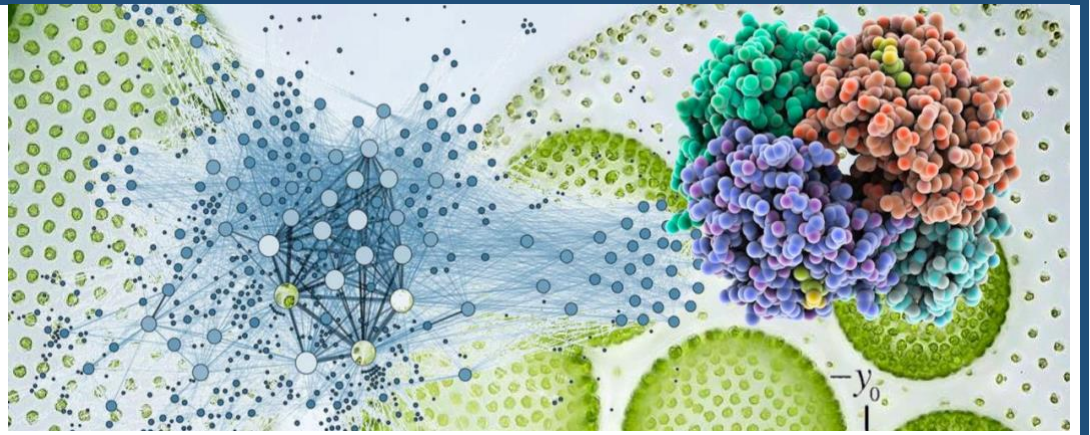


NEWSLETTER

Department of
Informatics



No. 14/2018
21st December 2018



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

Dear colleagues,

It has been an exciting week! The visit by the Norwegian minister of research and higher education Iselin Nybø gave us an exceptionally nice closing of 2018. We have received a lot of praise and good feedback in connection with the presentation of CEDAS – Center for Data Science. First of all, many thanks to our minister for taking the time to come to Bergen to talk to us and for being genuinely interested in our research and our students. I am grateful to all of you who contributed, both those behind the scenes and those in front of; you did a great job, you made a difference! My gratitude goes also to our dean Helge Dahle and our rector Dag Rune Olsen for being enthusiastic about CEDAS and succeeding in bringing this to our minister's attention. A lot of important work is ahead of the core leader group of CEDAS, and I thank them for initiating this center and for their willingness to build it and see to its success. I would also like to take the opportunity to also thank my predecessor Petter Bjørstad; he hired all those young brilliant people who impressed our minister and our guests, and the foundation of CEDAS was already laid in 2016 while he was the department head.



2018 has been a successful year for our department. We have succeeded with several highly prestigious grants, and several of our colleagues have received international awards and distinctions. In 2018 we welcomed more than 30 new colleagues at our department! I think that is a new record. We also had to say good bye to some, and in particular Daniel Lokshtanov's moving to a professorship at UCSB in US is a big loss for us. But we are lucky to keep him in a 10% position, and we wish him the best of luck in his new life.

During 2018 our university has placed more focus and interest in ICT research. A committee report delivered to the rector in November suggests that UiB makes a clear commitment in this direction, and to have the vision of becoming the best university in ICT research and education among all universities in the Nordic countries. Significant efforts have been put into collaboration in ICT research and education across departments and faculties of our university as a result of this work, and I daresay that we are getting to know and establish contacts with our colleagues in related fields at our university better than ever before.

Norway has taken some important steps in 2018 that are relevant to us. The establishment of NORA – Norwegian Artificial Intelligence Research Consortium is an important step to make our country stronger and more visible in research in this area. The changes in the IKTPLUSS program of NFR promise hope of better opportunities for fundamental research in ICT. The future is looking good, and with all the scientific and technological development we are experiencing, it is an extremely exciting time to be a computer scientist.

