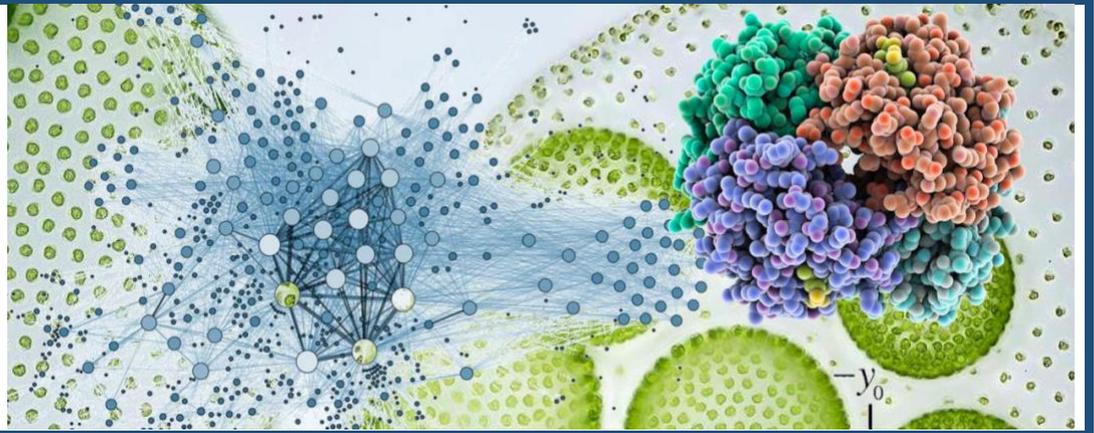


NEWSLETTER

Department of
Informatics



No. 3/2021
12th February 2021



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

Dear colleagues,

A new report on [Norway's current and future need for ICT competence](#) has just been released. It urges the authorities to put emphasis and resources into educating more ICT specialists. The report has some quite interesting statistics. During 2009 – 2019, Norway's work force with a formal ICT education increased by 40%. As a comparison, the increase in the total work force in general was 8% during the same period. For the next 10 years, the predicted increase in the number of employees with a formal ICT education in Norway is 70%. The numbers are, or should be, quite alarming for the authorities, as there is a huge deficit of fresh graduates with a formal ICT education to meet both today's and tomorrow's needs for ICT specialists.



The situation puts some quite heavy responsibility on our shoulders. I am very proud that our department is outstandingly well equipped with the best possible people to meet this responsibility! How concerned we all are, from PhD students to full professors, as well as technical and administrative staff, about educating our students in the best possible way became clearly evident during the all meeting we had yesterday. The attendance was very high, and the main topic of discussion ended up being how to give the best possible learning experience to our students. I found it highly rewarding to listen to the discussions, the sharing of the ideas, and I am extremely proud of all my colleagues for doing a wonderfully impressive job in a truly challenging situation.

Speaking about our staff and colleagues, I learned from Linda that the number of employees of our department has just passed 150. Even more impressive, 85 of these started their positions in 2018 or later, and our colleagues come from 41 different countries. Being the head of such a dynamic and international department is invaluable rewarding. This dynamism gives us an opportunity to constantly improve, renew and learn from each other. I would like to take this opportunity to send a greeting to all our Chinese colleagues: *Happy new year of Ox 2021!* I know it is hard to celebrate far away from your families whom you have not seen for a long while. I wish for all of us that the vaccination program will enable all of us with loved ones far away to be reunited with them in 2021.

Yesterday, you all received an email from our university about the upcoming rector elections. We are electing a new rector and her team for the period August 2021 – August 2025. Some of you might have noticed my name there as the candidate for deputy rector together with Margareth Hagen as the candidate for rector. I sent an email to inform you all about this in September, but regarding the number of new colleagues mentioned above, many of you might not have seen that. Please beware that all colleagues, technical, administrative, PhD students, postdocs, researchers, associate and full professors, can vote at the coming elections. The elections will be held during March 22 – 25, and you can follow the information at the [university election web pages](#). Already next Friday, there will be an online [debate between the two candidate teams](#), which you can watch live or whenever you have time. I hope that you will all try to form an informed opinion on the candidates and vote at the elections in March.

