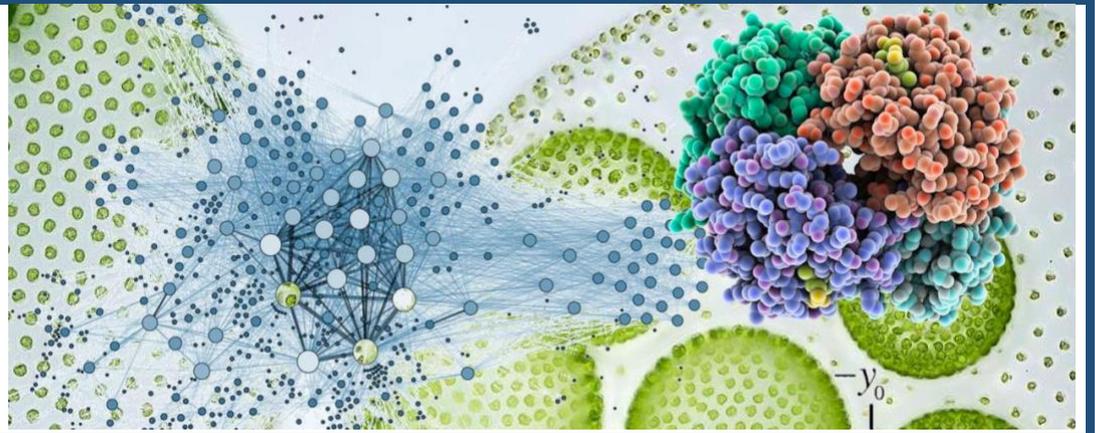


NEWSLETTER

Department of
Informatics



No. 5/2020
13th March 2020



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

Dear colleagues,

Wow! What an extraordinary time this is.

Since yesterday, I have been writing and editing this piece of text, updating it every time we received new information. In the end, I decided to start all over again.

We are in a situation which most of us has never experienced before. Asking our students to leave campus yesterday, was perhaps the saddest thing I have done as the head of department. At least that is what I thought at that point. But then, leaving office yesterday afternoon as one of the last people, with all the empty corridors and the turned off lights, not knowing when we can be back, was even sadder. People looked at me strangely in the street, with tears running down from my cheek.



Today, however, I am very happy! I am extremely touched and moved (so still tears, but of happiness this time) by the commitment and dedication that each and every one of you are showing in continuing our education and other activities up and running! There is an ongoing vibrant discussion on various educational online tools to use for teaching outside of classroom, and your eagerness to share and help is out of this world. Several of our PhD students who do not have teaching duties have offered their help as online TAs in case extra hands are needed. Our administrative staff are helping our educators and our students via emails and Skype, and our HR division is keeping close contact with our new employees, who have recently arrived in Bergen or are supposed to arrive soon. Most of them have to start their new life in Bergen in home quarantine. Several of us have offered help to buy food and other supplies and bring it to them during their first 14 days in Bergen.

I am truly amazed by this impressive “dugnadsånd” that each and every one of you is showing at a time like this. THANK YOU! This shows that the true spirit of an organization, or perhaps of humans in general, come to surface at difficult times. You might also like to know how hard and efficiently our university and faculty leaderships are working. Email discussions have been running all night, committees have been appointed and are already operative, and emergency plans are made and put to work. A lot of work falls in particular on the shoulders of the IT division, study administrative division, and Læringslabben, as they are working impressively fast in providing online teaching tools. I am mostly amazed by how fast we get replies to our emails, while these people are in the middle of enormous amounts of hard and difficult work.

I am very proud to be a part of UiB, very proud that our university took action even before the government, and very proud that we have been able keep very good communication with our students. In fact, on a personal level, I am providing the information from UiB to my own son who is an exchange student at a far-away place, because his Norwegian university does not provide as good information as UiB does for our exchange students.

Hence, although the situation is hard, sad, and serious, there is also plenty of things to be happy for. On a more general level, for example, it is predicted that canceled travels will give such a positive effect on air pollution in some countries, that more lives will be saved than those lost. It is ironic that even those of us who are seriously concerned about climate changes and environmental challenges, needed such an urgent crisis to actually cancel and reduce our travels, start using meetings over the Internet, and think of other alternative solutions.

The introduced measures have already forced us to rethink our ways to teach and collaborate, and to start using tools provided by UiB what we never found the time to test out before. I am confident that we will learn a lot and we will come out strengthened from this situation. As international research is in “our blood” and we are used to communicating with our peers over the Internet, I haven’t been so worried about our research being put on hold, to be honest. Of course, canceled conferences, visits, research stays, and so on will have a negative effect, but most researchers throughout the world are more or less in the same situation, so I expect that there is a big understanding

among our peers. Recall that also schools and kinder gardens are closed, which puts an extra burden on our colleagues with small children. We cannot expect that they work at full capacity with their young ones around all the time. I am sure that everybody will be understanding and patient with each other at this time.

