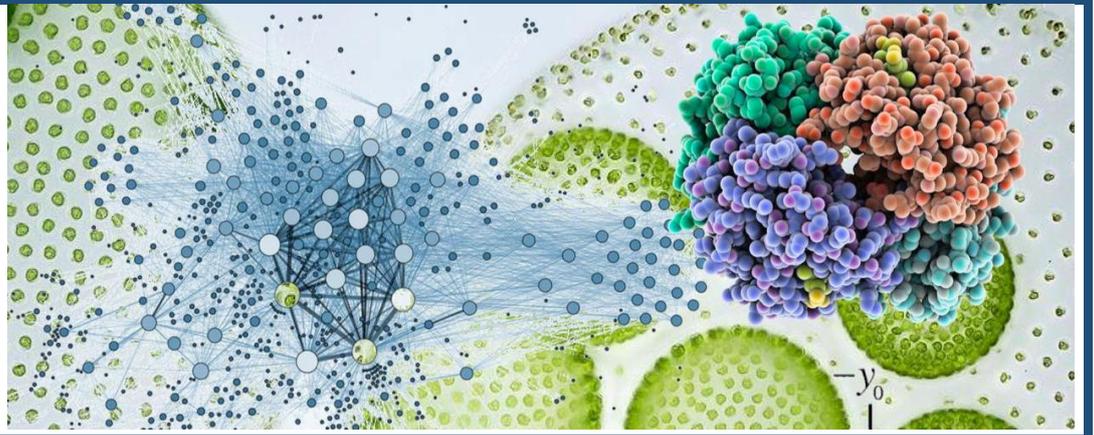


NEWSLETTER

Department of
Informatics



No. 6/2020
27th March 2020



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

Dear colleagues,

After an emotional introduction to the previous newsletter, and an even more emotional email that you received last Friday, I would like us for a moment to forget about the sad background that puts us in today's extraordinary situation, and simply concentrate on some good news and positive experiences.

The department of informatics has now three full-time female associate professors, and three full-time female full professors! These wonderful numbers are thanks to Susanna Röblitz, who has just been awarded a promotion to full professor, and Ana Ozaki who joined our department last week. In addition, we are lucky to have three other female full professors at CBU, whom we consider our department colleagues, although their formal employment lies with other departments, as well as our female adjunct faculty members. This presence is a motivation for our female students and younger colleagues. In fact, just around this time last year, I shared with you the happy news of Lilya Budaghyan becoming a full professor, which gave a 100% increase in the number of female full professors of informatics. Already a year later, we have now a new 50% increase. Knowing how bright and promising all our young associate professors are, I expect the increase to continue steadily, not only for the females but for all.



Now that we are all at home, one would perhaps think that we interact less, at least socially. Interesting enough, my experience is quite the opposite! During our normal regime, I find it difficult to make it to the 4th floor lunches and weekly Kakeklubben meetings regularly. However, now that I don't need to physically move between meetings, I am able to join all of these fun events. Many of my meetings end 12:00 somewhere else on campus. Now they end 12:00 on my couch, and I can immediately join the lunch or Kakeklubben! Already after two weeks, I feel like I have got to know some of you better than before. The fact that we get to see the inside of our colleagues' homes (sometimes also their children) and most of us are less formally dressed than normal, adds perhaps a touch of intimacy to our interaction.

I must say I am very impressed by the level of Norwegian spoken at Kakeklubben! All of you Kakeklubben members are more than ready to be able to serve on committees and boards where the working language is Norwegian. This in turns will enable us to participate more in important arenas and make an impact on the research and education agenda of Norway. Well done all of you!

Finally, I am infinitely impressed by and extremely grateful for your dedication to teaching and the best being of our students. Your participation in email discussions and online meetings about the subject, your creativity for solutions, your to the point questions and comments, and the time that you are putting into making this work, are way above any level that would be reasonable to expect from you. When I write "you", I do not mean only faculty members and TAs; this fully applies also to our study administration, whose work load has increased substantially. Your flexibility and your ability to live in the "unknown" amazes me.

Speaking of the "unknown", receiving new colleagues is exceptionally challenging these days. Some have arrived but have not been to our department yet, some had to delay their arrival, and some are still in an uncertain situation not knowing whether they can arrive as planned or not. Fortunately, our new colleagues are all exceptionally positive, warm and creative people. Not a single complaint; they are taking this impressively well. The good mood is by large ensured by our administration, in particular our HR officer Lene, who has been working extremely hard to make adequate arrangements for all our new colleagues and to onboard them.

