiB.</p>

Congratulations colleagues!



Noeska is admitted to the Momentum Program!

Noeska has been admitted to the Momentum Program 2019-2020.

This is UiB's Career Development Program for Young Researchers. This one year training program is designed to give talented young researchers the opportunity to acquire and strengthen their professional skills whilst offering a forum to reflect on the opportunities and challenges working in academia present. The program aims to increase UiB's participation in ERC, FRIPRO Young Research Talents and other relevant calls for proposals for young researchers.



Anya & the Department of Informatics got this year's Uglepris!

Yesterday we received the Ugleprisen / [The Owl Award](#) - UiB's internal award for quality in education, presented by the University's Education Committee to academic groups that can document particularly successful measures for academic quality.

The prize was given for Anya's efforts in developing a new learning tool for programming "Puffin", in which she also involved the students.



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

Norwegian scientist initiative against autonomous weapons, campaign "Lytt til oss"



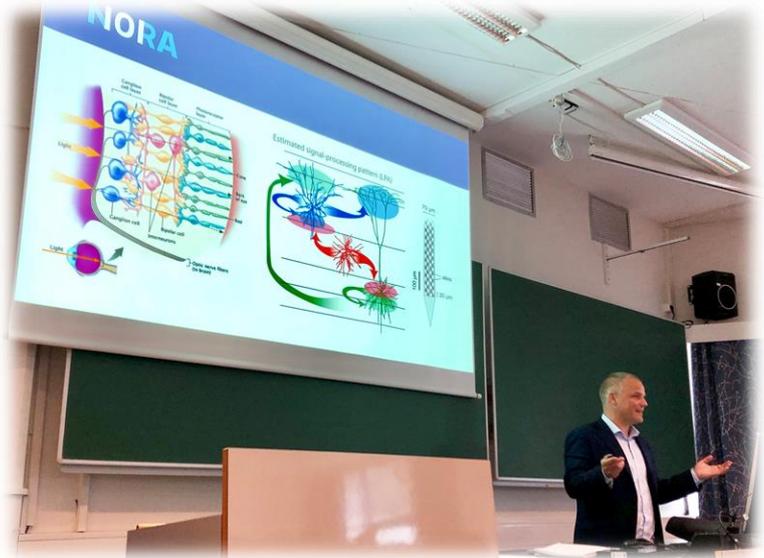
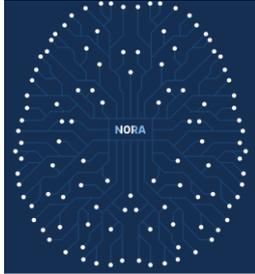
The campaign states that we should not participate in nor support the development, manufacture, trade, or use of lethal autonomous weapons.

Scientists, technologists, companies and organizations, as well as leaders, policymakers, and other individuals are encouraged to sign. [Please find more information here.](#)

Meeting today (still ongoing): The role of UiB in NORA

The meeting is aiming to facilitate collaboration between UiB researchers and NORA (Norwegian Artificial Intelligence Research Consortium) in the fields of artificial intelligence and machine learning.

Not only has this given us a chance to meet with the director of NORA; but it also give us the opportunity to learn about each other's AI/ML research within UiB, and possibly establish new contacts and collaborations across our university.



Director of NORA, Klas Pettersen

Presentations are held by Department of informatics, [P. Parviainen](#), Department of information and media sciences, [M. Slavkovik](#), Center for Data Science – CEDAS, [H. Hauser](#), Computational Biology Unit, [I. Jonassen](#), Department of mathematics, [Y. Li](#), Center for the Science of Learning and Technology, [B. Wasson](#), Department of linguistic, literary and aesthetic studies, [J. Walker Rettberg](#), Department of physics and technology, [Konrad Tywoniuk](#), and Simula-UiB, [Kjell Jørgen Hole](#)

New refurbished entrance area in Datablokken – what a joy!



Election results – Institute Board

Elected members to group B and group D of the Institute Board at the Department of Informatics for the next academic year are:

Group B (employees in temporary positions within research and/or teaching)

Member: **Erlend Raa Vågset**

Deputy members:

1. Dan Zhang
2. Pierre Gillot
3. Juraj Palenik

Group D (students)

Members: **Linh Tu Nguyen and Even Berge Sandvik**

Deputy members:

1. Axel Peter Glede Collett
2. Hjalmar Svenstrup Andersen
3. Kristian Høy Horsberg
4. Torbjørn Holmeide

PhD Updates

There's a new PhD in town – congratulations Anna-Lena Both!



Anna-Lena Both successfully defended her thesis "Parameter optimisation for the improved modelling of industrial-scale gas explosions" on Monday 17th June.

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

Congratulations to Anna-Lena and also to the Optimization group and especially her main supervisor Jan-Joachim Rückmann!



Research Science and Seminars

VIS collaboration – Victoria Isern



The department is planning to strengthen its collaboration with [VIS](#) (former Bergen Technology Transfer Office).

[Victoria Isern](#) is the company's delegate regarding ICT and will have open consultation hours at the department on 27 June and 4 July between 10 am and 1 pm, and on 8 August between noon and 2 pm.

