Dear colleagues,

Last week, we had a small gathering to mark the retirement of our dear colleague Trond Steihaug, and to celebrate his academic life and achievements. Every such event brings out a number of interesting details and fun facts, not only about the person but also about the history of our department. Last year around this time we had the celebration of the 30th year of our department building, where we heard many stories from around the time our department was founded in 1984, by a few professors of mathematics who were into computing. I myself learn so many new things at each such occasion, although I have been at this department for more than 30 years.

There is so much to be proud of and still so much to be learned from history. Without knowing our past, we cannot really understand our relation to the rest of the university today, and we cannot properly plan our future. Our colleagues who are retiring now are among the last ones who have been at our department from the start or who were recruited to a very young Department of informatics. I am afraid that some of our historical information might be lost when we no longer have active colleagues who have been here from the beginning. In that respect, it is wonderful that a book on the life of Ernst Selmer is being published these days, on the occasion of Selmer’s 100th birthday.

Ernst Selmer, a pioneer in cryptography and computer science, as well as a second world war hero, started as a professor at the Department of mathematics of our university in 1957 and stayed at our university until his retirement in 1990. His biography is thus very important for understanding history of our department, as well as the foundation of our Selmer Center for secure and reliable communication. Although our department’s formal age is merely 36, our research and education started already almost 60 years ago in early 1960s by professors of mathematics, and pioneers of Norwegian computer science, Ernst Selmer, Kjell Overholt, and Kåre Fløysand.

The history of our whole university is similar. The University of Bergen was formally founded in 1946, however what is today known as the University Museum was established already in 1825, and it was a hub for cultural and natural science research. The research tradition of our university contains highlights as Armauer Hansen’s discovery of the cause of leprosy in 1873 and the establishment of Bergen School of Meteorology in 1917 by Vilhelm Bjerknes, one of the founders of modern meteorology and climate research.

When the Selmer book is out, all colleagues at our department will get a copy. The next occasion to hear good old stories will be when we mark the retirement of our previous head of department Petter Bjørstad in a few months.

I wish you a very nice weekend!

Pinar
Welcome new colleagues!

Nima Ghanbari
Nima just started in his new Postdoctoral Research Fellow position in informatics with specialization in logic and graph theory and a special focus on parameterized complexity.

The position is associated with Mike Fellows’ RCN ToppForsk project “Parameterized Complexity for Practical Computing”. His mentors will be Mike Fellows and Michal Walicki. The main emphasis in his position will be on computationally feasible relations between directed graphs and consistency of logical theories.

Nima is Iranien. He holds a PhD in Mathematics (Graph Theory and Combinatorics) from the Yazd University in Iran from 2018.

Current Issues  På Heyden  -  Khrono  –  News from NFR  –  News from UiB  –  Informatics on Facebook

Picture report from Trond’s retirement gathering
Overview of Department Thursday seminars booked so far the rest of this semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 29**</td>
<td>Speed Talks: Sjur Flåm, Mikhail Barash and Tom Michoel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 5*</td>
<td>Stefanie Meyer: Funding sources and research advisor’s services</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 19*</td>
<td>Enrico Motta: Integrating AI paradigms to make sense of big data (and the world)</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 26*</td>
<td>Aidan Hogan: Knowledge Graphs: Research Directions</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 3**</td>
<td>Speed Talks (Sayan Bandyapadhyay, Ana Ozaki and Stefan Bruckner)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>December 10**</td>
<td>HSE seminar</td>
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</tbody>
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*seminar on Zoom
**seminar at VilVite auditorium

Nice web news on data security

#REALFAGUIB

Datasikkerhet: De dummeste tingene vi gjør på nett
Hvordan skal noen hacke meg, spør du kanskje. Fordi de kan, sørger informatikkstudentene. Det er gode penger å tjene på dine personopplysninger. Her er studentenes do’s and don’ts.

Please find the web new here.

…and here is one from Chunlei as well “Angriper utfordringene I 5G-teknologien”

Corona reminders

- The “one meter” and the “wash and disinfect your hands frequently” rules, apply at all times in all settings!