I am very very proud of you all! 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: [Omstilling i virrevandringens tid](#) - [Dugnadsånd i ei krise](#) - [Det er ikke nok å bare kunne litt programmering](#) - [Det er ikke rart det blir bråk av slikt](#)



Welcome new colleagues!



Ana Ozaki

Ana started last week in her new position as Tenure Track Associate Professor in Machine Learning. Pekka and Pinar will be serving as her mentors.

Her research aims at learning logical theories using mathematical models from computational learning theory. In particular, she is interested in the exact and probably approximately correct learning models extended with membership queries (this topic of study is also called active learning).

Ana is Brazilian. She did her PhD in Computer Science at the Faculty of Computer Science in Liverpool, UK in 2016. She then did a postdoc at the Technical University of Dresden, Germany, before she moved to Italy for a position as assistant professor at the Free University of Bozen-Bolzano.



Troels Arnfred Bojesen

On 1st April, Troels enters into his new position as postdoctoral research fellow position within Machine Learning. He will be working from Japan as guest researcher at the University of Tokyo until the Corona travel restrictions has ended.

Troels is Danish. He did his PhD in theoretical condensed matter physics at the NTNU in 2014. Since then, he has held two postdoctoral researcher positions in Japan. The first one in Quantum Matter Theory Research Team, RIKEN, Wako, Saitama, Japan, and the second at the Motome Group, Department of Applied Physics, The University of Tokyo, Bunkyo, where he did research in Kitaev spin liquid physics, improved simulation tools for computational manybody physics (Markov chain Monte Carlo methods, reinforcement learning, generative modeling).



Cosimo Persia

On 1st April, Cosimo starts in his new PhD position in Machine Learning. Ana Ozaki will be his main supervisor.

Cosimo is Italian. He did his Master's in Computational Logic in 2019 - a Joint Master Degree between Technische Universität Dresden, Germany and Free University of Bozen/Bolzano, Italy. The title of his thesis is "Learning Lightweight Query Inseparable Ontologies".



Anna Kornienko

Anna starts in her new position as administrative coordinator for CBU on 1st April. She will be working close with Inge and his team, and her office will be in the 5th floor. She will also be part of our department administration and cooperate with them on a daily basis.

Anna is from Ukraine, but is now a Norwegian citizen. She holds a Master's in pedagogy and also two bachelors in psychology and in English. Her last position before she came to us, was an administrative position at the Norwegian School of Economics (NHH).

Congratulations colleagues!



Susanna Röblitz

Congratulations to Susanna who has just been promoted to full professor!

Her new title and position are effective already from September 1, 2019, which was the application deadline for promotions to the national board of professor promotions in informatics.



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

Corona situation 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.

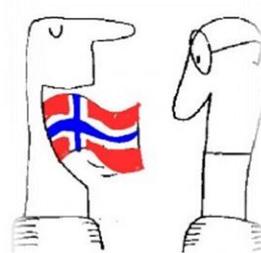
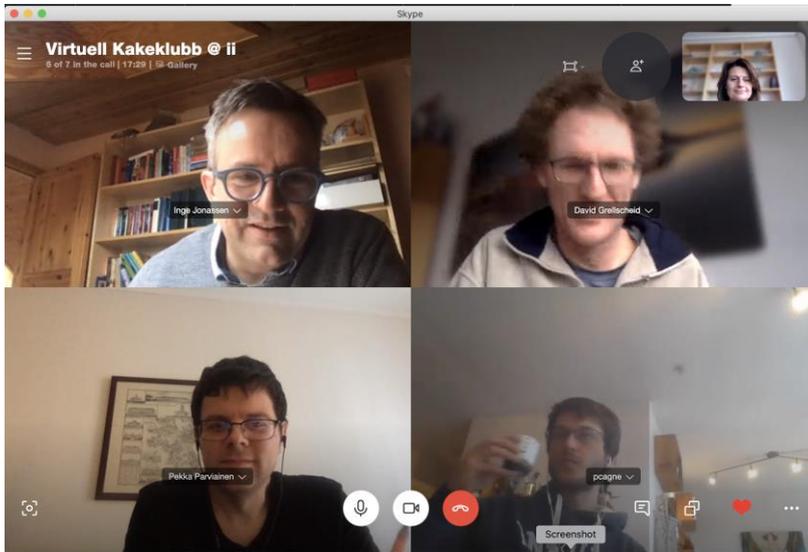
There is an [online seminar today](#), Friday March 27, between 14:15 and 15:00, where the whole UiB leadership will be available.