I wish you all 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: [«...nogle bavianer, der burde have et gok i nødden, og få vide, at nok er nok...»](#) - [Driver vi et «universitet» eller en «skole»? - Vi driver med informasjon, ikke propaganda](#) - [Selv når temaene er kontroversielle skal vi bidra til samfunnsdebatten på en saklig måte](#)



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

Corona updates

When publishing this newsletter today, we are still not sure if and how the new instructions from Bergen municipality will affect us. The UiB will soon provide us with updated information, and your department leadership will follow up with more information by email if any clarifications are needed. Please remember to always check [UiB Corona information](#).

The status as we speak is thus that campus is closed for both students and employees until Sunday. No one is allowed on campus unless they are cleared by Pinar or Linda as holding critical operational functions. So far, Stanislav is the only one in that category at our department.

However, one exception is valid for course instructors: if they need to use their prescribed auditorium with videonotat function to be able to perform their digital teaching, then they are allowed to do so. Please beware that you are then allowed on campus only for the duration of your lecture.

The current rules from the government that all travel into Norway is restricted to Norwegian citizens and residents only, still affect us in particular for guests and visitors who had planned to come to Norway for research stays who cannot enter the country at the moment. New employees who have not yet arrived in Norway, must also wait until the restrictions are lifted. At the same time, the government asks for all travel plans from Norway to abroad to be put on hold, unless they are strictly necessary. More information about the travel restrictions can be found on the [government's information pages](#).

Rector election 2021 – Presentation of the candidates Friday February 19 at 10:00



This year, there will be a rector election at UiB. The election will be held March 22–25. Employees in all categories and students can vote at the election. There are two candidates running for this year's election:

- Rector candidate Margareth Hagen with Pro rector candidate Pinar Heggernes.
- Rector candidate Oddrun Samdal with Pro rector candidate Nils Gunnar Kvamstø.

To get to know the candidates better, employees and students are invited to a digital election meeting and rector debate on **Friday 19 February at 10 am**. [Read more about the event, and send in your questions to the candidates right now](#).

After the election meeting, approx. at 11 am, the candidates will join at an online meeting (chat), and answer further questions from staff and students. The rector debate will be in Norwegian with English subtitles. Questions can be in English.

Welcome to the election meeting, and we hope you take part in the university democracy!

Also related to the Rector election: debate on February 18: “Eksamensrevolusjon?”



Pinar will be debating with the candidate of vice rector for education from the other Rector-team, Arne Tjølsen, on this topic on 18th February at 09:00. The debate will be in Norwegian.

“Mange fagmiljø henger fast i en forestilling om at eksamen først og fremst skal være en kontroll av at studentene har lest pensum, hevder professor Arild Raaheim. Ved inngangen til vårens rektorvalg, har vi invitert ham til å utdype synspunktene sine i samtale med de to som ønsker å bli UiBs neste utdanningsrektor, Pinar Heggernes og Arne Tjølsen. For studentene stiller Martine J. Baarholm.”

[Please learn more and find the registration link here.](#)

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

Welcome to department seminar, February 18

WEBINAR

Concept Learning in Description Logics

An online talk by Jean Christoph Jung

Concepts are the main building blocks in description logic knowledge bases, but being logical formulas users have difficulties writing them. Therefore, automated construction or learning of description logic concepts is an important research problem. We report on recent progress towards concept learning.

In particular, we will first give an overview of three possible learning settings: supervised, unsupervised, and interactive. Then, we will exhibit a learning algorithm in Angluin's active learning framework for learning concepts relative to ontologies for the lightweight description logic EL.

About Jean Christoph Jung

Jean Christoph Jung is currently an interim professor for theoretical computer science at the [University of Hildesheim](https://www.uni-hildesheim.de). He is a postdoctoral researcher at the [Theory of Artificial Intelligence Group](https://www.theory-of-artificial-intelligence.com) at the [Universität Bremen](https://www.uni-bremen.de).