I want to once again thank you all for your cooperation and for your wonderful efforts! I hope we will see each other soon again; until then I will really miss you. Needless to say, I am present for you 24/7 via phone, Skype and email.

I wish for all of you to stay healthy and safe, and I wish you a very nice weekend,
Pinar

From our dean

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: [Det er ikke nok å bare kunne litt programmering](#) - [Det er ikke rart det blir bråk av slikt](#) - [Strategien som former bærekraft-samfunnet](#) - [Matematikk vil fortsatt være bærebjelken i alt vi driver med](#)



Welcome new colleagues!



Andrey Bogdanov

Andrey started in his new position as Professor in information security – applied cryptography in February. He will be part of Selmer Center, the Secure and Reliable communication research group. We searched for an internationally recognized expert in cryptography with primary focus in block ciphers and with considerable industrial and innovation experience – and got one 😊

Andrey is Russian. He did his PhD (Dr.-Ing) at the Ruhr University Bochum in Germany in 2009. He then did a postdoc at the KU Leuven in Belgium, and since 2012 he has served as Assistant/Associate Professor at the Technical University of Denmark.



Eirik Rekve Thorsheim

Eirik started in his new position as study advisor in the study administration in March. His main work field will be administrative coordinating of the new INF100 course for all students at the Faculty of Maths and Natural sciences. He will also be coordinating the new year study (årsstudium) in informatics, and will be taking over some over Liljan's work tasks when she retires in April.

Eirik holds a Master's in comparative politics from the UiB in 2019. He has been an active student and contributed both as seminar leader and leader of the student's committee at his bachelor program in European studies.

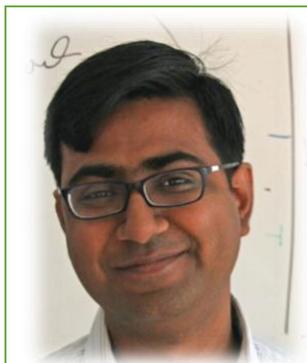


Stein Dahl

Stein is a new PhD student in the Selmer group. He is employed by Nasjonal sikkerhetsmyndighet (NSM), but will have his office and duty work here at our department. Andrey Bogdanov will be his main supervisor.

Stein is Norwegian. He finished his Master's in Computational Science at the University of Oslo in February this year.

Congratulations colleagues!



Saket Saurabh

Saket was one of two winners of this year's Meltzer prize for young researchers!

Warm congratulations, Saket – the department and all your colleagues are extremely proud of you!

Please read nice news articles about this at [UiB.no here](#) and in [På Høyden here](#).



Vincent Rijmen

Vincent got RSA [award](#) for excellence in mathematics! Proud congratulations to you from all of us!

The prize was announced at the "[RSA® Conference](#), the world's leading information security conferences and expositions. The award, chosen by an esteemed judging committee, recognizes innovation and ongoing contributions to the field of cryptography and mathematics. Daemen and Rijmen were selected out of dozens of nominated individuals and organizations, many affiliated with universities or research labs, who are all pioneers in their field and whose work has applied lasting value.

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

Coronavirus update - <https://www.uib.no/korona>



Employees and students have to follow the advices given by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and National Institute of Public Health. Photo: Colourbox.com

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

Sadly, the following events that we were very much looking forward to are canceled or postponed:

- Department gathering at Voss April 27-28.
- NORA annual conference in Oslo April 21.
- CEDAS kick-off conference in Bergen June 15-16.
- Faculty & Staff Lunches for the rest of the semester.
- Weekly kakeklubben and yoga for the rest of the semester.

Here is a summary of the information that you have already received by email:

- The campus is closed for students and employees; we are all to work from home.
- Lectures are to be conducted via digital platforms.
- All work related travels are cancelled. Private travels are discouraged.
- All events organized by UiB personnel and students are canceled.
- UiB is buying new licenses for various digital tools, like Zoom. Please check <https://www.uib.no/korona> to see the progress.
- All Sammen cafeterias and gyms are closed.

- For those taking care of small children, due to closed kindergartens, as well as working from home, the government has indicated that the quota for self-reporting of sick leave for staying home with sick children shall be increased. More precise information will come later.
- [Information on how to handle reimbursement of cancelled travels and events.](#)
- New measures might be introduced with short notice, please check updates, read your emails, and <https://www.uib.no/korona> frequently.

Informatics Day March 11



Our annual information meeting for prospective students was scheduled on Wednesday March 11. It took place right before the new measures were introduced. We hope to many of these young people as our new students the upcoming fall semester!