- Those who are dependent on public transportation or have health problems can make agreements with Linda for partial home office solutions, if their work can be performed from home. Before approaching Linda, it will be a good idea to discuss this with your closest work leader, supervisor, project leader, etc. As a general rule we hope to see as many of you as possible in your offices.

- It is now possible to hold lectures, meetings, and other official gatherings for up to 200 people, provided that the room is large enough to allow all rules to avoid contamination (smittevernregler).

- All travels abroad and guests from abroad need to be discussed with Pinar or Linda before making plans and sending invitations. Recall that the recommendation from the Norwegian government is that one should avoid all travels abroad that are not strictly necessary.

- All employees are asked to make sure that they have registered their mobile number in the HR portal. This is for urgent messages by sms from the UiB leadership and to make it easier to follow up infection tracking if needed. How to do this: New form – Personal and family information – add your mobile phone number and chose “No” to “private mobile phone” (or else your mobile phone number will not be accessible in the phonebook) – move next to page 3 – Send. When you have already opened this form – please also check that your next of kin is added.

- Please follow the information on these pages frequently: UiB Corona info Info from the government Info from the Norwegian Institute of Public Health
October is Security Awareness Month. Our Rector says:

Dear students and fellow members of staff,

October is National Security Awareness Month. The University of Bergen (UiB) therefore plans to have an extra special focus on information security in October.

UiB aims to be a safe and secure place to study and work, whether you are based at home or on campus. We therefore want all students and employees to be fully aware of security.

Many employees and students have already completed the e-learning course in Data protection and Information security on Mitt UiB in order to improve their knowledge of security. If you have not yet had the time to take the course, please do so now.

We also recommend following the internal news channel På høyden this month (NO), which will highlight relevant subjects, such as challenges relating to working from home, where to find help and, not least, how to report a breach of IT security.

Click here to read more about National Security Awareness Month at UiB. Sikresiden.no also provides a lot of helpful information about information security and data protection.

Student / Teaching affairs

Guest students and trainees in the spring of 2021

For those planning to receive guest students or trainees/interns in the spring semester of 2021, we inform you that the application deadline for these arrangements has been pushed back to October 22nd. The deadline is absolute. The International Center asks us to be extra thorough in our consideration of the necessity and expedience of each stay at this time, given the current restrictions, guidelines and measures existing on national and local levels.

This is particularly important for applicants for countries outside the EU, who must apply for residence permit before arriving in Norway, and who must document adequate housing before a residence permit can be given. For most international applicants residing outside of Norway, there is still a requirement for a 10-day quarantine period upon arriving in Norway. Those traveling to the country must document that they have arranged for a suitable location to spend the entirety of the quarantine period or the stay.

Guest students and trainees are not guaranteed student housing arranged by the Student Welfare Organization. The housing capacity will be reduced in the spring of 2021.

MNT-konferansen 2021 og Nordic Journal of STEM Education

- Melding av interesse. Inntil en sides sammendrag: 15.10.2020
- Tilbakemelding om akseptert bidrag: 13.11.2020
- Ferdig 3-5 siders konferansebidrag (Finished conference paper): 15.01.2020
- Tilbakemelding til forfattere (Notification to authors): 15.02.2021
- Presentasjon på MNT-konferansen: 15.03– 16.03.2021

Nordic Journal of STEM Education

Konferansebidrag publiseres i en egen artikkelsamling innenfor tidsskriftet Nordic Journal of STEM Education. Dette er en forholdsvis ny publiseringssanal, som også løpende tar i imot tidsskriftartikler (videreutviklede konferansebidrag og andre relevante artikler) som blir fagfellevurderet. Vi har nå for få personer registrert for å bidra med fagfellevurderinger, og vi håper de av dere det er aktuelt for både kan bidra selv, og ikke minst oppfordre andre kolleger til å registrere seg som reviewere på tidsskriftets nettside:

Utdanningsfaglig kompetanse er nå krav både ved ansettelse og opprykk, og kanalen er godt egnet for å dokumentere arbeid med dette. Reviewarbeid vil også være nyttig i en slik sammenheng. Kriterier for review fremgår av tidsskriftets nettside. Det bør være mulig for alle som underviser i MNT-fag, og har en vitenskapelig tilnærming til sitt arbeid, å både ha nytte av aktiv deltakelse selv og å bidra til at andre utvikler sitt arbeid.
Forskningsfrokost i regi NFR 29. oktober: Hvor gode er digitale læringsverktøy – egentlig?