You can read more about Jung and his work [here](#).

Join us on Zoom

Meeting URL: <https://uib.zoom.us/j/65801189548?pwd=WxNwcnRlMzZiRXlreUhwT2xCV1lPZz09>

Password: A\$MwgH?8

The talk starts at 14:15 but the Zoom-call will be open from 14:00 for pre-talk virtual mingling.

FOREDRAG

🕒 18.02.2021 - 14.15–15.00

📅 [Legg til i din egen kalender](#)



Jean Christoph Jung Foto/ill.: Private



[Please find the web calendar announcement and participation link here.](#)

Department seminar

25th February at 14:15

Speed Talks

This Department seminar is composed by speed talks given by our own in-house researchers. Normally, the focus for the talks is research. This time, all the three contributors will be focusing on:

“Digital teaching – sharing experiences”



Martin Vatshelle



Nikolay Kaleyski



Ana Ozaki

[Zoom participation link](#)

Welcome also to chat with colleagues from 14:00



Nasjonalt sikkerhetsmyndighet (NSM) arrangerer Sikkerhetskonferansen 11. mars 2021. Konferansen blir digital i år, og byr som vanlig på et bredt sammensatt program innenfor temaer som cybersikkerhet, personellsikkerhet og fysisk sikring. [Her finner du mer informasjon om program, foredragsholdere, praktisk informasjon og påmelding.](#)

PhD updates

R-course for bio-scientists, May 3-7

The R crash course is an introductory course and no previous knowledge about programming is necessary for participation. It extends over five days, 3rd-7th May, from 9-16.

You will learn how to get started with R, how to make small useful programs, how to analyze your data in reproducible ways, how to visualize your dataset with beautiful plots and how to take advantage of thousands of R packages. The course is biology-oriented, and will introduce you to the wonders of Bioconductor. We will also expect you to complete a few homework assignments to practice and hone your skills. The R crash course is adapted from Software Carpentry workshops, and we expect a high level of interaction and hands-on exercises. [More information here](#)



NORBIS



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Genome assembly and annotation workshop, May 3-7

The workshop is aimed at researchers interested in learning more about genome assembly and annotation. It will include information useful for both the beginner and the more advanced user.

We will start by introducing general concepts and then continue to step-by-step describe all major components of a genome assembly and annotation workflow, from raw data all the way to a final assembled and annotated genome.

There will be a mix of lectures and hands-on practical exercises using command line Linux. [More information here](#)

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. [UiB's new policy for Open Science](#) can be found by following the link. 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](#)



Plan S requirements. For calls for proposals from and including 2021, the [Research Council of Norway](#) (RCN) will require **full and immediate open access to all articles from projects that receive funding from the Council**. According to the [Plan S requirements](#), there are **three main ways to OA**: publishing in OA journals, publishing in venues under a transformative arrangement, or making a version (either the AAM or final version) of the article available by depositing it in an open archive. For any chosen route to compliance, the publication must be **openly available immediately** with a Creative Commons Attribution license (**CC BY**). Coalition S has recently launched a [journal checker tool](#), where you can check whether your chosen journal/venue is Plan S compliant and which routes are available. Currently, the requirements apply only to scientific articles. During 2021, cOAlition S will develop joint open access requirements for scientific books and book chapters (monographs and anthologies). When this has been done, the RCN will introduce requirements for scientific books in line with the recommendations made by cOAlition S. Please also note that the **RCN requires all articles to be archived** in a suitable open archive (no matter which OA route was used). We recommend to use CRIStin for this purpose.

