Dear colleagues,

I am now preparing for two important meetings that will both happen next week. The first is our department gathering that I see as the most important event that we have across the whole department. I am very happy that more than 100 have signed up for the meeting and especially after a period with restrictions on gatherings it is great to be able to be together!

During the meeting we will have presentations from each group about their strategies and outlook for the future. We will also have the HSE Health-safety-environment section this time focusing on the recent ARK survey about how each of us experience the work environment, and on gender balance – and importantly how we may improve both work environment and gender balance. On the second day we will discuss our study programs, ethics related to computer science education and communication and visibility. I look forward to hearing opinions, ideas, and suggestions from across the department. To me – and I think to many of us – the social aspect of the meeting is also very important! I am very happy that our previous head of department Pinar Hegghernes will join, and we will have a session to celebrate her and the achievements of the department over the last years.

Together with some colleagues from CBU I will have to leave the department gathering before lunch on Tuesday in order to take part in the annual “All-hands” meeting of ELIXIR Norway, a national research infrastructure for bioinformatics. This meeting will happen in Bergen near the airport and gather more than 60 people. Here the focus will be on aligning the efforts across groups across Norway linked with ELIXIR and important keywords are e-infrastructure, data management, FAIR data sharing, user training, interoperability enabling data analysis and systems biology modelling.

It is always nice to come together – and I very much look forward to both meetings next week! I know that at both meetings, the participants are eager to contribute with their engagement, ideas and opinions – making for great discussions and progress.

Enjoy the weekend!

Inge

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The Dean’s Blog – Gunn Mangerud

The Dean’s blog aims to inform us of ongoing work and processes at Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences.

Her latest postings:

- [Fakultet – det er dere](#)
- [Slik mener styret vårt at vi kan bli fremragende innenfor disiplinene](#)
- [Slik skaper vi universitetet uten vegger](#)
Congratulations colleagues!

Saket Saurabh
Saket wins prestigious Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize! The SSB prizes are awarded to the top Indian scientists below 45 years of age for conducting outstanding research in science and technology.

Saket won in the category of mathematics, with the committee stating: “Saket Saurabh has made fundamental contributions to the area of Parameterized Complexity and for leading the field by initiating new research directions to the community.” Learn more here.

Current Issues  På Høyden - Khrono – News from NFR – News fromUiB – Informatics on Facebook

All Meeting on November 4: Nygårdsøyan Sør (NGHS)
The NHGS is a big campus project involving refurbishing of Realfagbygget and the Physics building and also a new building, Allégaten 64, where our department will be moving into in 2030. Here you can learn more about the project.

We now welcome all Department of Informatics employees to an All Meeting:
Thursday 4th November
12:00-13:10
Stort auditorium, Datablokken 2nd floor.
Lunch will be served 😊

In this all meeting, our representatives in the user groups will give short presentations and thereafter open for questions, inputs and discussion from you, the audience.

Our department is represented in the user groups as follows:
- Central user group: Inge Jonassen and Linda Vagtskjold
- Learning areas: Noeska Smit
- Workplaces: Pål Grønås Drange
- Common area and interaction, incl. outdoor areas: Marta Eide

After the meeting, you will all be invited to give your inputs also in a survey. The outcome of both the inputs from the all meeting and the survey will be useful for the user groups representatives in the continuation of their important work.

Please welcome this chance to have your voices heard in the planning of our future building and campus facilities – you should all come to this meeting and respond to the survey! And, as already mentioned: it includes a free lunch 😊

Christmas Party at Scandic Ørnen on December 16 – save the date!

REMEMBER OUR NICE CHRISTMAS PARTIES AT ØRNEN?

JOIN IN ALSO THIS YEAR!! 😊

DECEMBER 16 – SAVE THE DATE –
Name contest for internal seminar rooms!
We are currently working on a new booking system for our internal seminar rooms with both online booking and touch screens. We are aiming to finalize the job within this year and start up with the new system in January 2022.

Before starting the new booking system, we would like to challenge you to participate in a contest to name all the rooms. It may be something memorable, distinctive, following a theme and/or system or the like – all good suggestions are most welcome!

