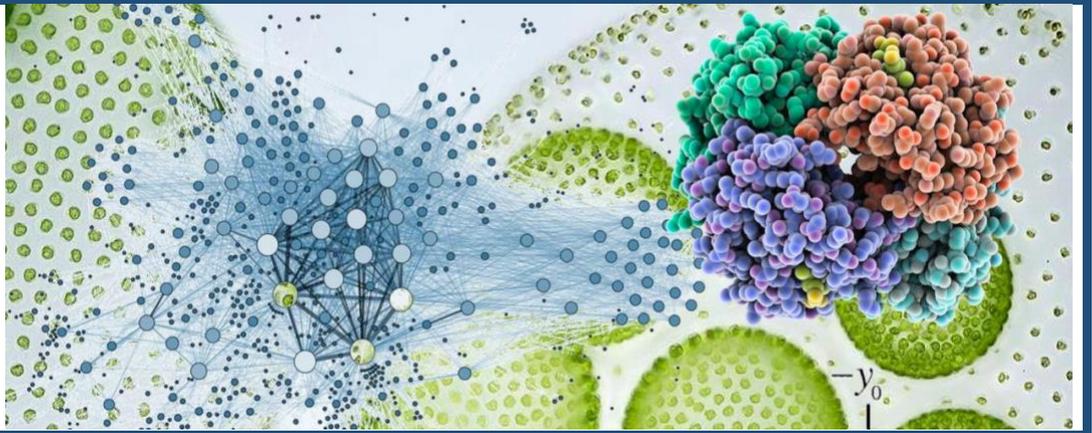


# NEWSLETTER

Department of  
Informatics



No. 10/2021  
21<sup>st</sup> May 2021



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

## Dear colleagues,

I miss our monthly faculty & staff lunches in the 4<sup>th</sup> floor lunch room. These days it is hard to imagine that we used to be 40 – 50 people in that room under such occasions. These lunches gave such nice opportunities to chat with colleagues across the research groups and the administration. Nowadays we mainly have planned meetings, and conversations have a reason. I am sure many of you miss the random chit chat with colleagues about everything and nothing. Although we have tried to compensate with digital lunches for Christmas and Easter, it is not really the same. Today I was thinking to myself that I am so much looking forward to the next physical faculty & staff lunch. Then I came to remember that I will not be the head of department when that happens...



How will life be after the pandemic? I hope our department will continue to have plenty of informal meeting arenas to encourage social interaction. Can colleagues become friends if they work from home? Throughout my studies and my career, social interaction in the same physical space has had an enormous impact on my friendships and my research. I

tend to think that friendships and research go hand in hand. Most of my frequent co-authors are also good friends. Many research ideas took shape during trips, hikes, dinners, while sightseeing, playing or watching something together. Just spending time together without a clear agenda, initiates conversations that are not so easy to initiate over digital media. Every digital meeting has an end (and there is often a next meeting starting right afterwards).

With some colleagues who started after the pandemic, I have only met digitally and worked with them quite closely during the past year, with regular meetings once a week. Some are even leaving our university soon, without us ever having met physically. Although I feel like I know them well, it is not even certain that I would recognize them in the street. We get to know a person's face very well, but whether the person is tall, short, thin, chubby, we have no idea.

My heart goes out to our PhD students. I think a PhD student position, despite its natural frustrations, is a wonderful time where one can make many friends with fellow PhD students from all over the world and have a lot of fun, in addition to being able to travel to conferences and research visits. The pandemic has made this very difficult, and as one of our professors quite perfectly put it "Now, all the fun is out of a PhD studentship, and only the frustration is left".

I realize that this is not an as cheerful start of a newsletter as usual. I have previously deliberately tried to avoid the mention of the pandemic as much as possible and rather concentrate on "normal" things. I think the fact that my duty as the head of department is coming to an end soon, might be starting to dawn on me for real and making me sentimental. I am therefore, even more than usual, looking forward to seeing you all at our digital summer lunch on June 23, the details of which you find in this newsletter.

