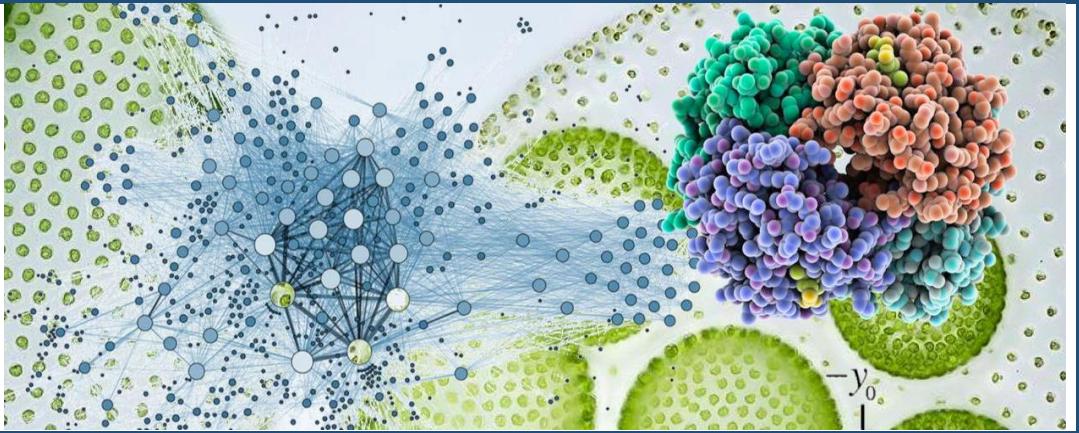


# NEWSLETTER

## Department of Informatics



No. 6/2021  
26<sup>th</sup> March 2021



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

### Dear colleagues,

The result of the election is here, and it will have quite an impact on our department. I thank you all, both colleagues and students, for your unified support, encouragement and help during the past couple of months. Some meetings had to be postponed, some emails got late or short replies, but you have all been very understanding and patient, thank you very much! For my remaining period as the head of department until August 1, I promise you that the department will have my full focus, and I will do my best to deliver a tidy list of ongoing processes to the next head of department. The position will be announced as soon as possible, and it is my strong hope and belief that we know by August 1 who the next department head is.

In my next role as the deputy rector of UiB with the responsibility for education and digitalization, I will be promoting the great ICT research going on at our university, as well as facilitating better interaction of ICT research across the faculties. I truly believe that our university has strengths that are unique in Norway, with research groups in the core of ICT methodology at different faculties, as well as applied ICT research at almost all faculties. This enables us to view and study from many different angles the possibilities and challenges that new technologies bring. Offering all students across the whole university basic digital competence in form of programming skills, understanding of digital security and artificial intelligence methods, so that they can benefit from the possibilities and cope with the challenges in their careers, is a huge task which I have taken upon myself. I hope I will be successful in this respect with help of a competent study administrative division and all my colleagues with related research at various departments.



Another event that took place recently is the announcement of the [Abel prize in mathematics for 2021](#), on March 17. This year the prize went to two theoretical computer scientists working on algorithms and complexity: László Lovász and Avi Wigderson “for their foundational contributions to theoretical computer science and discrete mathematics, and their leading role in shaping them into central fields of modern mathematics”. The prize is [particularly relevant for our department](#) as we have strong research groups in theoretical computer science in general, and algorithms and complexity in particular. “Thanks to the leading work of Lovász and Wigderson, discrete mathematics and the relatively young field of theoretical computer science are now established as central areas of modern mathematics,” says Hans Munthe-Kaas, chair of the Abel committee. Congratulations to the winners and to all of us!

We will soon enter the Easter holidays, and although we will not be able to travel as we wish, I hope that you will all take the opportunity to take some days off work and relax. Before that, I hope that everybody who has not yet participated in the [survey on working environment and work conditions](#), will do it before the deadline on March 29. We truly believe that the results can be of use to improve our department in particular and our university in general.