Feel free to visit her on the 4th floor in the administration wing!

Funding opportunities [Research support services](#)

The department has released its first comprehensive overview over [upcoming funding opportunities](#). The list will be updated on a monthly basis on the department's website for [research support services](#) ([relevant funding sources](#)). At this point, we would like to highlight the following upcoming calls:

National funding

Olav Thon Foundation

The foundation has released a call for [national support](#) where applicants can apply for financial support in relation to student active research projects and/or for an outstanding teaching award. **Application deadline: 15 September 2019**

International funding

Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions: Research Fellowship Programme

The Individual Fellowship (IF) Programme within the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) is a bottom-up, excellence funding program which aims to support the career development and training of researchers through international and intersectoral mobility. One can apply in two main categories: (i) European Fellowships are held in EU Member States or Horizon 2020 Associated Countries and are open to researchers either coming to Europe from any country in the world or moving within Europe. The researcher must comply with the rules of mobility in the country where the European Fellowship is held.[1] (ii) Global Fellowships are based on a secondment to a third country and a mandatory 12 month return period to a European host. The researcher must comply with the rules of mobility in the country where the Global Fellowship secondment takes place, not for the country of the return phase.[1]; [1] [MSCA-IF-2019](#); Further reading: [MSCA-IF general information](#)

Please note that this program is targeting Experienced Researchers, i.e. researchers that at the date of the call deadline are in possession of a doctoral degree or have at least four years of full-time equivalent research experience.

If you have a researcher in mind that could be relevant for one of the two funding schemes and/or are interested in applying yourself, please contact Stefanie.Meyer@uib.no. Early planning is crucial as this is a highly competitive program. **Application deadline: 11 September 2019**

Fulbright stipends for students and researchers

The Fulbright Program annually allocates funds to (i) Norwegian [researchers](#) from all research fields and (ii) [students](#). The funds are meant to either help researchers teach or conduct research in the US, or students to conduct all or part of their master or PhD studies in the US. **Application deadline: 1 October 2019**

Vacant positions

PhD position in algorithms: lossy preprocessing

Closing date: 9th July 2019. [Please find the announcement here.](#)

PhD position in information/coding theory

Closing date: 11th July 2019. [Please find the announcement here.](#)

Senior engineer/ chief engineer (System Developer) at the CBU

Closing date: 15th July 2019. [Please find the announcement here.](#)

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

Promotion to professor

The deadline for applying for promotion to full professorship has changed for 2019 and set to 31.08.2019. Complete applications must be submitted to the faculty no later than this date, and the service path is via the Department, [Lene Engelsjerd](#).

Have you registered your summer holiday yet?

The summer holiday is soon upon us. You should register your holiday in PAGAWEB immediately. It is a requirement that everyone registers their holiday, and this should be done prior to you taking the days off.

Not sure when you'll be going on holiday? 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.

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

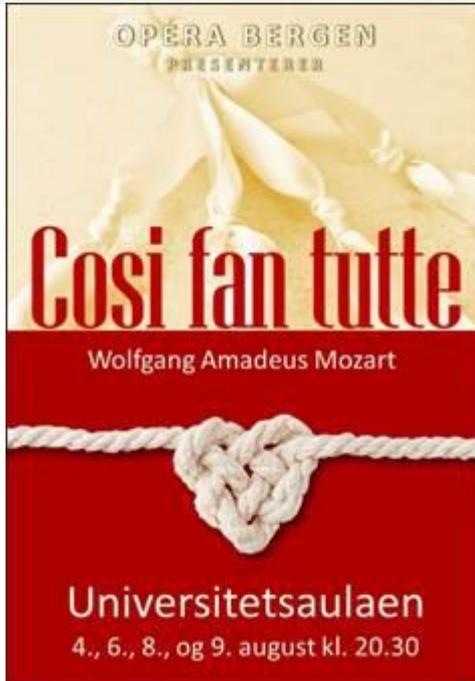
Department Boat Trip and Summer Party – save the date 22nd August!



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 bachelor and master 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.

Welfare offer: SOMMEROPERA i Universitetsaulaen 4., 6., 8. og 9. august kl. 2030



Rabatterte billetter til UiB-ansatte

Opera Bergen har gleden av å kunne presentere årets sommeropera: W.A. Mozarts COSÌ FAN TUTTE!

Her er Mozart på sitt mest lekne, forførende og avslørende! Opera Bergen har samlet et knippe solister i toppklasse til denne humørfylte sommerforestillingen i nye og vakre omgivelser - ute og inne.

ROCC regisserer - ANNE RANDINE ØVERBY dirigerer - JENS LANGE lyssetter.

UiB-ansatte får 10 % rabatt på ubegrenset antall billetter ved å bestille her: post@operabergen.no Det er ønskelig at man oppgir navn og postadresse ved bestilling av billetter. Dere vil da få tilsendt billetter og faktura pr post til oppgitt adresse. Ingen billettavgift tilkommer. Ordinær billettpris er 650,-. Arrangementet varer til ca. kl. 23, pause medregnet.

[Les mer om sommeroperaen og Opera Bergen](#)