- **Access to our building.** Only Pinar, Inge, Linda, Stanislav and Olaf have access at to Datablokken. Linda makes a full inspection of all our floors once a week, and also brings our parcels to Datablokken from the parcel reception at our neighbor department BIO. Linda is also available almost any day if anyone needs to pick up something from their offices (screens, keyboards, office chairs, white boards (! 😊) or other things). At the moment, she lives only a 6-7 minutes' walk from the department, so do not hesitate to schedule an appointment with her if needed.
- **Ergonomics in the home office.** This is important to be aware of, especially if the home office regime turns out to be a long-term situation. Please find some advice from UiB's occupational health service on how to prevent muscle and skeletal disorders in your new working environment [here](#)
- **Coverage of wifi costs.** During the period with home office, UiB will grant each individual employee NOK 100 per month to cover possible additional 4G costs. Payment will be made automatically after this extraordinary period is over and in connection with the payment of the main salary.
- **Cancelled travels.** Please find updated information on how to proceed [here](#). Tor will also guide you and assist you on this if needed. He is fully operative from his home office, and you are welcome to contact him by email or phone.
- **Layoff.** In accordance with current regulations, the state does not lay off employees. However, the UiB has the opportunity to temporarily redeploy employees to take care of other tasks and functions.
- **Time based contracts.** The student group leaders have such contract, but will get paid according to the specifications in their contracts regardless of if they are able to perform all the work initially planned or not. Please note that we are allowed to redirect their work force to other tasks. An example from the SV-fak: they are using their group leaders to phone call all their students to ask how they are doing, if they need any help or have input for how we can improve.
- **Holidays granted during this period.** Employees can have planned holiday period postponed until later in the holiday year if needed. However, we are all still encouraged to taking time off from work / spending holidays during Easter – many of us are working even harder than normal now, and taking a long week of holiday might be a good idea health wise.
- **PhD and postdoctoral fellows - extension of the year-end period.** There will be an opportunity to apply for extension of the fellowship period due to the Corona situation, but the final decision for the details in this arrangement is yet to come. More information will follow...

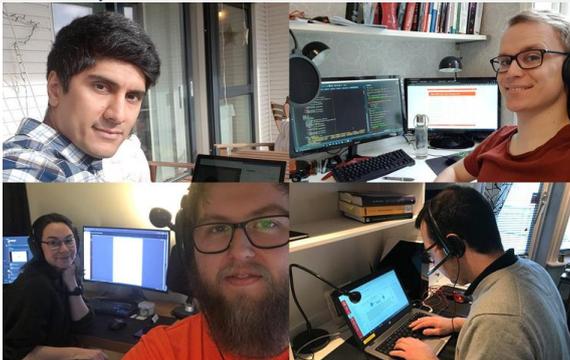
Kakeklubben online!

Kakeklubben is a social initiative for all colleagues who would like to practice their Norwegian language skills. The meetings are in Norwegian, at a pace that is easy for everyone with basic skills in Norwegian to follow and participate.

Kakeklubben meets every Wednesday at 12:00. In normal settings, we meet at the 4th floor lunch room, and the department orders cake. In the current situation, we are meeting online at 12:00 every Wednesday. Watch out for emails from David, and then come join us! Here are some pictures from the Kakeklubben meetings on March 25 and on March 18. At the last meeting we had the pleasure of “seeing” Jaakko, an advantage of online meetings above physical! 😊 The photo without people is of a bar close to Jaakko’s home in Turku, Finland. Still open and still serving.



Ahmad, Sondre and Marie “in the news”



The title is “UiBs digitale dugnad er i gang” and it takes up some examples of how teachers and students are working from their home offices these days.

[Here](#) you can find the nice UiB news article with Ahmad, Sondre and Marie.

Nowruz celebrations – a really nice response from our Iranians 😊

After Pinar's email to storpers last week, with the title "Happy new year", our dear Iranians sent this absolutely heart warming feedback to Pinar:

"On behalf of "Iranere i Institutt for Informatikk (iii)", I would like to thank you again for your understanding and strong support of cultural values. We really appreciate it!"