Mer informasjon og lenke til påmelding her.

PhD updates

Trial lectures for the PhD degree

Xiaokang Zhang
October 19 at 13:15
Topic: Machine learning approaches in personalized medicine

Learn more and join in here

Yaxin Xue
October 26 at 13:00
Topic: Computational challenges and approaches linked to use of long-read sequencing in metagenomics

Learn more and join in here

ICT Research School Annual Meeting 2020
The ICT Research School 2020 is going to take place on 26-27 October 2020 in Park Hotel Vossevangen. You can find the current agenda on the event website. The ICT Research School's annual meeting is organized by and for PhD candidates at the Department of Informatics. The aim of this meeting is to strengthen networking and collaboration among the research school's PhD candidates, as well as to give them the opportunity to hold a seminar/lecture on an individually selected subject to complete the dissemination part of the training component. If you have any questions, please contact Alessandro Budroni, Nooshin Heidari, or Dan Zhang.

Department of Informatics Writing Workshop 2020 – Registration is now open!
Welcome to the Department of Informatics Writing Workshop 2020 (23-27 November 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!

Registration is now open. Registration deadline is 19 October 2020. Please find more detailed information here.
Develop your career and your academic skills

UiB’s University Library has compiled a website with information on career and training opportunities for PhDs and researchers. "If you want to learn more about scientific writing and publishing, collaborations, and open research, you can take online courses offered by Nature, gain insight through PhD on Track, or order courses."

“As a researcher at UiB, you have the opportunity to follow online courses from the prestigious Nature. The so-called Nature Masterclasses puts focus on the research process based on the natural sciences. Note that you will be asked to register when connecting for the first time. If you are off-campus, please make sure you are connected remotely. Choose between the following offers:

• Scientific Writing and Publishing
• Effective Collaboration in Research
• Focus on Peer Review

The national website PhD on Track targets PhD candidates and young researchers from all academic fields. The main topics are the research process, communicating results, and Open Science:

• Search and Review
• Share and Publish
• Open Science"

Find more detailed information on this website.

6th Annual NORBIS Conference, November 3 and 4
Due to the Covid-19 situation we have had to be creative and arrange the 6th Annual NORBIS Conference in a different way than originally planned. This year we will organize the conference as a hybrid meeting over one and a half days. We plan for the meeting to be streamed online and the different partner institutions arrange a local gathering for those who will/can meet in person. The local gatherings require that each partner institution have a local organization committee of 2-4 PhD students/postdocs who is responsible for finding a suitable location for the meeting, for setting up the technology for the local speakers and for showing the Zoom lectures on a big screen, and for arranging lunch on Nov 3 and 4 and dinner on Nov 3. The local committee is also responsible for ensuring Covid-19 hygiene and social distancing.

If, for a specific University, there is no committee that can arrange this locally, there will be no physical meeting and all participants from this city will meet on Zoom only. We therefore hope that some of you are eager to take part in the local organization, which counts as “active participation” in the same way as giving a talk or presenting a poster. You will be asked to specify your contribution in the online registration form. For the conference we plan for student talks, poster presentations, career development. We are also very happy to announce our keynote speakers: Oscar Rueda from University of Cambridge, Iain Johnston from University of Bergen and Solveig Engebretsen from researcher at Norwegian Computing Center.

Please find more information and link to registration here

Hope to see many of you in November!

Upcoming NORBIS courses:
Genome sequencing technologies, assembly, variant calling and statistical genomics
The first part of the course will provide a broad overview of genetic epidemiology and statistical genetics and the second part will cover genetic association analyses in detail.