I would like to thank all employees of our department for their excellent work in 2018. Let me extend special thanks to our administration for being so competent, timely, and on top of things, and provide us with professional and efficient help in every single task. Our professors and associate professors deserve special thanks for always enthusiastically agreeing to a large variety of research administrative tasks; I am really impressed by the amount of work you can undertake. Finally, I would like to thank the leadership and administration of our faculty and the leadership and administration of our university. As a new department head, I have received and appreciated so much help from so many levels in so many different cases that I am overwhelmed by all the good will and all the wonderful services that are provided. I am very proud of being a part of this very cool big machinery called UiB.

I wish you all a merry Christmas and a very happy new year!

-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: [Finnes det vitenskapelige bevis for at nissen finnes?](#) - [Førjulstida er magisk på så mange vis](#) - [Det er flere grunner til at EU liker vår satsing på energiomstilling](#)



Welcome new colleagues!



Reent Schlegel

My name is Reent Schlegel. I am a new PhD student at Simula@UiB working on code-based post-quantum cryptography.

For now I am visiting at Chalmers University of Technology in Gothenburg, Sweden, from where I recently received my Master's degree in Communication Engineering.

I am very much looking forward to move to Bergen in summer 2019 and join the Information Theory group at Simula@UiB and I hope to meet a lot of you already before during one of my upcoming visits in Bergen!

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

Picture rapport from the official presentation of CEDAS

This week's big event for our department, and also for the UiB as such, was the minister of research and higher education Iselin Nybø's visit in connection with the presentation of our new Center for Data Science - CEDAS.

The event was well covered in [Bergens Tidende](#), [På Høyden](#), [Digi.no](#), [UiB websites](#) and [Facebook](#)



Photos: Dag Rune Olsen



Fedor's balalaika music:
a really enjoyable
moment! ☺



Congratulations Pinar - new member of the main board of the Research Council of Norway!



Pinar has been appointed a new member of the main board of the Research Council of Norway. She will be the only board member from Bergen.

[Please find the UiB interview with her here.](#)

The new board, effective from 01.01.2019, is composed as follows:

- Konserndirektør Hilde Tonne, leder, Oslo (ny)
- Prorektor Kenneth Ruud, nestleder, Tromsø (ny)
- Professor Mette Halskov Hansen, Oslo (gjenoppnevning)
- Konserndirektør Eli Aamot, Trondheim (gjenoppnevning)
- Forskningsssjef Kirsti Hjemdahl, Kristiansand (ny)
- Adm. dir. Lars Harry Vorland, Tromsø (ny)
- Instituttleder Pinar Heggernes, Bergen (ny)
- Professor Tomas Kåberger, Sverige (ny)
- Adm. dir. Eimund Nygaard, Stavanger (ny)
- Gründer og investor Geir Førre, Oslo (ny)
- Universitetslektor Jan Magnus Aronsen, Oslo (ny)

Congratulations Eduard Eiben!

Congratulations to our researcher Eduard Eiben, who was awarded the National Award of Excellence by the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research (BMBWF) for his outstanding dissertation.

The award ceremony took place in Vienna on December 5th, 2018. Eduard Eiben has been awarded for his dissertation Exploiting new types of structure for fixed-parameter tractability. The work was carried out as part of a research project funded by the Austrian Science Fund FWF at the Institute for Logic and Computation at the Faculty of Informatics at TU Wien. The supervisors were Prof. Stefan Szeider and Dr. Robert Ganian.



Eduard Eiben is the first graduate of the Doctoral Program “Logical Methods in Computer Science” (LogiCS), which was founded in 2014 by professors at TU Wien, TU Graz, and JKU Linz. “I am particularly pleased that an algorithmic work has been awarded, because algorithms will in future gain an increasingly important role in technological innovation”, says Prof. Georg Gottlob, the head of the LogiCS Doctoral College.

Congratulations Nathalie Reuter!



CBU group leader Professor Nathalie Reuter was awarded two grants, one through the BIOTEK2021 program, connected with Centre for Digital Life Norway, and one through the Research Council of Norway’s funding scheme for independent projects FRIPRO.