Here is an overview of the rooms we would like to name:
- Seminar room, 2nd floor in the Selmer group area
- Seminar room, 3rd floor in the Vis group area
- Seminar room 3rd floor in the Algorithms group area
- Seminar room 4th floor in the Optimization area – today named “Kroken” – maybe we should keep that one
- Lunch room 4th floor, Administration area
- Seminar room 4th floor in the PUT area – today called “Akvariet” – maybe also a keeper
- Recording room, 4th floor in the PUT area – maybe best to call it recording room, but still open for suggestions
- Seminar room 5th floor, south end
- Seminar 5th floor, north end – today called “Styrerommet”
- Seminar room 6th floor in the Machine learning group area

The winner(s) will be chosen by a committee of Stanislav, Stefanie, David and Linda, and there will be a prize for the winner(s) 😊. Please send your suggestions here. Deadline: 1st November

PhD updates

PhD defense – John Petter Indrøy
John Petter will defend his thesis "Selected Topics in Cryptanalysis of Symmetric Ciphers" on 27.10.2021 at 10:00 on zoom. All are welcome!

- Opponent: Chargée de Recherche CNRS Virginie Lallemand, Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique
- Opponent: Assistant Professor Bart Mennink, Radbound University
- Committee member: Associate Professor Chunlei Li
- Leader of the defense: Associate Professor David Grellscheid

Please find the press release here.

NORBIS courses:
Bioinformatics for functional metagenomics
Dates: 1-5 November 2021. Location: NMBU Ås

This course will introduce, explore and assess the vast array of sequencing technology and bioinformatic methods that are available to address these core issues. The course will include an array of contrasting tools to decrypt microbial communities, including those that assess community structure (metagenomics, predictive genome-reconstruction) and function (metatranscriptomics, metaproteomics). It shall involve “hands-on” experience with these different types of data, and also explore approaches used to integrate and use it to interpret community function. More information and registration here

Metabolic pathway analysis
Dates: November 29 – December 3. Location: NTNU, Trondheim

This course will provide an introduction to the computational analysis and reconstruction of both small and genome-scale metabolic networks. The goal is to make students familiar with state-of-the-art computational tools and databases, as well as providing the students with hands-on experience. Furthermore, we will cover the mathematical basis of constraint-based analysis of
genomic-scale metabolic models and provide a foundation for stability and control analysis of dynamic models. More information and registration here.

Modern methods for analyzing survival and time to event data – imb9335

Dates: December 6-10, 2021. Location: Domus Medica, Runde Auditorium, University of Oslo

The analysis of survival data and other types of time-to-event data are central in modern medical research and a number of other fields. A large number of methods for analysing time-to-event data have been developed, but many researchers have no knowledge of survival analysis, or they only know the most basic methods. The aim of the course is to give PhD-students and other researchers in biostatistics, bioinformatics, epidemiology, and related fields an up-to-date overview of statistical methodology for analysing time-to-event data. More information and registration here

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

Department seminar, 28 October

Associate Professor Håkon Robbestad Gylterud will give the talk “The univalent notion of equality” on our department seminar on Thursday October 28 at 12:45.

When and how two things can be considered equal are questions which has preoccupied philosophers for a long time. In computer science these questions arise in practice, since we often work with representations of objects rather than the objects them selves: For instance, we might represent a graph by a list of its edges, even if there is no inherent order between the edges in the graph itself. Thus, a given graph can have a number of equivalent representations.

In this talk we look at the equality in homotopy type theory, in the presence of Voevodsky’s Univalence Axiom. In this language there is a built-in notion of equality called the identity type. This is a very rich notion: Given two objects the identity type is not only concerned with whether they equal, but also in what different ways they can be proven equal. For instance, for two graphs the identity type is exactly the isomorphisms between them. After giving some historical context for this notion, we shall look at some applications of this notion relevant for computer science.

Department seminar, 4 November

Each year, the Research Council of Norway (RCN) has a call for Researcher Projects, inviting researchers from all fields to apply for funding to deliver new insights, advance research frontiers, promote scientific careers, establish and broaden international cooperation, facilitate excellent researcher training and more. With a deadline on 2 February 2022, researchers can apply in one of the following categories: Researcher Project for Scientific Renewal, Researcher Project for Young Research Talents, or Three-year Researcher Project with International Mobility. All of these calls come with a different set of (eligibility) requirements. During the seminar, we will go through the main characteristics of each call and make you aware of the most important specificities. We will finish the seminar with a Q&A session with successful grantees, Professor Lilya Budaghyan (Selmer Center), Researcher Mateus de Oliveira Oliveira (Algorithms), Professor Tom Michoel (Computational Biology Unit), and Professor Susanna Röblitz (Computational Biology Unit).