Dates: 30th November – December 4th, 2020
Lecturers: Håkon K. Gjessing, Rolv Terje Lie, Anil Jugessur and others
Credits: 4 ECTS
Location: This course will be given online.

Registration and information Students who like to gain ECTS will have to register at UiB in addition. Visiting PhD students have to email contact-norbis@uib.no, Registration deadline for the course is 22nd November.
Department seminar
29th October at 14:15

This Department seminar is composed by speed talks given by our own in-house researchers. The goal is to make us a bit better informed on what our department colleagues are focusing on in their research.

Sjur Flåm
«The house wife, the shop owner, and others»

Mikhail Barash
«Specifying Software Languages»

Tom Michoel
«Correlation and causation: celebrating the 100th anniversary of path analysis»

Large Auditorium, VilVite
Refreshments will be served from 14:00
Department Seminar on 5 November

RCN Researcher Project calls 2021

Each year, the Research Council of Norway (RCN) has a call for Researcher Projects, inviting researchers from all fields to apply for funding to deliver new insights, advance research frontiers, promote scientific careers, establish and broaden international cooperation, facilitate excellent researcher training and more. With a deadline on 10 February 2021, researchers can apply in one of the following categories: Researcher Project for Scientific Renewal, Researcher Project for Young Research Talents, or Three-year Researcher Project with International Mobility. In addition, one can also apply for a Large-scale Interdisciplinary Researcher Project. All of these calls come with a different set of (eligibility) requirements. During the seminar, we will go through the main characteristics of each call and make you aware of the most important specificities. In addition, we will give you some tips on how you can improve key parts of the different chapters of the project description (excellence, impact, implementation). We will finish the seminar with an overview of the department’s proposal support services and information about the planned proposal writing calls for RCN newcomers. The seminar will be given by Stefanie Meyer, research coordinator at the Department of Informatics. Stefanie has worked as a research advisor for third funding for the past 5 years and has a broad overview over different local, national, and international funding bodies (including RCN, Trond Mohn Foundation, EU Horizon 2020, ERC, Marie Sklodowska Curie Actions).

More information and zoom link here.

Ocean Sustainability Bergen Conference, November 11

More information and sign up link
**ERC reading days in Bergen, November 19**

**ERC Proposal Reading Day**

The Research Council of Norway is organizing a new round of ERC reading days. The next event in Bergen will be on 19 November.

The reading days are open for researchers at Norwegian institutions (universities, university colleges, research institutes etc.) and for EU-advisers who are employed by Norwegian institutions. Please use your institutional e-mail address when you register.

This is an individual reading session only, and it does not include tutorials about the ERC. In order to participate you should be involved in preparing a proposal and familiar with the various ERC grant schemes, as well as the conditions for participation and proposal documents. You may stay as long as you wish during the session where you are registered.

The applications are available as paper copies. Due to a combination of Covid-19 restrictions, logistics and transportation, you will only be able to read the proposals that you selected beforehand. Each participant will be able to select up to three proposals. This is done in the registration form. If you have problems accessing the list of proposals on your mobile device, please register from a PC. You can find abstracts for all ERC funded projects on the ERC web page.

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**Invitation to register for NIKT2020, November 24 and 25**

This year’s NIKT2020 is approaching and we are happy to welcome you to register through our website. Due to the Covid-19 situation, we had to move NIKT online for 2020. In addition, this year’s conference has been shortened to two days, November 24th and 25th. However, we hope you will participate and find this year’s conference a good alternative to meet our fellow researchers in the Norwegian context. To ensure inclusion of young researchers, we welcome PhD-fellows and Master’s students without paper to participate at NIKT2020 to a reduced conference fee.

Zoom-links and passwords will be distributed through email closer to the conference.

We are looking forward to seeing you all on Zoom in November.

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**Meltzerfondets priser 2020**

Fondet vil den 8. mars 2021 dele ut Meltzerprisen for yngre forskere og Meltzerprisen for fremragende forskningsformidling.

Alle professorer og instituttledere ved Universitetet i Bergen har rett til å nominere kandidater til fondets priser. Forslagsstillere kan sende signert skriftlig nominasjon som pdf-vedlegg på e-post til kristin.hansen@uib.no ved Forsknings- og Innovasjonsavdelingen innen nominasjonsfrist 1. desember, 2020.