[Learn more.](#)

Research, Science, and Seminars

IP Seminar - Patenting and Publishing, 28th January 2019

The University of Bergen, Haukeland University Hospital, BTO and Digital Life Norway arrange IP Seminar: PATENTING and PUBLISHING - The Why’s and How’s on Monday, 28th January 2019 12:30 – 18:00, HUS, Bikuben Refreshments and food will be served before and during the seminar. Participation is free of charge.

This seminar will give you several reasons to engage in a patent process and demonstrate how patenting and publishing can be coordinated and both successfully achieved. We will demonstrate a number of Norwegian and international examples of academic patenting, and discuss practical issues related to these specific cases.

To enable the best possible and “to the point” seminar, you are invited to submit any relevant questions, matters or issues you may have for this subject, upon registration. As far as time allows us, all such received questions will be addressed during the seminar. Invitations will be submitted by mid January, including the entire program and all speakers. However, registration is already open – so please feel free to [register by following this link](#);

NORBIS workshop in Collaborative scientific software development

NORBIS and DigitalLife is arranging a workshop in Collaborative scientific software development. The aim of this workshop is to give an introduction to topics that go beyond the initial knowledge of reading and writing code. How do you design programs that are modular and reusable by others? How can libraries in different languages be used together? What are tools that can help in documenting and testing code? How can development and releases be managed in group projects with multiple authors and multiple users?

In a mixture of talks and many hands-on sessions we'll try to address this next step. In the second half of the workshop, you will work in small groups on designing and writing a new project from scratch, giving you direct experience of having to rely on other people's code.

Dates: 5 – 14 March 2019
Location: University of Bergen
Organisers: David Grellscheid
Register by: 3 February 2019
Credits: 3 ECTS
[Information and registration](#)



Register your publications in the Cristin database!

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 2018 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. Please try to complete this by **mid January**. 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.

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

Hearing: proposed program description and supplementary regulations for PhD program

The PhD program is changing from the university level to the faculty level, and the faculty has proposed a program description and supplementary regulations. The deadline for sending our comments is January 14, 2019.

The biggest changes are:

- English proficiency must be documented in the admission process
- Deadline for submitting application for admission is reduced from three to two months after hiring
- Project description must include a progress plan and a publication plan (articles or thesis, which is a possible single publication)
- International conference with presentation goes from “strongly recommended” to “mandatory”
- Supervisor statement is no longer necessary before submission of the thesis.

In addition, the faculty focuses on the midway evaluation, which we have not practiced at our department. Starting spring 2019, all our PhD candidates will undergo a midway evaluation. Its essential part will be a presentation of candidate's research, and our “forskerutdanningsutvalg” will send you more details about the procedure soon.

If you have any suggestions to the proposed program, please, send them to Michal.Walicki@uib.no **not later than January 6, 2019.**

You can find the documents (Norwegian only) here: [Høring – brev fra fakultetet programbeskrivelse og utfyllende regler for ph.d.-prog ved MN](#)

Deadlines for PhD submission and defense, spring semester 2019

The last possible day of defense in the spring semester 2019 will be 28th June. The deadline for submission of thesis and proposal for composition of committee members is 8 weeks ahead of the defense date.

Online course for PhD supervisors

The course includes rules, regulations and procedures for the PhD program. Everyone appointed as main supervisor or co-supervisor for PhD candidates at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences from 1 December 2018 must complete the online course. You can take the course in [Norwegian](#) or in [English](#). Please make sure you verify the completion of the course when it is completed.

Funding opportunities

BFS call for starting grants

The call for BFS starting grants is now open. Application deadline is March 15th. [Please find detailed information about the call here](#)

A BFS starting grant is a great way to get a flying start for an academic career. The competition is tough, and applications must be supported by the department to be considered. If you have ambitions of applying, or you know of excellent candidates who might be interested in applying, please first discuss with your group and then approach Pinar.