The seminar will be hosted by Stefanie Meyer, research coordinator at the Department of Informatics. Stefanie has worked as a research advisor for third funding for the past 6 years and has a broad overview over different local, national, and international funding bodies (including RCN, Trond Mohn Foundation, ERC, Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions).

Please find the web announcement here
For the seminar Thursday 11th of November, in Big Auditorium at 12:45 we are lucky to have Roger Antonsen from the Department of Informatics at the University of Oslo.

He is maybe the most well-known Norwegian speaker on mathematical topics, see e.g. https://rantonse.no/en/talks

Title: “Visualizing and Exploring Mathematical Spaces with Programming”

Please come - all are welcome!

Målet med konferansen er å stoppe opp og diskutere hvordan de ulike prosessene i arbeidet mot åpen forskning virker (eller ikke virker) sammen. Hvordan ser dette ut fra forskernes ståsted og hvordan henger politikken sammen med praksis? Er de ulike delene av sektoren rigget for endringer som er på vei og hvordan er den overordnede politikken, nasjonalt og internasjonalt koblet til endringer i forskernes hverdag?

Register here.

Do you wonder...
...what the open science policies are?
...how to publish openly?
...how you can improve the openness and replicability of your research?
...what the FAIR-principles are and how you can comply with them?
...how you can manage and store your research data?
...what do you need to consider if your data is sensitive?
...how you can retain your intellectual property?

These and more questions will be answered during the Open Access Week taking place 25th-29th of October 2021.

Register here.
NordicAlMeet 2021, 1 - 2 November

Learn more and register here

NORA Annual Conference, 17-18 November

Register for the first inaugural NORA Annual Conference 2021. Register for the conference now!

We are thrilled to announce the launch of the first Norwegian Artificial Intelligence Research Consortium Conference (NORA) Annual Conference, which will take place at Grand Bergen, November 17th and 18th, 2021!

The conference aims to gather the Norwegian research community within the field of Artificial Intelligence and create a platform where invited speakers and participants can share research, ideas, theories, models and new perspectives, and interact with peers from the field. Knowledge sharing and interaction will be at the center of the conference, which will in turn foster a strong community of researchers and practitioners, while bridging the gap between young researchers, startups and industry.

The fifth SDG Conference Bergen, 9-11 February 2022

The annual national SDG Conference Bergen was initiated by the University of Bergen and the annual event is planned in dialogue with the other Norwegian universities, the Ministry of Education and Research, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation.

For more information about the conference in 2022, please visit the dedicated event website.
Publishing Open Access and Data Management Plans

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](#).

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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.

Useful courses for handling of research data

The goal of the University of Bergen is that data resulting from research activity should be made readily available for reuse in accordance with FAIR-principles. UiB Library Research Support offers following courses to help meet these requirements:

**Data management Plan**

The Norwegian Research Council and Horizon 2020 require projects to submit a data management plan (DMP). A data management plan describes how data in a research project will be collected, processed and made available.

The courses “Introduction to DMP” and “DMP workshop” give you a short introduction to what a data management plan is, why you need it, and how to write one. In the workshops you will have the opportunity to work on your own DMP using a digital DMP tool, and then share your DMP with other participants and get feedback from peers and experts on your own DMP.

- November 12th at 10:00-14:00 (introduction to DMP + workshop). [Read more](#). [Sign up](#).
Finding & reusing research data
Sharing and re-using quality-assured research data is considered good scientific practice. Re-using existing datasets as secondary data avoids unnecessary duplication of efforts and can inspire new avenues of research.

For example, new questions or methods can be applied to a dataset, or data from different studies or disciplines can be integrated. In this course you will learn how you can use existing datasets as a resource for your research. The course consists of three short modules, and you can participate in either or all of the modules.

- November 26th at 09:30-12:00. Sign up [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:

Enabling technologies. 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.

Collaborative Project to Meet Societal and Industry-related Challenges. The Research Council of Norway has issued a preliminary call “to develop new knowledge and generate research competence needed by society or the business sector to address important societal challenges. The projects are to encourage and support collaboration between research organisations and stakeholders from outside the research sector that represent societal and/or industry-related needs for knowledge and research competence.” Projects are required to include at least two Norwegian partners from the non-academic sector. “The partners from the business sector or other parts of society must participate actively in the project. At least 10 per cent of the project’s total costs must be used by these partners.” Application deadline: 9 February 2022.