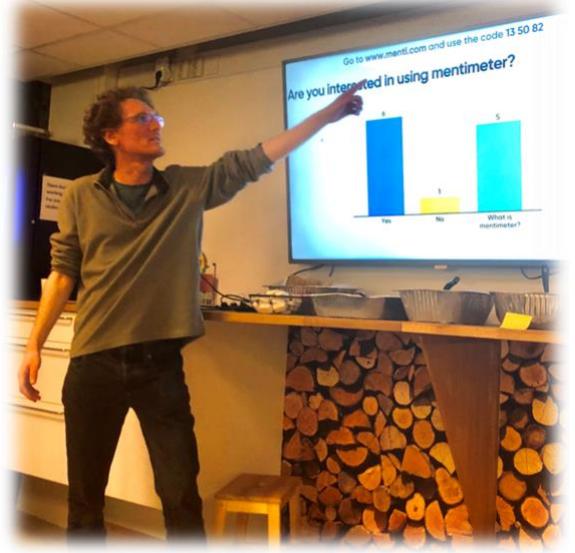
Report from the Faculty & Staff lunch on March 3



Happy 60th birthday to our dear professor Øyvind Ytrehus!



Ingrid receiving the prize for 1st place in the first round of our stair case competition 😊



David's demo of Mentimeter – a tool for interactive communication with large audiences – for example lectures for many students. When you present, your audience uses their smartphones to connect to the presentation where they can answer questions, give feedback and much more. One can also visualize their responses in real-time to create a fun and interactive experience.

Den store formidlingsprisen 2020

Fakultetet fortsetter arbeidet med å stimulere til økt formidling, og opprettet i fjor en pris på 50 000 kroner som deles ut i forbindelse med bachelorseremonien i Universitetsaulaen i juni.

Kandidaten vurderes etter følgende kriterier: «*Formidlingsprisen skal inspirere til å ta formidlingsoppdraget alvorlig. Prisvinneren skal strekke seg langt for å bidra til å opplyse samfunnet, skape debatt, synliggjøre forskning og utdanning ved Det matematisk-naturvitenskapelige fakultetet, stimulere til formidling eller på annen måte være en viktig bidragsyter til kunnskapsspredning og samfunnsdebatt.*»

Alle som studerer, arbeider eller forsker under Det matematisk-naturvitenskapelige fakultetet oppfordres til å [sende inn nominasjoner her](#). Det er også mulig å nominere flere personer. Frist for å nominere kandidater er **15. mai 2020**.

Nytt forslag om UH-lov

13. februar ble [Aune-utvalgets](#) forslag til ny [universitets- og høyskole lov](#) lagt fram. For de som ikke har hatt tid til å lese NoU-ens over 400 sider har [Khrono sammenfattet de viktigste forslagene](#).

Her er noen av disse:

- Krav om to sensorer ved alle eksamener og prøver
- Blind sensur fjernes. Det skal sikre reell overprøving av første karaktervedtak
- Fjerner hjemmel til å gi tilleggspoeng til det underrepresenterte kjønn
- Ny karakterskala i tillegg til dagens to. Skalaen som foreslås: Utmerket, bestått, ikke bestått
- Styreleder skal være ekstern, oppnevnes av departementet
- Institusjonen velger selv om den skal ha valgt eller ansatt rektor
- Ved valg til rektor: lik vektning av stemmer for alle grupper av ansatte (studentenes stemmer vil fortsatt vekte 25%)

A meeting was planned on March 19 to discuss this, but we expect it to be canceled. We will keep you informed on the process when we receive more information.

Nomination for election – Faculty board

Election of members to [group B](#) (temporary academic staff) and [group D](#) (students) of the MN-Faculty- and Institute Boards - spring 2020. The candidates will be elected for the term 01.08.2020 – 31.07.2021.

Are you interested in running, or do you know someone who wants to be part of the MN-Faculty board, or of their respective Institute Board we would like to hear from you! Deadline for proposals: 20th March, 12:00 PM

For more information about the election and how to run, please visit the [MN-website](#).

Nomination for election – Department Board

Each year group B (temporary academic staff) and group D (students) elect new members to the Informatics Institute Board. The deadline for nominating your candidates is 20th March at 12 pm. The candidates will be elected for the term 01.08.2020 – 31.07.2021.

Are you interested in running, or do you know someone who wants to be part of the Informatics Institute Board we would like to hear from you!

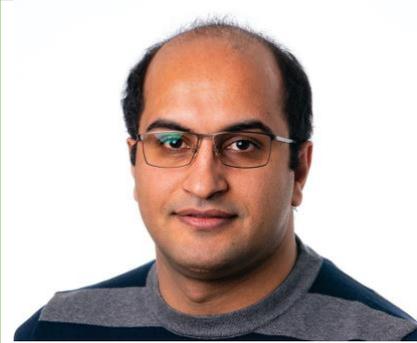
Deadline for proposals: 20th March 2020, 12:00 PM.