Call for applications to the Centre for Advanced Study (CAS)

The Centre for Advanced Study (CAS) invites researchers to pursue excellent, fundamental, curiosity-driven research for a year in Oslo. [CAS is accepting applications for the 2021/22 academic year. Click here to register and apply.](#)

Deadline: 14 January 2019. [Learn more.](#)

Young CAS Fellow 2019-2020

The Centre for Advanced Study (CAS) is excited to announce the Young CAS Fellow program, a new research funding opportunity for postdoctoral students, junior academics, and other talented young researchers. CAS is accepting applications for the 2019/20 academic year. **Deadline: 14 January 2019.** [Learn more.](#)

Course on January 10: How to write the impact part of project proposals

In this course, Sean McCarthy will focus on the impact part of a proposal. 'Impact' is one of the most important evaluation criteria in European project proposals. Many researchers find understanding the concept and explaining the expected impact challenging. The course is aimed at clearing this up, and teaching applicants to sell their ideas in the project summary (abstract) and the impact part. The course is UiB internal and all UiB staff and researchers are welcome. The course language is English. Lunch will be served - no conference fee.

Sean McCarthy in Hyperion Ltd. is an experienced researcher, research manager and evaluator. He has trained researchers and research administrators from European universities for many years. [Learn more and registration](#)

Visit by the Research Council of Norway on March 7 about the IKTPLUSS program

The Research Council of Norway (RCN) is coming to our department on March 7 to explain to us the details on the new application procedures and proposal guidelines in the IKTPLUSS research funding program. We allocated the Thursday seminar time slot for this meeting, so that all our employees can participate. Please reserve the date and time in your calendars. [Full details can be found here.](#)

ERC proposal writing courses 2019 at UiB in collaboration with RCN

Academics can now register for the 2019 ERC proposal writing courses. This is a collaboration between UiB and RCN and therefore open to interested researchers from outside UiB as well. A more detailed program for the days will follow soon. [ERC Advanced Grants: 13.3.2019](#)

Applicants interested in SyG (deadline for the 2020 call most likely in November 2019) should join the AdG course to have enough time to develop the team idea.

Competitive proposals for ERC Starting and Consolidator Grants ERC AdG 2019 deadline 29.8.2019. [ERC StG & CoG course date: 19.6.2019](#) (there will not be another course for CoG applicants later in the year) Deadlines are not known yet, but should be Oct 2019 for the 2020 StG and Feb 2020 for the 2020 CoG

Horizon 2020 proposal writing courses at UiB in collaboration with RCN

Our university is giving a series of courses in collaboration with RCN to help researchers and research coordinators in the proposal writing procedures for the EU Horizon 2020 programs. These courses can be very useful also if you are planning to apply funding from RCN. We have received information only in Norwegian for the time being. Please take note of the dates if this is interesting for you:

Pr i dag har vi fått følgende datoer fra NFR, og venter på at de legger ut arrangementsoversikten. Siden NFR har beveget seg mot H2020 evalueringskriteriene vil nok mange av H2020 kursene også være interessante for forskere som vil lære mer om dette inn mot NFR fristen.

- For vitenskapelige og administrativt ansatte:
 - 22-23 januar Horizon 2020 Proposal Writing workshop – Thematic focus,
 - Dette er et nytt tilbud fra NFR, og er mer en workshop enn et kurs, hvor deltakerne (med prosjektideer innenfor ett og samme tematiske område) jobber med egen søknad under veiledning. Dette må vi komme litt tilbake til etter at vi har fått vite mer fra NFR.
 - 12-13. februar: 2-day/Level 2 Horizon 2020 Proposal Writing – Focus Impact
 - 4. juni Prosjektutvikling 1
 - 12-13 november: Horizon 2020 Proposal Writing workshop – Thematic focus (tilsvarende som for 22-23 januar)
- For administrativt ansatte:
 - 5. Juni Søknadsstøtte1

Om dette er aktuelt for dere, sett av datoen i kalenderen, og viderefordre info til aktuelle forskere slik at vi er raskt ute til å melde på. Denne gang vil info og påmelding gå gjennom NFR, ikke via FA.

