Dear colleagues,

Our university has something that has become increasingly rare: an elected rector. As far as the overview I could gather, out of the 10 universities in Norway, only three are left with this form of governance: University of Oslo, University of Agder, and our university.

Arctic University of Norway – UiT was the last university to change their governance from elected to hired rector very recently. The University of Stavanger did the same in 2019. It is interesting to note that it is university board with elected internal (and appointed external) members that decides such a change from elected to hired governance. In the case of a hired rector, it is the university board who selects the new rector from a list of applicants for an announced position. In this case, the university board must have an external chair, so the university can actually end up getting two external people in the most leading positions.

I am glad that our university is carrying the long-standing democratic tradition of an elected rector, together with University of Oslo. At both universities this form of governance has very high support from the students and the employees. All employees, both in academic and non-academic positions, as well as all the students can vote at the rector elections. At our university, employees who have at least 50% positions and have been in their positions at least one year, can vote. This means in particular that most of our PhD students, postdocs and researchers can vote. The votes of the academic staff weigh 51%, the votes of the administrative and technical staff weigh 24%, and the votes of the students weigh 25%.

Why am I telling you all this? Very soon it is time to elect a new rector for our university! The election will be conducted electronically during March 22 – March 25, 2021. There are two rector candidates, each with a deputy rector candidate. Rector and deputy rector are elected in pairs. I encourage you all to get involved, form an informed opinion, and vote at the election. You can read about the two competing teams on their respective web pages: www.teamhagen.no and www.teamsamdal.no as well as via the university election pages.

There have already been a couple of broadcasts with the two teams, which you might like to watch: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kTzUs9NGOqU (This one has English texting) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t4uljt82eE (This one is only in Norwegian)

I would like to end this with a tiny lecture in Norwegian: “godt valg”. Normally this means a good choice. In Norwegian, “valg” means both choice and election. Thus, in connection with an election, “Godt valg!” (with an exclamation mark) means happy election day. And you can start saying it quite ahead of the election day, so its meaning is more in the direction of a happy election period.

Godt valg! ☺

I wish you all a very nice weekend,

-Pinar
Welcome new colleague!

Crystal Chang Din
Crystal is our new Associate Professor in the didactics group starting on Monday 1st March. Her office will be in the 4th floor together with the rest of the group.

The didactics group has main responsibility for teaching, development, renewal and quality assurance of our starting courses in programming and other generic core courses in informatics, and is aiming to secure a seamless transition between programming topics in our courses and programs, create a good match between learning outcome description, learning activities and forms of assessment. Crystal will be teaching the new course INF113 Innføring i operativsystem, the next semesters.

Crystal is from Taiwan. She did her PhD in Informatics at the University of Oslo (UiO) in 2014. Then two postdocs, first at Chalmers in Sweden and then at the UiO, before she entered into a position as Associate Professor at the OsloMet.

Congratulations colleague!

Fredrik Manne
Fredrik has received the prestigious international applied mathematics prize George Polya Prize in Applied Combinatorics 2021. He got the prize together with two colleagues, Alex Pothen og Assefaw Gebremedhin. Assefaw did his PhD with us years ago.

The prize is awarded every four years for a notable application in an area of mathematics called combinatorial theory. The field of research is primarily concerned with counting and has a broad range of applications in computer science and a wide variety of problems that it can address. Fredrik and his colleagues were chosen for their work to develop “efficient graph coloring algorithms and codes with applications to Jacobian and Hessian matrix computations,” according to the selection committee.

Current Issues

The Selmer book “Professor i hemmelig tjeneste” is now buyable!

All employees of our department got this book as Christmas present last year, and many of us enjoyed reading it during the holidays. Quite many outside our department have also been interested in getting hold of the book, and so far we have been able to send it to those who asked for it.

The publisher Akademika has now made the Selmer book “Professor i hemmelig tjeneste” available in book shops in Bergen and also for online ordering here.

Norwegian lesson of today, number 2: Løp og kjøp! (direct translation: Run to buy!)
Working Environment and Climate Surveys (ARK)
ARK is a working environment and climate survey which will be conducted for all employees at the UiB in March 2021. The survey serves as both a management tool and a participation tool and is conducted at the UiB once every 3 years.

Important to know about ARK:
• The ARK survey will be sent out to all employees on 8 March.
• The survey takes 15 minutes to complete.
• The deadline for responses is March 29.
• The result is ready in mid-April.

We encourage everyone to use this opportunity to respond to the survey!
Learn more here.

Elections 2021
Please find information on the elections here:
• Election of rector and members to the University Board
• Election of members to the MN-Faculty Board
• Election of members to the Department of Informatics Board

Please notice that the first step in the election procedures, is proposing candidates. The deadline for proposals for the University Board is Friday March 12, at 12:00 p.m. and the deadline for proposing candidates for the MN-Faculty Board and the Department of Informatics Board is Tuesday March 23, at 12:00 p.m.

How to propose candidates:
• The proposal must be in writing.
• The proposal must be signed by at least the same number of proposers as the number of candidates the proposal contains.
• The proposer(s) must be entitled to vote in the election. No one can sign more than one proposal.
• All proposed candidates must be eligible.
• If any candidate is entitled to exemption from election, a written consent from the candidate must be attached to the proposal.