Last weekend was the celebration of the Iranian new year Nowruz, and soon there will be the celebration of Easter. I wish you all a happy spring, along with happy Nowruz and happy Easter to all who celebrate. This weekend, we will move to summer time, meaning that we will get an hour more of evening light. I am looking forward to the brighter months ahead, hoping that we will soon all be vaccinated so that we can get our freedom back.

I wish you a very nice weekend  
-Pinar



Foto: Paul S. Amundsen

## 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: [Stemmerett. Abelpris. Og snart er det påske](#) - [Dette må kandidatene svare på før jeg stemmer](#) - [Derfor er det en stund til vi kan si at vi er fornøyd](#) - [Kven skal styre fakultetet og UiB dei neste fire åra?](#)

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

### Overview of Department Thursday seminars booked the rest of this semester

8 <sup>th</sup> April	"1 year of Covid teaching experiences – what have we learnt – and where is it headed?" with David Grellscheid and the UiB Learning Lab Magnus and Cecilie
15th April	"Nygårdshøyden Sør"
22nd April	Ion Petre: "Network controllability: algorithmics and applications in medicine"
20th May	Speed Talks

### Easter Bunnies cuties!

Best students ever!! 😊



TORSDAGSBILDET



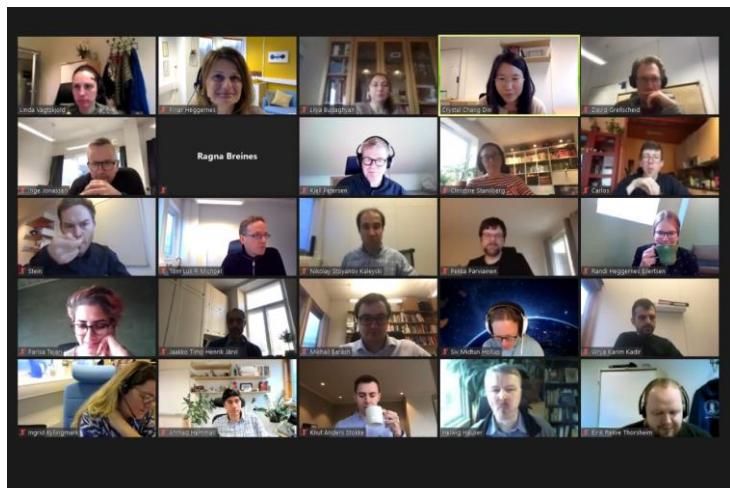
Påskehavar overrasket informatikkstudentane ved UiB. Foto: Fagutvalget Echo

### Torsdagsbildet: Overraska studentar med påske-egg

Påskehavar i aksjon Fagutvalet ved informatikk gjorde stas på studentane før påske. Her er påskehavar med munnbind klare til å dele ut påske-egg på instituttet. God påske til alle!

PUBLISERT Torsdag 25. mars 2021 - 10:58 SIST OPPDATERT Torsdag 25. mars 2021 - 11:16

They even made it to På Høyden!



Watch out for the department Easter Bunny of today!



Some of the 70 participants on our digital Easter Lunch



## Last reminder: 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 ARK survey was sent to all employees on 8 March
- The survey takes 10-15 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.](#)

## New stricter coronavirus rules March 25 – April 12

The national measures in the period 25 March – 12 April have the following consequences for us:

- Digital teaching.
- Campus and all study halls and reading rooms are still open, and exceptions regarding teaching on campus still apply in line with information given 22 March.
- The distance rule on campus is two meters. Please pay attention to the marking in reading halls, seminar rooms and common rooms, like the lunch room.
- The use of face masks applies in all places where it is not possible to keep two meters.
- We should avoid sharing offices. If both/all office mates are in need of using their office, please contact Linda/Ingrid to get assigned a new temporary office up until 12<sup>th</sup> April.
- All events that are not absolutely necessary to arrange should be postponed.
- The maximum limit for events is 20 with fixed seats.
- All unnecessary travel should be postponed except. For travels abroad, much stricter quarantine rules are inserted.
- Students who do not have a family where they study can still travel to visit family at Easter.
- UiB recommends all employees and students to use the infection tracking app developed by FHI. [Read more and download.](#)