[More information about the election and how to run](#)



PhD Updates

There's a new PhD in town – congratulations Navid Bardeh!



Navid successfully defended his thesis "New Approaches to the Cryptanalysis of Block Ciphers" on 10th March.

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

Congratulations to Navid, the Selmer group and to supervisor Tor Helleseth!



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! At this point, we would like to highlight the following upcoming calls and funding/research-related events:



IKTPLUSS. A new call on "Kunstig intelligens, robotikk og autonomi med tilhørende systemer" has been announced by the NFR. 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.**



Corona update. The RCN has published some additional information for ongoing and planned projects affected by the outbreak of the Corona virus and resulting measures to prevent the virus from spreading further.



Researcher Projects 2020. This year, an individual may serve as project manager for only one grant application submitted for Researcher Projects for Scientific Renewal, Researcher Projects for Young Talents, and Three-year Researcher Projects with International Mobility for the 6 May 2020 deadline. In addition, the same individual can serve as project manager for one grant application for a Large-scale Interdisciplinary Researcher Project. Please note that IKTPLUS has no separate sub-call(s) in relation to the May deadline; they have the open-ended calls and, in addition, 25 million NOK are earmarked for ICT-research and digital transformation under the FRIPRO scheme (deadline 6 May). **Application deadline: 6 May 2020.**



Marie Skłodowska-Curie Individual Fellowships.

The MSCA Individual Fellowships are highly attractive mobility grants for experienced researchers as they actively support the individuals' careers. Researchers from all scientific disciplines can apply, and funding includes an allowance to cover living, travel and family costs as well as costs for training, networking, research, management and indirect costs. Find out more about MSCA-IF on [this website](#).

Application deadline: 9 September 2020.



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, and 2) invitation of guest researchers. The faculty has now announced a new SPIRE call because not all funds from round 1 have been used up. In category 1, you can apply for up to 200 000 kr. Otherwise, the university's guidelines stated on their website apply. **The department's application deadline: 20 March 2020, 10 am (Norwegian time).** Please send your applications to Stefanie.Meyer@uib.no.



COST. COST is the European Cooperation in Science and Technology.

The organization provides funds for researchers from all fields to set up international, interdisciplinary research networks (so-called COST Actions). COST Actions run on average for 4 years and require the participation of at least seven COST Members. **Application deadline: 29 April 2020.**

Vacant positions

Stipendiat i informatikk - programutviklingsteori

Her finner du [annonsen](#). Søknadsfrist: 31.03.2020.

Researcher position in Software Language Engineering

Please find the announcement [here](#). Closing date: 31.03.2020.

PhD position in informatics - Algorithmic foundations of big data

Please find the announcement [here](#). Closing date: 31.03.2020.

Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Informatics – Algorithms

Please find the announcement [here](#). Closing date: 01.04.2020.

Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Molecular and Cancer Biology

Please find the announcement [here](#). Closing date: 12.04.2020.

Postdoctoral Research Fellow in Informatics - Bioinformatics

Please find the announcement [here](#). Closing date: 12.04.2020.

Postdoctoral Research Fellow position in Informatics - Applied cryptology

Please find the announcement [here](#). Closing date: 30.04.2020.

PhD position in Informatics - Applied cryptology

Please find the announcement [here](#). Closing date: 30.04.2020.

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

Scheduled Power Stop in our building on April 17-19!

On April 17-19, the main power supply to Thormøhlens gate 55 (Datablokken) will be replaced. This means that the building will be closed in the period from 17 April at 17.00 until 19 April at 24:00.

During this period, the building will be closed off and no one will have access to the building other than those working with the power supply.

Important! The building will be able to regain power at any time during this period. It is important that all planned activities in the building during this period are moved or postponed. The building is secured with 24-hour security and fire guards. For questions, contact the UiB Real Estate Department, tel. 55 58 49 00

Fire Safety courses, spring semester 2020

All employees at the UiB are required to complete a fire safety course. The course lasts two hours – 1 hour of theory and 1 hour of practice. If you have not attended a course previously, you are required to do so as soon as possible.

Thursdays March 19 (will probably be cancelled), April 23 (will probably be cancelled), May 28 and June 25.

Please notice that this spring semester there will be one course in English intended for non-Norwegian speaking staff: Thursday June 25.

[Follow this link to sign up](#). For «Fakturadresse» use this code: 121200



Brannøvelse

Aksjon «Sykle til jobben» 2020

Informatics people – please join in! This is actually not only for those who bicycle to and from work – all physical activities and sports activities counts! The II Administration is already in with a team of 5 (Pål, Linda, Tor, Eirik and Pinar) 😊 We challenge all the II research groups to join. If there will be more than two teams from our department – we will set up an internal prize for the best II-team!

[Registration here](#)