Vacant positions

Professor in informatics – machine learning

Closing date: 03.01.2019. Please find the [announcement text here](#).

Professor in information security – applied cryptography

Closing date: 06.01.2019. Please find [the announcement here](#).

Researcher in Algorithms

Closing date: 15.01.2019. Please find [the announcement here](#)

Førsteamanuensis i informatikk fagformidling og utdanning (IKT-fagdidaktikk)

Closing date: 20.01.2019. Please find [the announcement text here](#).

Postdoctoral Fellow position in algorithms: parameterized complexity for practical optimization

Closing date: 20.01.2019. Please find [the announcement text here](#).

Postdoctoral positions (2) in Computer Science

Closing date: 05.02.2019. Please find [the announcement here](#).

Next faculty and staff lunch January 10, 2019

Our next faculty and permanent staff lunch will be on Thursday January 10 at 12:00. From now on, we will make sure to organize the lunch on a different week day each time, to allow everybody to participate from time to time depending on teaching schedule. Our lunch room on the fourth floor is now ready to be used, so we will gather there, as before. In fact the visit by our minister could be regarded as the inauguration of the room; the refurbishment was completed just the day before her visit!

The University of Bergen's sports club (UBIL) celebrates its 50-years anniversary and invites to a sports day on January 17!

We invite you and your colleagues to fun competitions in some of UBIL's activities on Thursday, January 17th at the student centre. The winners are awarded and there will be a draw of prizes among all the participants. Admission is free and you can use the changing rooms.

Between 15.00 and 18.00 you can [participate in the following activities](#):

[Badminton tournament](#)

Badminton is a sport that is faster and more demanding than you might think. We will arrange a mini tournament depending on the number of participants.

[Table tennis tournament](#)

The table tennis tournament will take place in the basement of the SV building. Everyone can join in – can you beat your colleague?

[Soccer tournament](#)

There will be a mini tournament in soccer (cageball) for more or less mixed teams. A team consists of 3-4 persons + subs, and women-only teams are allowed one more player out on the field. All teams are guaranteed 4 matches (depending on the number of registered teams).

[Indoors-orienteeing](#)

Orienteering moves from deep forests and rainy alleyways to the warm and dry student centre for the occasion. With a map of the building, you have to navigate to controls that are hidden over several floors. The fastest wins – with little risk to get completely lost.

[Shooting](#)

Shooting with UBIL takes place mostly in the shelter in the basement of Åstveithallen. On the sports day we will organize a shooting competition in the basement of the SV building, room 005. Shoot 5 shots and achieve maximum 50 points.

[Spinning](#)

UBIL's cycling group usually meets outdoors, but now the university's best on a spinning bike will be declared. Who comes furthest in 10 minutes?

So get some colleagues and register [here](#) until January 7th 2019! The number of participants is limited, so make sure to register early.

[Check our web pages for all the sports you can do as an UBIL member here \(Norwegian only\).](#)

Velferdstilbud: Juletefest 5th January 2019

Welcome to juletefest on Saturday 5th January at 15.00 - 17.00, Hotel Terminus

Fee: NOK 120,- Adult/Child

Registration: <https://form.app.uib.no/juletefest19>

Velferdstilbud: Dark side of the wall in Grieghallen 2 February

Dark side of the wall i Grieghallen 2. februar.

Konserten kl 18.30 er i ferd med å bli utsolgt.
Det er derfor lagt ut ekstrakonsert kl. 21.15.

Billettprisen er ordinært kr 560.- inkl. avgift **Rabattert billettpris til UIB-ansatte er 430.- inkl. avgift.**

Billettprisen gjelder kun for ekstrakonserten kl 21.15 og må [kjøpes her](#).

Dark Side of the Wall er Pink Floyd-showet som fikk selveste Roger Waters til å uttale "F**cking brilliant" da han overvar en av DSOTW's konserter under Bergenfest for noen år siden.