## Research, Science and Seminars [ScienceNorway.no - forskning.no](#)

### Welcome to Department seminar, April 8

#### 1 year of Covid teaching experiences – what have we learnt – and where is it headed?

[Web announcement and participation link here](#)

Discussion with David Grellscheid (Assoc.Prof, II), Cecilie Boge (Assoc.Prof. UiB Learning lab), Magnus Svendsen Nerheim (EdTech specialist, UiB Learning lab), and you!



Foto/ill.: Private

It's been a year since we all had to realign our teaching efforts with the impacts of Corona. Although there still might be some time left, a future without pandemic restrictions seems not too distant. What have we learned about teaching in a completely digital setting? What new challenges but also opportunities and possibilities have we discovered? And what happens next? Do we have to go back to exactly as things were? Should we?

Come and learn, share, contribute and get answers to this and more in this week's Department seminar.

[Zoom-link can be found here before the seminar.](#)

#### ARRANGEMENT

⌚ 08.04.2021 - 14.15–15.00

📅 [Legg til i din egen kalender](#)



## Guest lecture, April 9: Yulia Startsev “Developing JavaScript in the SpiderMonkey engine”

If you have programmed a bit, in any language, you might be curious about how the language evolves; what it takes for an idea to go from something we talk about to a functioning part of a run time. Something that you, as a developer, might use in your work. In this talk, we will answer that question for the JavaScript Language. This talk will also dive a bit into the research that we do at Ecma TC39, the standardizing body responsible for it.

Zoom participation link: <https://uib.zoom.us/s/68967982368>

# Yulia Startsev

*Ecma TC39 Committee, Chair Emerita  
Mozilla*



## Developing JavaScript in the SpiderMonkey engine

*guest lecture at  
INF222 Programming Languages  
uib.no/emne/INF222*

Friday 9th April 2021 at 12:10 CEST (UTC+2)



## Welcome to the Christie Conference, April 27



27 . A P R I L 2021

The Christie Conference will take place on April 27<sup>th</sup>. I am pleased to invite you to the conference which will be digital, and participation is free of charge this year. I hope you would like to attend, whether you are a student or staff at the University of Bergen.

The Christie Conference is one of Norway's most important meeting places for academia and business, culture and society. We invite guests and participants from business, cultural life, the public sector and NGOs. This year's conference is in collaboration with Norwegian School of Economics (NHH). Some of the sessions will be held in English, such as the first session with keynote speaker John van Reenen.

### **The theme for the Christie Conference 2021 is “The New Economy”.**

The “new economy” provides us with a range of so-called “super-star” companies. Google is more than a search engine, and Amazon is more than an online bookstore. Can we imagine our neighbourhood grocery store replaced by a super star delivering everything we need to our doorsteps? Arguably, this development presents great opportunities and potential efficiency gains, but it also changes society and makes us more vulnerable in certain areas. What consequences will this development have for the Nordic Welfare Model? How can we secure the tax revenues of the welfare state in this context, and how can we protect our personal data? Does this development make us more vulnerable for corruption and fraud?

[See program](#) [Registration](#)

Please also notice: our own PhD student Nikolay Kaleyksi from the Selmer group will be one of three researchers giving a presentation at 12:24 under the headline “Forskning i front”. Wow, Nikolay!!