May your vaccination turn come quickly! ☺ In the meanwhile, I wish you a very nice long 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: [Det ligger sprekraft i historien vår](#) - [Akademia må være en attraktiv arbeidsplass](#) - [Slik kan vi raskest mulig komme tilbake til normalen](#) - [Skal vi bruke tid på kontroll eller utdanning?](#) - [Aldersgruppa under 30 år bør vaksine-prioriterast](#)



## Welcome new colleagues!



### Samuele Andreoli

Samuele is our new PhD student in applied cryptology affiliated with the Selmer group.

The position is within applied cryptology and will involve international-level scientific research and dissemination within that area from one of the following fields: symmetric-key cryptology, post-quantum cryptology, cryptology for emerging technologies, side-channel attacks, implementation aspects of cryptography, and provable security of symmetric primitives.

Samuele is Italian. He finished his Master's in Mathematics - Coding Theory and Cryptography at the University of Trento in 2019. He has been working as a software engineer in various cyber-security companies over the last three years.

## Congratulations colleagues!



### Helwig Hauser - Eurographics fellowship!

Two new Fellows were announced at the General Assembly of Eurographics (European Association for Computer Graphics) this year - one of them our own Helwig Hauser!

The contributions which he has made to computer graphics and to EUROGRAPHICS are outlined [here](#)



### Saket Saurabh – EATCS fellowship!

The EATCS (European Association for Theoretical Computer Science) Fellows Program is established by the Association to recognize outstanding EATCS Members for their scientific achievements in the field of Theoretical Computer Science. The Fellow status is conferred by the EATCS Fellows-Selection Committee upon a person having a track record of intellectual and organizational leadership within the EATCS community. Fellows are expected to be “model citizens” of the TCS community, helping to develop the standing of TCS beyond the frontiers of the community.

Saket Saurabh, The Institute of Mathematical Sciences, Chennai, India for "fundamental contributions to algorithms, including parameterized algorithms and kernelization" (**recognized in 2021**)



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

### Candidates for the elections of Department Board and Faculty board



Please find the nominated candidates here:

[The Faculty Board](#)

[The Department Board](#)

The voting will be going on in the period May 25th at 09:00 until May 28 at 12:00

### New Identity and access management (IAM) service postponed

The [new Identity and access management service](#), Felles tilgangsstyring (IAM), for the universities and university colleges in Norway that were announced to be implemented in June, has been postponed until next semester.



## Digital Summer Lunch 23rd June



All Informatics employees and emeriti are welcome to Digital Summer Lunch on 23<sup>rd</sup> June at 12:00-13:00 on Zoom.

We will order lunch bags for everyone, and for those using their campus offices on 23<sup>rd</sup> June, Pinar and Linda will be visiting with strawberries 😊.



Please join in for a nice time with your colleagues!

[Sign up here for food by 18<sup>th</sup> June](#)



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

### NIKT 2021 Call for papers



NIKT 2021, The Norwegian ICT Conference for Education and Research, the main annual meeting venue for ICT academia in Norway, will take place in Trondheim on **29 November – 2 December 2021**, hosted by The Department of Computer Science at NTNU.

The conference is a great opportunity both for building networks with colleagues nationally as well as publishing you and your students' work. Accepted papers give credits (level 1) in the Cistin system.

There are four conference tracks, together covering a broad spectrum of topics within ICT research and education:

- Norwegian Informatics Conference (NIK)
- Norwegian Conference for Organizations' Use of IT (NOKOBIT)
- Norwegian Information Security Conference (NISK)
- Norwegian Conference for Education and Didactics in IT subjects (UDIT)

At the [conference website](#) you will find more information as well as calls for papers for each track.

PAPER SUBMISSION DEADLINES: **1 September** for (mandatory) paper abstracts and **8 September** for papers

# Department seminar

27th May at 14:15-15:00

Speed Talks

This Department seminar is composed by 3 speed talks given by our own in-house researchers.

The goal is to make us a bit better informed on what our department colleagues are focusing on in their research.



**Pål Grønås Drange**

*"What competitive programming can teach you about non-competitive programming"*



**George Petrides**

*"Shift registers for secure communications: why we want them but can't have them (yet)"*



**Anagha Joshi-Michoel**

*«Personalised medicine?»*

## Teaching and Student affairs

### International Symposium on Learning Analytics in Higher Education, May 26

The [Centre for the Science of Learning & Technology \(SLATE\)](#), University of Bergen invites you to an online international symposium on [Supporting Learning in Higher Education through the use of Learning Analytics](#).