Research, Science and Seminars

UiB idé: New innovation program for staff and students

Good ideas arise everywhere at the University of Bergen, and for innovation ideas that can be developed further into socially beneficial projects, a program has been created at the university. UiB idé makes it possible to test and develop your ideas further. The framework for the program is NOK 2 million for 2021, and the application deadline is 6 April 2021. Read more about the program at uib.no/ide and in På Høyden.
Network for Postdocs and Researchers -- March 2021 meeting
Our next meeting of the Network for Postdocs and Researchers will be held on Friday, the 5th of March, at lunch time 12.00 - 13.00. The meeting will be a physical one, at the CBU Seminar Room ("Yoga room"), 5th floor. The department will provide lunch for us 😊

Pinar will give a talk about building a career, combining research and administrative roles, and balancing all this with family and social life.

Welcome to department seminar «Introduction to the library services», March 4

Introduction to library services
We will introduce the research support services at the University Library and give an overview about publication statistics at the Department of Informatics.

Did you know that the library provides services across the whole research process, from data management planning, over the active state of research, to publication of your research article and corresponding data and/or code?

We will introduce the recently adopted "Policy for Open Science" at the University of Bergen and update you about the current requirements for open access publishing and Plan S and data management plans. In addition, we will give you some tips how you can improve visibility of your work and your researcher profile. Of course, we can also help you with literature search and reference management.

Please find the web announcement and participation link here.

NSM Sikkerhetskonferansen 2021, 11. mars

Welcome to department seminar «Speed Talks”, March 25

Department seminar
25th March at 14:15-15:15

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”

Siv Hollup
Daniel Hernandez Escobar
Adriaan Ludl

Welcome also to chat with colleagues from 14:00
Zoom participation link
PhD updates

Webinar March 3: «How to combine performance and health during PhD»
The pandemic challenges us all to take care of ourselves and those around us. How are you? How to take care of themselves and those around you? The webinar will be held in English by psychologist Per Sjøberg. He has extensive experience with guidance in high-performance professions, with top athletes and in crisis psychology Learn more here.

Seminar March 23: “PhD Survival Kit and Shut Up & Write”
Are corona restrictions ruining your workflow? Is fieldwork put on hold? Is the essential equipment you ordered stuck in mail somewhere? Join research support staff from the University library to see what services ARE available during shutdown. This is a golden chance to fill gaps, build skills and complete tasks so you are prepared when the society FINALLY reopens!

PhD life is full of questions. Have I overlooked relevant literature? In which journal should I publish? Having difficulties to find dedicated time to write?

These and other questions will be answered in our seminar, with a focus on how you can rework your workflow and take advantage of the services that are still open, even under all kinds of corona restrictions - a survival kit of a seminar!

You can directly apply your new skills in the second half of the seminar. We host two "Shut up & Write" sessions, a concept to work and write productively. Each session consists of 45 minutes of dedicated time and space to focus on writing/literature research, without distractions (no email, no phone, no SoMe), followed by a 15 minutes social break."

Event: 23 March, 10.15-16.00
Registration: 23 March 9.00
Learn more: PhD Survival Kit and Shut Up & Write | University of Bergen Library | University of Bergen (uib.no)

PhD Rhapsody - podcast
We would like to draw your attention to a project conducted by PhD students at the Department of Earth Science, called PhD Rhapsody.

“PhD Rhapsody is an honest podcast of 20 episodes about life as a PhD candidate. Together with our guests we discuss various topics related to academia and our scientific journey, and share stories and experiences.”

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

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
Vacant positions

Postdoctoral Research Fellow position in Informatics – Cryptography
Please find the announcement here. Closing date: 10.03.2021

Senior Engineer at the CBU
Please find the announcement here. Closing date: 10.03.2021

PhD Research Fellow in Informatics - Knowledge Representation and Machine Learning
Please find the announcement here. Closing date: 31.03.2021

Postdoctoral Research Fellow position within Informatics - Optimization
Please find the announcement here. Closing date: 31.03.2021

PhD position in Informatics - Cryptography
Please find the announcement here. Closing date: 15.04.2021

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.

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.

**ERC.** The European Research Council has announced the tentative application deadlines for 2021 on their website:
- Starting Grant, 8 April 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).

For more information on the new work program, please have a look at the following website: ERC kicks off Horizon Europe.

**UiB idé.** UiB has launched its new innovation verification program, called UiB idé. The program is open to researchers and students and provides both funding and advice to emerging innovators. The maximum funding amount is NOK 500,000 for researcher projects, and NOK 100,000 for student projects. The application deadline is 6 April 2021, and the project must be completed by December 2021. Funding can cover: materials/equipment, costs related to obtaining external expertise, payroll (only for employees and external consultants), rent of incubator space, and costs associated with prototyping. For more information, please visit this website: UiB idé.

**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.
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.

Eurodoc has previously published a report on Identifying Transferable Skills and Competences to Enhance Early-Career Researchers’ Employability and Competitiveness.

Introduction to Data Management Plan. “This course gives you a short introduction to what a data management plan is, why you need it, and how to write one. The course will be held in Norwegian.” Course: 16 April 2021. Registration deadline: 15 April 2021 (noon).

Data Management Plan WORKSHOP. “In this workshop you will work on your own DMP using a digital DMPtool, e.g DMPOnline, and then share your DMP with other participants and get feedback on your own DMP. Experts from the University Library will also be there to guide you.” Workshop: 7 May 2021. Registration deadline: 6 May 2021 (10 am).


NORA annual conference. Save the date for the annual conference of the Norwegian Artificial Intelligence Research Consortium! Event: 3-4 June 2021.

European Research and Innovation Days 2021. “European Research and Innovation Days is the European Commission’s annual flagship Research and Innovation event, bringing together policymakers, researchers, entrepreneurs and the public to debate and shape the future of research and innovation in Europe and beyond. The event will take place online [...] allowing everyone to get involved from anywhere.” Save the date! Event: 23-24 June 2021.