[Se sjekkliste for forslagsstillere](#)
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.

NEWS:
Kvotene for åpen publisering hos storforlag er brutt opp
UiB’s policy for Open Science

Open Access Week, October 19-23

Do you wonder...
- what the open science policies are?
- how to publish openly?
- how you can improve the openness and replicability of your research?
- what the FAIR-principles are and how you can comply with them?
- how you can manage and store your research data?
- how you can retain your intellectual property?

These and more questions will be answered during the Open Access Week taking place 19th-23rd of October.

Open Access Week is an annual scholarly communication event focusing on open access and related topics. It takes place globally during the last full week of October in a multitude of locations both on- and offline.

See the website for the program and registration for the individual workshops. (© text: UB, © picture: Kjersti H. Enerstvedt, UB)
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.

Researcher Projects 2021. The Research Council has announced calls for Researcher projects, which “are to contribute to important new insights, scientific publication, researcher training and international research collaboration.” Currently, the following calls are announced:

- **Researcher Projects for Scientific Renewal**
- **Researcher Projects for Young Talents**
- **Three-year Researcher Projects with International Mobility**
- **Large-scale Interdisciplinary Researcher Project**

Application deadline: 10 February 2021.

National Research Schools. “Forskningsrådet planlegger å lyse ut minimum 176 millioner kroner til nasjonale forskerskoler. Formålet med forskerskolene er å bidra til samarbeid om doktorgradsutdanning slik at kandidatene får en koordinert og kvalitetsmessig god utdanning som kvalifiserer for forskning og for annet arbeid som krever god vitenskapelig innsikt og kompetanse.” More information about the call is available on the website.

Application deadline: 15 September 2021.

ERC. The European Research Council has announced the tentative application deadlines for 2021 on their website:

- **Starting Grant**, 9 March 2021
- **Consolidator Grant**, 20 April 2021
- **Advanced Grant**, 31 August 2021
- **No Synergy Grant call is planned for 2021 (foreseen again in 2022, possibly with an application deadline in late 2021).**
Young CAS Fellow programme. “As a Young CAS Fellow, you will receive a grant of up to NOK 200,000 in one year. The grant intends to fund the development of research, network building, and three gatherings during the 2021/22 academic year. [...] The grant is supposed to cover travel, accommodation, and food expenses. The grant does not cover buyout.” You can find the full call here. Application deadline: 1 December 2020.


UiB FRAM – Framework conditions for improving research quality. UiB has started a process to investigate and define what the key conditions are for conducting high-quality research at the university. The process will involve both qualitative and quantitative methods (interviews with selected staff and a questionnaire sent to all scientific staff). Detailed information can be found on this website (in Norwegian only).

Video academy to design and write competitive ERC proposals. “Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, [UiB] cannot offer a physical course this year, but you can learn all about the ERC whenever it suits you wherever you have internet access.” Basic course: 4 – 17 November 2020. Beyond Academy: 18 November – 4 December 2020. Registration deadline: 19 October – 1 November 2020.


ERC Proposal Reading Days. The Research Council of Norway is organizing a new round of ERC reading days where you have the chance to look at successful ERC proposals. Event in Bergen: 19 November 2020.
Vacant positions

PhD in digital security (for Norwegians working in industry) supported by NFR
If you know any Norwegian working for industry and interested in PhD in digital security, please check here. Also the Selmer group can provide supervision for some.

HR – HSE (Health, Safety and Environment) - Welfare

Ergonomic assessment of office workplaces on October 21
UiB’s physiotherapist will visit us on Wednesday 21st October 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 February 2020, 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.

New application period for the cottages at Ustaoset and Tingviken - Winter 2021
It is now opened to apply for U-heimen, Ottesheimen and Butten at Ustaoset and Tingviken at Utne for the autumn period from 3rd January until 5th April 2021.

Please use the UoB electronic cabin system by logging in with your normal username and password.

The application deadline is 4th November. Drawing will be done 6th November.

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