Please find our simple but sincere gratitude in the attachment! :-)"



Online all meetings at our department on teaching issues

This week, our department conducted an online all meeting mostly related to online teaching and exams. An impressive number of 50 of our faculty, TAs, and administrative staff joined the meeting. Before the meeting, there was also a vibrant discussion by email on various tools and solutions, how they work, and people's experiences with them.

On Thursday April 2, starting at 14:15, there will be a new online meeting, this time solely concentrating on the exams of this semester. Everybody who is involved in teaching this semester will get an invitation. For those who are not involved in teaching of informatics courses this semester, you are of course welcome to join as well! Just let Pinar know your interest.



Webinars about online teaching

Our university holds webinars about online teaching everyday. Some of these are about technical solutions, and some are about pedagogical issues. Please check out: <https://mitt.uib.no/courses/25566>

Høringsforslag om endringer i UH-loven

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 vekting av stemmer for alle grupper av ansatte (studentenes stemmer vil fortsatt vekte 25%)

Hvis man har kommentarer, kan man sende disse til Linda og Pinar.

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**.

Student affairs

Information on how to change from a campus based exam (meeting up at uni) to a home based exam

Please see the following links provided by the central administration (SA) and UiB Læringslaben: <https://mitt.uib.no/courses/25566/pages/vurdering-og-eksamen-i-en-tid-med-korona> (also available in English).

UPED and Læringslaben holds webseminars on assessments forms:

<https://www.uib.no/!%C3%A6ringslab/134579/webinar-2003-good-pedagogical-practices-online-teaching-and-assessment>

For updated info please check: [MittUiB: Korona – flytt undervisning og vurdering på nett](#)

PhD Updates

Trial lectures and defenses while the campus is closed

Public defences and trial lectures shall be conducted in a digital manner during the COVID-19 outbreak. We deem that the process of holding a trial lecture and public defence should, as a general rule, be held at the planned date, in keeping with the rule that defence should normally take place within two months after the thesis has been accepted. Please read more detailed information on this [here](#).

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:

Corona update

It is important that you assess if the global outbreak of the Coronavirus has any implications for the implementation of your project. Several funding agencies and institutions have updated their websites with special information and guidance. In any case, please inform the department's research coordinator (Stefanie.Meyer@uib.no) about all such cases.

[Information from the Research Council of Norway](#)
[RCN's service updates related to COVID-19](#)

[Information from the EU \(Horizon 2020\)](#)
[FAQ on COVID-19](#)

[Information from the University of Bergen](#)
[Externally funded projects influenced by COVID-19](#)



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 May deadline. **NEW application deadline: 20 May 2020.**

The previously announced call for [Large-scale Interdisciplinary Researcher Projects](#) is postponed until 2021.

If you are the project manager for a Researcher Project, Young Research Talent Project or Mobility Grant that received funding after the deadline 10 April 2019, you may **not** submit an application for the 20 May 2020 deadline.



IKTPLUSS. A 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.**



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.**



WEBINAR on research proposals from Forskningsrådet. The portal of Forskningsrådet is now accepting new proposals for the submission deadline May 20. Forskningsrådet is organizing a webinar for researchers from universities and research organizations on **April 17 between 12:00 and 13:00.**

Information seminar on MSCA Individual Fellowships. "The Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions training and career development fellowships for postdoctoral-level researchers, will soon open for proposals. Whether you intend to recruit a young talent to your lab, institute or your business, or you are looking for a research stay yourself anywhere in the world: Improve your chances by attending this seminar." **Seminar: 20 April 2020 (the event will be streamed).** Registration deadline: 16 April 2020.

WEBINAR: Horisont 2020 - Horizon Europe: A practical insight. Information event about the next EU framework program, Horizon Europe. **Webinar: 15 May 2020.** Registration deadline: 8 May 2020.

How to write competitive ERC StG & CoG Grant applications. The University of Bergen, together with Enspire Science and The Research Council of Norway, organize a workshop about ERC Starting and Consolidator Grant writing. **Event: 2 December 2020.** Registration deadline: 26 November 2020.

Need help?

Please contact research coordinator Stefanie Meyer if you have questions with regard to your planned and ongoing funding applications! In addition, you can have a look at our websites for research support services. There you will find a list of our services as well as a comprehensive overview over upcoming funding opportunities.

NB: Please also inform our research coordinator about all ongoing **contractual work (contracts with funding sources, collaboration agreements with other institutions related to externally funded project)! The department has to (co-)sign, and therefore needs to be informed about and approve, all agreements!**

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.