#### The symposium will cover many topics, including:

- Personalized and automated feedback
- Using Learning Analytics to support Self-Regulated Learning
- The future of data-driven applications in higher education
- Student engagement
- Datafication, is it a good idea?
- Ethical perspectives on Learning Analytics



The symposium assembles global experts in the field to share their knowledge and expertise and engage in discussions about future directions. The floor will be open for debate and questions from the participants.

## PhD updates

### Annal NORBIS conference - SAVE THE DATE!

The 7<sup>th</sup> Annal NORBIS conference is planned to be arranged 27-28<sup>th</sup> of October, 2021. And if national regulations allow it, we will all meet up at Ullensvang Hotel. If there are any limitations, we plan for a hybrid event like last year with online conference and local events.

### Upcoming courses

#### Genomics for Precision Medicine

This course will cover the use of genetic, epigenetic and transcriptomic data towards precision medicine. The course is split in two parts. The first part will be about one weeklong and has an aim to get the students familiar with starting from basic concepts to hands-on sessions using genomics data for precision medicine.

**Dates:** 14<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> June 2021 (online lectures and hands-on) + one week project work

**Location:** Digital

**Lecturers:** Anagha Joshi, Kim Brugger, Alexander Lundervold, Sean Banks, Adriaan Ludl, Dimitrios Kleftogiannis

**Credits:** 5 ECTS

[Registration and more information](#)



#### 2-Day Intensive Academic Writing Skills Course

Join us for this intensive, active, and fun 2-day course on basic academic writing skills led by Mathew Stiller-Reeve. Mathew will introduce you to the basics of (academic) writing, and also the typical structure of an academic article.

**Dates:** 26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> May, 2021

**Location:** Digital

**Course instructor:** Mathew Stiller-Reeve

**Registration deadline:** 1<sup>st</sup> May, 2021

[Registration link and more information](#)



## Vacant positions

### PhD position in Informatics - Machine Learning

Please find [the announcement here](#). Closing date: 23.05.2021

### PhD position in Informatics - Computational Biology

Please find [the announcement here](#). Closing date: 02.06.2021

# Publishing Open Access

## Open Access Policy

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.

## Data Management Plans

A data management plan, or DMP, is a formal document that outlines how research data are handled throughout the whole project life cycle - including the planning phase, the operational phase, and project conclusion – as well as beyond the lifetime of the project. DMPs are a key component of Open Science practices, where the overall principle is that research data should be "as open as possible, as closed as necessary".

UiB has its own [Open Science policy](#), where it is stated that all research projects led by UiB researchers shall have a DMP. For externally funded projects, also the funding agency's Open Science principles and DMP requirements have to be followed.

In principle, project leaders should strive to manage their research data according to the FAIR principle. FAIR means that research data have to be findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable.

The exact content of a data management plan will vary according to research field and type of project. It is important to determine what "research data" actually entails. The University of Bergen Library (UB) has included some comments regarding this on their [website](#), showing that both entirely new data and data generated through the analysis of existing data (secondary data) need to be described. Analysis software/program code created in the research process could also be relevant to consider. Special rules apply to sensitive data.

For more details and guidance, please have a look at UB's website on [Data Management Plans](#) (DMPs). Here you can find information on what should be included in a DMP, how to write it, where one can get support when developing it, upcoming training events and a list of links to several online tools that can help you to structure your DMP.

