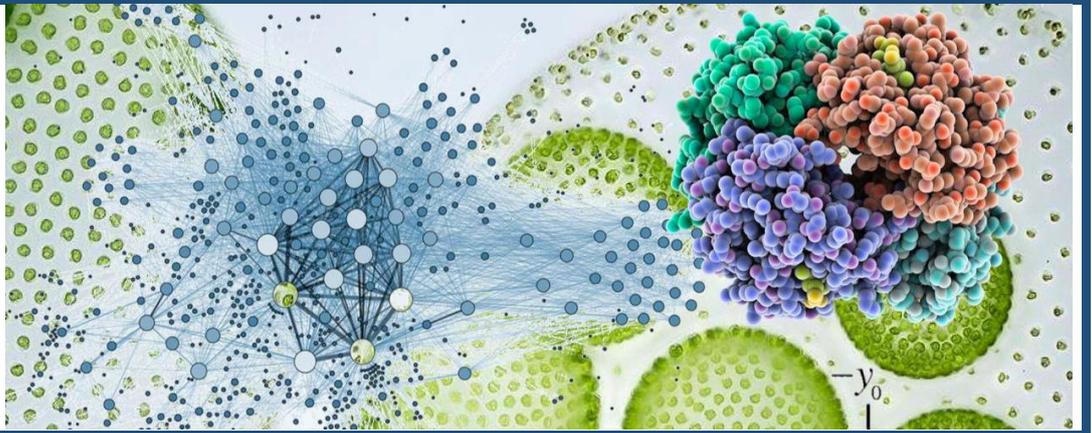


NEWSLETTER

Department of
Informatics



No. 18/2020
30th October 2020



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

Dear colleagues,

Every now and then, we get headlines informing about the “paradox” that private companies and public administration in Norway are urgently in need of many more ICT specialists, while at the same time many new graduates in ICT are having a hard time finding a job. At each such occasion, we tell the authorities, journalists, and [NIFU](#) that one cannot classify a wide range of studies with a huge variation in content as “ICT studies”. Students graduating from programs with the “right” content, have no problems in getting a job. Most of our master students get a job contract long before they graduate.

The description of “right content” is often debated in the media. Sometimes we are given the impression that companies find universities outdated and not able to keep up with the recent technological developments. Our interaction with companies does not indicate this at all. What they need is a work force that has a solid education based on the fundamentals of computer science. They want people who know how to implement an efficient shortest path algorithm rather than “reinventing the wheel”, people who understand the difficulty of various scheduling problems and know how to attack them rather than trying to come up with exponential-time solutions, people who understand security issues of software, information and communication and know how to deal with these rather than ignore and hope for the best, people who know how to handle and extract useful information from huge data sets.



In the most recent [NIFU report](#) on the matter, our criticism is into account to some degree, and one has differentiated between study programs and institutions. Two interesting findings of the report are:

- ICT graduates from Universities of Bergen and Trondheim find jobs easier than those from University of Oslo.
- ICT graduates from programs with contents in information and communication security and reliable software find jobs easier than other programs.

The second point is not at all surprising to us, and it reasons well with our study programs and the fact that companies are extremely eager to hire our graduates. The first point is somewhat surprising because most companies hiring fresh ICT graduates are in Oslo, and in fact around 70% of all our master graduates move to Oslo. Is this a problem for us? Not really, we think big and our recruitment base for students is the whole country; our graduates can be good ambassadors to bring more students to Bergen from the eastern parts of Norway.

However, it is a problem for private companies and public administration in Bergen. They complain about the ICT brain drain to Oslo, but they are not as willing as companies in Oslo to hire fresh graduates. In job announcements from Bergen, two to three years of experience is often required. We are constantly communicating with companies to change this attitude, and fortunately more and more are now waiving the experience requirement.

I think it is important for our university to lead the way in this direction. Not only with respect to graduates of ICT programs but of all programs. Every year we graduate a highly skilled work force that we are proud of, for a huge variety of job tasks. When we announce technical and administrative positions, we should think very carefully, about whether we need to insist on experience.

I wish you 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: [Derfor står mye på spill i utviklingen av Nygårdshøyden sør](#) - [Eit budsjett som satsar på utdanning](#) - [Vi vil svært gjerne ta vare på førstesemesterstudentene](#) - [I koronatider må forskningen beskyttes](#)



Congratulations colleagues!

Award at the Computer Graphics International conference 2020!



Eric Mörth



Ingrid Haldorsen



Noeska Smit



Stefan Bruckner



Endometrial Cancer is the most common gynecological cancer in industrialized countries. To improve quality of life for the affected patients, researchers of the Mohn Medical Imaging and Visualization Center (MMIV) strive for a personalized treatment for every patient. In order to analyze the multiple medical imaging scans, we developed, together with gynecological tumor radiology experts, machine learning experts and neurological cancer imaging experts, ParaGlyder. ParaGlyder is a design study in which we use interactive visual analysis to support the discrimination between healthy and cancerous tissue and to potentially highlight metastases. Finally, our application may help medical experts to provide fully personalized treatment for every patient to maximize the quality of life in the future for everyone affected by gynecological cancer.