**Meltzer Research Fund.** Researchers* at the University of Bergen can apply for financial support for academic travels and sabbaticals. In addition, the fund supports talented students and PhD cand, with project stipends that can be used for covering costs in connection with their projects, for example research travel, field work, equipment, materials etc. **Application deadline: 1 December 2021.** *Please also have a look at UiB’s website.

**SPIRE.** SPIRE-funds are strategic funds that shall help to facilitate international research collaboration. One can apply for funds in two different categories: 1) proposal support, and 2) invitation of guest researchers. **Application deadline: 1 December 2021.**

**ERC.** Call deadlines for the 2022 calls are:
- 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.

**ERC reading days at UiB:** On the Reading Day you will get the opportunity to read successful ERC grant proposals in order to see how a proposal might be structured. **Event (in Bergen): 3 November 2021 (2 sessions).** **Registration deadline: 31 October 2021.**

**How to write a successful ERC StG/CoG:** This is a course on how to write an application to the European Research Council. **Event (online): 21 October 2021.** **Registration deadline: 17 October 2021.**

**Søkerwebinar: Forskerprosjekt.** Webinaret holdes på norsk. Forskningsrådet vil gi informasjon om forskerprosjektutlysninger som har frist 2. februar 2022. **Webinar: 25 November 2021.** **Registration is open.**

**Webinar for applicants: Researcher projects.** This webinar will be held in English and targets those who want to apply for a researcher project (deadline 2 February 2021). **Webinar: 7 December 2021.** **Registration is open.**

**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.
Vacant positions

**PhD Research Fellow in Informatics - Knowledge Representation and Machine Learning**

**SEAS postdoctoral research fellow in topological and geometric machine learning for marine sustainability**

**Simula UiB: Call for PhD student in Cryptography**
Please find the full announcement here. Closing date: 07.11.2021.

**Postdoctoral Research Fellow position within Informatics - Symbolic Algorithms**
Please find the full announcement here. Closing date: 14.11.2021.

**PhD Research Fellow in Informatics - Symbolic Algorithms**
Please find the full announcement here. Closing date: 14.11.2021.

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**HR – HSE (Health, Safety and Environment) – Welfare**
Sikresiden.no

Employees welfare benefits – Credit card UiB – Fire extinguishing courses – Reporting Deviations

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**Fire prevention course autumn 2021**

All UiB Employees must complete a fire prevention course which consists of a digital part, and a practical part on how to put out fires. This is required by law.

The digital part of the course will be sent to all participants by email. It takes approximately 30 minutes to complete. Employees are required to sign up for the practical part of the course themselves. You can do this by following the link to the form for your preferred date and time below (Note: the forms are in Norwegian).

The practical course takes 1 hour to complete. Place of assembly is the square between Sjøfartsmuseet and Sydnesplass 7 (the HF-building).

UiB have hired Teknisk Industrivern AS to hold our fire prevention courses.

More information, course dates and sign up here.

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**Welcome to the cake club (Kakeklubben) on Wednesdays!**

Kakeklubben aims to help our international colleagues to practice Norwegian while spending nice time together with people across group borders. Club meetings are held on Wednesdays at 12 o'clock in Akvariet, 4th floor.

You bring your own lunch, and we serve cake and coffee. Everyone is welcome, no matter how much Norwegian you speak. We hope to see you there, both internationals and Norwegians!

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**Welcome to Yoga on Wednesdays!**

Yoga is a great way to reduce stress and tensions from work. Yoga classes are held at our department on Wednesdays at 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 pm at the CBU seminar room in 5th floor.

Our professional yoga instructor, Kjersti Naess, is teaching in English. No signing up, and no participation fee. Please bring your own yoga mat. We also have some mats for loan. All employees are welcome – also those of you who never tried yoga before.

And remember: When you are too busy to go to the yoga class – then is when you need it the most!
Bergen International Film Festival (BIFF): Discounted Tickets

Bergen International Film Festival will take place from October 20th to October 28th.

Employees at UiB can buy 1 discounted ticket for all regular festival screenings. The ticket price for UiB staff is 70 NOK. Please remember to bring your staff ID to the cinema if you buy the ticket online.

Read more about the program here