## Student affairs

### Erasmus+ trainee and guest students autumn 2021

Do you plan to supervise a trainee or welcoming a guest student next semester? If so, please note that the application deadline for both is 1 May. For more information contact [Ida Rosenlund](#)

## PhD updates

### PhD defense on 29<sup>th</sup> March – Kirill Simonov



Kirill will defend his thesis "*Algorithmic Complexity of Clustering and Low-Rank Approximation Problems*" on 29<sup>th</sup> March at 10:15 [on zoom](#).

- Opponent: Professor Cristina Bazgan, Université Paris Dauphine
- Opponent: Researcher Vincent Cohen-Addad, Google Zürich
- Committee member: Associate Professor Pål Grønås Drange, UiB
- Leader of the defense: Professor Stefan Bruckner, UiB

Please find [the press release here](#)

All are welcome!

### 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](#)

## Vacant positions

### 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

### Tenure Track Associate Professor in Informatics - Optimization

Please find [the announcement here](#). Closing date: 16.04.2021

# 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 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.

## Funding for education activities

UiB's internal funding scheme to raise the quality of studies and education activities in its study programs has announced a call for funding! The focus of this year's call is on two priority areas: (i) development of study programs as described in [UiB's quality system for education](#), and (ii) development of activities that help to strengthen and systematize the possibility of doing a semester or two abroad during the course of a study program. For more information, please contact Ida Rosenlund or Stefanie Meyer.

All applications have to be supported by the department, and we therefore ask you to let us know if you want to apply to this funding scheme as soon as possible, and no later than **6 April 2021** at noon. Please send an email to Ida and Stefanie, where you indicate to which of the two priority areas you want to apply to, including a short abstract about the planned activities. If you have questions and would like to discuss your ideas and/or application plans, we would be happy to help you.

Provided that the department leadership supports your proposal, the final deadline for sending the complete application to Ida and Stefanie is 19 April at noon.

See also here for previously granted initiatives: [Insentivmidler 2019](#)

We are looking forward to hearing from you!

# 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.**



**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](#).



**ERC.** The European Research Council has published the work program for 2021 as well as the upcoming application deadlines on their [website](#):

- Consolidator Grant, **20 April 2021**
- Advanced Grant, **31 August 2021**
- Synergy Grant: the deadline for the 2022 call is expected to be in November 2021 (not yet published).



## 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: 1 June 2021.**



**DKNVS Research funds.** **(1)** Support of research on sustainable development of society, funds for travels, field work, seminars and conferences. **(2)** Support of students and young researchers. **Application deadline: 6 April 2021.**



**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).

**Dissemination and Open Access in HEU.** “The course is all about communication about the project and dissemination of its results. We will tell you different ways to assess your target groups, how to create a good brand and how to engage your stakeholder groups. The course also covers how to handle open access in an EU project. The course finishes off with a practical workshop, where you can try building your own dissemination strategy and data management plan.” **Workshop:** 28 April 2021. **Registration deadline:** 26 April 2021 (noon). The workshop will be repeated in June.

**Innovation in EU R&I projects.** “The course helps you to explore the concept of innovation in Horizon Europe and utilize practical guidance to address innovation in your proposals. You will learn how to develop a good innovation management structure, and to describe related tasks, deliverables and budgetary aspects in your proposal. We will go through possible commercial and non-commercial routes for exploitation of project results, including handling and intellectual property. [...]” **Event:** 29 April 2021. **Registration deadline:** 27 April 2021 (noon). The event will be repeated in June.

**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).

**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.** 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.

### 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, where you will also find a list of our services.

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

[Sikresiden.no](#) – [UiB employees welfare benefits](#) - [Credit card UiB](#) –

[Fire extinguishing courses](#) – [Reporting of Deviations](#)



### Fjelltur-challenge 26.3 -31.5

Do you like hiking and fresh mountain air? Then you should consider taking part in the “mountain trip challenge”! Employees are this year invited to participate in the annual competition organized by the students in our department. Go hiking, earn points and win prizes!

For more information visit this facebook group: [Fjelltur-challenge! | Facebook](#)