Overview of Department Thursday seminars booked so far the rest of this semester

November 5	Stefanie Meyer: Funding sources and research advisor's services
November 19	Enrico Motta: Integrating AI paradigms to make sense of big data (and the world)
November 26	Aidan Hogan: Knowledge Graphs: Research Directions
December 3	Speed Talks (Sayan Bandyopadhyay, Ana Ozaki and Stefan Bruckner)
December 10	HSE seminar

New local Safety delegates for 2021-2022



Effective from 01.01.2021, **Anna Kornienko** is our new local safety delegate. Anna's office is in the 5th floor, next to Inge.

Eirik Rekve Thorsheim is her deputy effective from the same date. Eirik's office is next to the Reception in the 4th floor.

Please find more information on [the Safety delegate arrangement here](#)

Corona updates and reminders

As the COVID-19 situation has worsened in Bergen, like in the rest of Norway and Europe, you have all received a message from UiB about new restrictions. [More information can be found here.](#)

We have all been working very hard to ensure an as open, inspiring and collaborative learning, research and working environment as possible under COVID-19 restrictions, at the same time making sure that everybody is safe and protected. We are by now used to restrictions being tightened and loosened, so I am confident that we will pass also this difficult period successfully, by paying close attention to the restrictions and complying with [the current rules both at and outside of work](#)

Our university's main goal at this point is to keep campus open for students, which requires quite a bit of faculty and staff to be present, as well. Specifically, our teaching at all levels will be continued as it is now: «*Teaching and examinations are carried out according to the plan. The 1-meter rule will be complied with in the teaching premises and the 2-meter rule will be complied with in the examination premises. Student workplaces will be open and accessible within current infection control measures.*»

Everybody who needs to be physically present at the department in order to take care of their duties, should meet on campus as usual: «*Professional tasks and functions that can only be handled on campus must be taken care of. The campus will be open to those who need to be physically present to perform their work.*»

If you are able to carry out your work from home in a satisfactory way, then you are asked to resort to home office: «*all citizens who are able to perform their work from home, are to do so*». You are the best judge of whether or not you are able to perform all your tasks from home. If not, you can be present at the department and use your office. If you are in doubt, please contact your closest leader (supervisor, project leader, center leader, etc.) or Linda. When you are working from home, you are expected to be available by email, Teams, etc.

Our students have received a separate email from our administration. Our faculty's study administration is helping the student councils throughout the faculty to continue with educational and social physical events in a safe way. Since our students are around and our building is not locked, Linda, myself and most members of the administration will be present at the department.

Please note that [face masks are mandatory](#) indoors in public places and public transportation in situations where the 1 meter rule cannot be complied with. We have reusable face masks with department logo; you can get yours from Ingrid.

At this point, it is more important than ever to make sure that one respects the infection control rules at every time. We have plenty of bottles of disinfecting gel and boxes of disinfecting wipes around (you can get new ones from Ingrid when old ones are empty). Please use them before and after touching surfaces that are also touched by others, like when you take coffee, tea, water, use kitchen cupboards or tools, and printers, and so on.

We have handled similar conditions before, and we will be able to handle this one as well, together!
Thanks for your cooperation and warm regards to all,

Short report from the Administration's Voss seminar this week



This year's administration seminar ended up with only half of our group going to Voss Monday-Tuesday this week.

We enjoyed a really good course in presentation technique given by a professional course holder from Visma. So, from now on you can expect huge improvements in our presentation skills!

😊 (no pressure, haha 😊)

We also enjoyed each-others company a lot and experienced that one should never underestimate the value of spending time together for building and strengthening a good team-spirit. Hereby recommended to all groups!

PhD updates

There's a new PhD in town – congratulations Xiaokang Zhang!



Xiaokang successfully defended his thesis "*Biomarker Discovery Using Statistical and Machine Learning Approaches on Gene Expression Data*" today October 30.

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

Congratulations to Xiaokang, the CBU and supervisor Inge!



Phd defense – Yaxin Xue



Yaxin Xue will defend his thesis "Development and application of computational methods for NGS-based microbiome research" on 5th November at 10:15 in a [digital meeting room \(zoom\)](#)

- Opponent: Professor Torbjørn Rognes, University of Oslo
- Opponent: Professor Jenni Hultman, University of Helsinki
- Committee member: Associate Professor Eivind Valen, UiB
- Leader of the defense: Professor Igor Semaev, UiB

Please find [the press release here](#)

All are welcome!

Picture report from the ICT Research School Annual Meeting 2020 at Voss

Monday and Tuesday this week, about 40 PhD students and also some professors/senior colleagues gathered at Voss for the annual ICT Research School Meeting 2020. Very good things about the quality of the presentations has been reported, and other positive feedback from the gathering as well. Congratulations to the organizing committee, PhD students Dan Zhang, Alessandro Budroni and Nooshin Heidari for performing an excellent organization of this event. We are very proud of you all!