## 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 develop new knowledge within one or both topics for the call: Digital security and/or AI, 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.**



**Enabling technologies.** The Research Council of Norway has issued preliminary calls for both researcher and collaborative projects in the area of technological/digital convergence (*teknologikonvergens*). The Norwegian call for researcher projects has now been updated. **Application deadline: 15 September 2021.**



**Capacity building to strengthen industry-relevant research.** "Vi lyser ut 240 millioner til seksårige [3+3] prosjekter, der målet er å utvikle kunnskap og bygge kapasitet og forskningskompetanse for verdiskaping og omstilling/nyskaping i nærings- og arbeidslivet i regionen deres. Universiteter, høyskoler og forskningsinstitutter kan søke. Utlysningen favner alle fag- og forskningsområder. [...] Egenfinansieringen må være minimum 30 prosent av de godkjente prosjektkostnadene." **Application deadline: 15 September 2021.**



**Student active learning.** Diku, the Norwegian Agency for International Cooperation and Quality Enhancement in Higher Education, has an open call for applications in the area of student active learning. The focus is on projects that develop, implement, evaluate and use student active teaching and assessment. Applications from all research disciplines are welcome. Applicants need to make sure that the activities target whole study programs or larger groups of subjects. **Application deadline: 24 September 2021.**

Webinar for applicants: 8 June 2021.

NB: All applications should be developed in close collaboration with the department's study section and research coordinator!



**Positioning funds for EU proposals.** The Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences has announced a new call for POS funding in all three categories. In category 1, researchers can apply for up to 90 000 NOK per proposal. The **application deadline to the department is 5 June 2021.** Please use the template from the website and send your applications to Stefanie Meyer.



**ERC.** The European Research Council has updated their [website](#) with the call deadlines for 2021 as well as [tentative deadlines for the 2022 calls](#):

- Advanced Grant '21, **31 August 2021**
- Synergy Grant '22, **10 November 2021**
- Starting Grant '22, **13 January 2022**
- Consolidat. Grant '22, **17 March 2022**
- Advanced Grant '22, **28 April 2022**

**ERC funding explained:** Watch the ERC's [instructional videos](#).



**Olav Thon Foundation.** This year, the Olav Thon Foundation [announces the following calls](#):

- International Research Award for Mathematics/Natural Sciences and Medicine.
- \*National academic prizes within Mathematics, the Natural Sciences and Medicine: One can make nominations for the National prizes for excellence in teaching. Please note that in 2022 there is no announcement of funds for research support.

**Application deadline: 15 September 2021.**

\*We are waiting for the guidelines from UiB and the faculty. Depending on those, the department may set an earlier internal application deadline.



**EU: The Funding & Tenders Portal for beginners.** During this webinar, you will get basic information on how to use the Funding and Tenders Portal, including how to submit a proposal and how to set up an expert evaluator profile. **Event: 27 May 2021.**

**Webinar – ERC Synergy Grants.** The Research Council of Norway organizes an information meeting on ERC Synergy Grants, ERC grants involving a group of two to four Principal Investigators that address especially ambitious research problems. **Event: 2 June 2021. Registration deadline: 30 May 2021.**

**Webinar – How to write a successful ERC Advanced Grant application.** The Research Council of Norway organizes an information meeting on how to write an application to the European Research Council. **Event: 3 June 2021. Registration deadline: 30 May 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. News: The program is now available on the website!**

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

[Sikresiden.no](#) – [UiB employees welfare benefits](#) - [Credit card UiB](#) –  
[Fire extinguishing courses](#) – [Reporting of Deviations](#)



På den  
sikre siden

### Please register your vacation in the Self-service portal!

The deadline for registering of vacation expired on May 1<sup>st</sup>, but very many Informatics employees have still not registered. Please register now, so that Linda's list of people to contact for individual follow-up will be as short as possible. In the new SAP system she has no longer access to registering on behalf of anyone, so she will have to keep reminding you until everyone have registered.

We know that many of you hope to be able to travel during your vacation and therefore are reluctant to register now. Please just chose the period of your best guess, and we will approve if you need to send a change request later.

Here you will find [a user guide for registration](#). For log in, click here: [Self-service portal](#). If you prefer the more detailed user guide from the DFØ: [Requests for absence - DFØ \(dfo.no\)](#)

To those of you who already registered: Thank you so much – highly appreciated! 😊

### New application period for the cottages at Ustaoset and Tingviken - Autumn 2021



It is now opened to apply for U-heimen, Otteshemen and Butten at Ustaoset and Tingviken at Utne for the autumn period from 22<sup>nd</sup> August until 17<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

Please use the [UiB electronic cabin system](#) by logging in with your normal username and password.

The application deadline is 11<sup>th</sup> June. Drawing will be done 14<sup>th</sup> June.