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. There is an open call for Collaborative Projects on Digital Security and Artificial Intelligence, Robotics and Autonomous Systems. “The objective of this call is to generate new knowledge in the thematic areas digital security and artificial intelligence, robotics and autonomous systems. [...] The project must involve two or more Norwegian partners that are not research organisations. Partners that are not research organisations must together participate with a minimum of 10 per cent of the total project costs.” **Application deadline: open-ended.**



Pre-project for Health Pilot. “Pilot Health is a new initiative that gives public sector bodies and businesses the opportunity to establish coordinated, needs-driven innovation together. [...] The innovation processes shall be based on the needs of patients, inhabitants or the public health services. [...] This call for proposals concerns pre-projects that can lay the ground for main projects. The pre-projects can have a duration of up to six months and can receive up to NOK 300,000 in funding. The funding can cover up to 100 per cent of costs eligible for funding.” Research organizations are eligible to apply, but need to work together with other relevant health service actors and industry. **Application deadline: 5 May 2021.**



ERC. The European Research Council has announced the tentative application deadlines for 2021 on their [website](#):

- Starting Grant, **24 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).

NB: Please note that the dates are subject to the adoption of Horizon Europe and the ERC Work Programme 2021.

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.



Peder Sather Grant Applications.

“The primary mission of the [Peder Sather Center](#) for Advanced Study (the Center) is to strengthen ongoing research collaborations and foster the development of new research collaborations between faculty at the University of California, Berkeley (UC Berkeley) and from the consortium of eight participating Norwegian academic institutions. [including UiB] Applications from all fields and disciplines are welcomed.”

Application deadline: 8 April 2021.



CEDAS conference. The Center for Data Science (CEDAS) will hold its first conference in June 2021. Save the date! **Event in Bergen: 1-2 June 2021.**

NORA annual conference. Early registration will open soon. Save the date! **Event: 3-4 June 2021.**

Welcome to Seminar, February 16



UNIVERSITETET I BERGEN

Det gode arbeidsmiljø

Arbeidsliv i endring – hva med arbeidsmiljøet?

Digitalt frokostseminar tirsdag 16.februar på Zoom kl.0830-1000

Mangfold - likestilling - inkludering

Et godt arbeidsmiljø kjennetegnes av god ledelse, medvirkning fra ansatte og tydelige organisatoriske rammer. Kompetanse, god kommunikasjon, mestring og anerkjennelse gir både trygghet og trivsel.

Strategien til UiB slår fast at vi skal ha et inkluderende arbeidsmiljø, og at dette skal bygge på det kunnskapsmessige og kulturelle mangfoldet som kjennetegner vår institusjon. Gjennom frokostseminarserien Arbeidsliv i endring – hva med arbeidsmiljøet? ønsker vernetjenesten ved UiB å sette søkelys på betydningen av faktorer som bygger et godt arbeidsmiljø.

«Mangfold, likestilling og inkludering» er tema for årets første frokostseminar.

Likestilling, kjønnsbalanse, muligheter og rettferdig fordeling. Vi har invitert viserektor [Annelin Eriksen](#) til å innlede om arbeidet med nye handlingsplaner for likestilling mellom kjønnene og for mangfold og inkludering. UiB har nedsatt en arbeidsgruppe som arbeider med dette våren 2021.

Perspektiver fra sosialpsykologi og organisasjonspsykologi er det faglige bakteppet når Førsteamanuensis [Hege H Bye](#), institutt for samfunnspsykologi, vil belyse mangfoldsbegrepet og dilemmaer i mangfoldsarbeid

Gender Act er et prosjekt for kulturendring og kjønnsbalanse som nå er satt i gang ved Det matematisk-naturvitenskapelige fakultet. [Kristine Breivik](#), assisterende fakultetsdirektør, vil gi oss ett innblikk i prosjektet, hvorfor og hva de håper å oppnå.

Norsk når du kan, engelsk når du må? Hvilke språklige utfordringer skaper det når flere av våre ansatte blir rekruttert internasjonalt? Førsteamanuensis [Ann-Kristin Helland Gujord](#), Institutt for lingvistiske, litterære og estetiske studier, vil sette fokus på språk som binder oss sammen, og som skaper utfordringer.

Seminaret arrangeres **digitalt torsdag 16.februar kl. 0830-1000 på Zoom, og du melder deg på [her](#)**

Informasjon med lenke og program vil bli utsendt til alle påmeldte noen dager før seminaret.

Møteledere: June-Vibecke K. Indrevik, universitets hovedverneombud (UHVO) UiB og Michael P. Riisøen, vara UHVO UiB.

Velkommen!