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. The meeting will be streamed online and several of our partner institutions arranges a local gathering for those who will/can meet in person. In Bergen the meeting will be fully streamed online. ONLY those registered will gain access to posters. We will leave an open link to the meeting on our website for those who just want to listen in on lectures and talks.

In addition to three very interesting keynote lectures, there will be student talks, poster presentations and a talk about writing a funding application as a PhD student from NORBIS PhD-member Sophie Fisher. 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 who will give talks about breast cancer relapse, doing science with models and data, and spatial modelling of covid-19 in Norway respectively. Please find more information, keynote lecture abstracts and link to registration at [our website](#)

Hope to see many of you in November!



NORBIS

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. Location: This course will be given online

Lecturers: Håkon K. Gjessing, Rolv Terje Lie, Anil Jugessur and others

Credits: 4 ECTS

[Registration and information](#) Students who like to gain ECTS will have to register at UiB in addition. Visiting PhD students have to register on link found on our website. **Registration deadline** for the course is 22nd November.

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

Department seminar, November 5



© colourbox.com/23604

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 class 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 Skłodowska Curie Actions).

[More information and zoom link here.](#)

Ocean Sustainability Bergen Conference, November 11



[More information and sign up link](#)

Invitation to register for NIKT2020, November 24 and 25



Norwegian conference for ICT-research and education
University of South-Eastern Norway

24th - 25th November

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.

Day Zero – SDG Conference Bergen 2021



[Day Zero](#) (10 February 2021), is an event organized by UiB in connection to [the Fourth National SDG Conference Bergen](#): The SDGs after the crisis (10-12 February, 2021).

The topic of the conference this year is inequality. UiB is inviting its employees to **submit workshop abstracts for Day Zero by 15 November**. The link for submitting your ideas can be found on the Day Zero website.

[More info and sign up here.](#)
[Facebook event here.](#)

Day Zero er åpen for alle som vil diskutere tematikk relatert til FNs bærekraftsmål. Frist for innsending av forslag til workshop-tematikk er 15. november. Foto: Paul S. Amundsen/UiB

Check out this [På Høyden news article](#) on the event.

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](#)

NEWS:

[Kvotene for åpen publisering hos storforlag er brukt opp](#)
[UiB's policy for Open Science](#)

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.



Student Entrepreneurship. This is a call for students with business ideas. For more detailed information, please have a look at the [RCN call website](#) and consult [UiB's innovation support services for students](#). **Application deadline: 17 March 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).



Meltzer Foundation. Researchers from the University of Bergen can apply for financial support for [academic travels and sabbaticals](#). In addition, the foundation supports talented [students and PhD candidates](#) with project stipends that can be used for covering costs in connection with their projects, for example research travel, field work, equipment, materials etc. **Application deadline: 1 December 2020.**

See below some more information about Meltzer prizes.



SPIRE. [SPIRE-funds](#) are strategic funds that shall help to facilitate international research collaboration. One can apply for funds in two different categories:

- 1) international research collaboration (max per application: 200 000 NOK; additional details are mentioned on the website)
- 2) invitation of guest researchers (consult the website for rates and requirements).

Application deadline: 1 December 2020. Please send your applications to Stefanie.Meyer@uib.no.



PhD positions in Climate and energy transition. You have again the opportunity to apply for PhD-funding from UiB within the university's strategic area "Climate and energy transition". The department's **deadline is 12 November!** For further information about the call and proposal submission, please contact Stefanie.Meyer@uib.no.

Need help?

*Please contact research coordinator [Stefanie Meyer](#) if you have questions with regard to your **planned and ongoing funding applications** as well as **all contractual work related to external funds!** All applications and agreements/ contracts need to be approved by the department leadership. In addition, you can have a look at our websites for [research support services](#). There you will find a list of our services.*



Webinar on RCN calls for Researcher Projects 2021. The Research Council of Norway will hold a series of webinars on the 2021 calls for Researcher Projects (as well as Collaborative and Knowledge-building Projects). **Event for universities: 10 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.**

Meltzerfondets priser 2020



L. MELTZERS HØYSKOLEFOND



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. Forslagsstiller 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](#)

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.

PhD position in Informatics - Computational Biology and Machine Learning

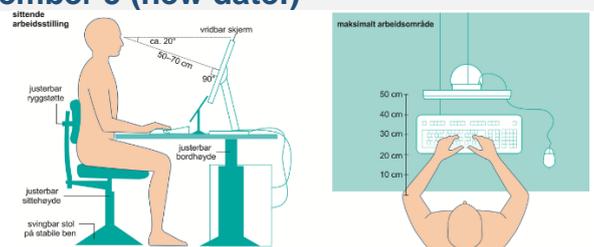
Please find [the announcement here](#). Closing date: 20th November.

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

Ergonomic assessment of office workplaces on November 5 (new date!)

UiB's physiotherapist rescheduled and will visit us on Thursday 5th November 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](#).



God morgen!



What a nice welcome when entering the building in the morning!

Thank you for making us start the day with a smile, Randi!

New application period for the cottages at Ustaoset and Tingviken - Winter 2021



It is now opened to apply for U-heimen, Otteshheimen 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](#)

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