Dear colleagues,

We have all had an extraordinary summer. Many of you were not able to visit your home countries, see your parents, friends and relatives; those celebrating Eid had to do it away from their loved ones. Most of you spent a lot of time working during the summer, lecturers and TAs busy with preparing your lectures and exercise sessions with alternative plans for several different scenarios, and the study administration busy with trying to find enough lecture rooms under constantly changing schedules and premises. Our students were busy with planning the usage of study halls, and a lot of work and effort was put into fadderuken, some of which was canceled.

I am very proud of and grateful for all these efforts. Most of all, I am really impressed about the positive and cheerful attitude that all of you have been showing. I hope that everybody got at least some holidays and managed to relax and recharge their batteries. As the start of the new academic year has shown us, we will need those batteries!

The first two weeks have been busy in a way we have never experienced before. Our study administration has been working day and night and also in the weekend, to accommodate all the changes that are happening all the time, creating new group sessions, hiring new teaching assistants, and taking care of all the students that turn up with a huge number of different questions and requests. Several of our lecturers are running double lectures to accommodate as many students as possible in physical lectures, and you are all combining physical teaching with streamed lectures and videos, giving you substantial extra work.

All these efforts to be able to keep our campus open and to have our students physically present with us… Is it worth it? My answer is a definite YES! It is such a great pleasure to be able to see and talk to our students, and it is invaluable for them to be able to interact with their teachers and their peers physically. I must say I am very proud of our students. They are extremely well behaved, responsible, kind and polite young adults, with extraordinary organizational skills. Our fresh students have an unusually complicated information flow to follow this semester, and I am impressed how well they are managing.

Last but not least, I am very happy to see my colleagues again. I really missed you all! Although we got used to digital meetings, I realize now how much more fruitful physical meetings are, and definitely more pleasant. I feel blessed that I am working in an environment with so many nice, kind and conscientious people, as well as extremely skilled in their jobs, and it feels wonderful to be back in our friendly and social working environment, even though we are of course keeping one meter distance to each other at all times. Fingers crossed that our campus stays open!

I wish you all a wonderfully successful and fruitful academic year 20/21 and the best of luck with the fall semester 2020.

Pinar
Welcome new colleagues!

**Mikhail Barash**
Mikhail started as a postdoctoral research fellow this August. He will be part of PUT group and Bergen Language Design Laboratory, where his mentor will be Magne Haveraaen. Mikhail is interested in domain-specific languages, language tooling (IDEs, language workbenches, structured editors), metaprogramming and generic programming. He will also be teaching INF214 this semester.

Mikhail is originally from Russia and is a dual Finnish-Russian citizen. He did his Ph.D. at University of Turku/Åbo (Finland) in 2015 where he studied extensions of context-free grammars and their applications to defining syntax of programming languages. He then worked as scientific coordinator and researcher at Turku Centre for Computer Science TUCS in Finland.

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**Amund Askeland**
Amund started as a new PhD student at the Selmer Center in August. His position is funded by the NSM and his main supervisor is Sondre Renjom.

Amund is from western Norway. He completed his Master's degree in embedded systems at NTNU in 2019, and has worked as a researcher at NTNU focusing on IoT for the past year. In 2017 Amund had an exchange year at EURECOM, France, which is where he got interested in security. Amund is looking forward to applying his electronics background to security.

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…and farewell Rune

**Rune Kleppe**
Rune has been employed at our department since 2016 and has served as administrative coordinator for the Centre for Digital Life, locally hosted by the CBU. He will now leave us for a new position as Researcher at Helse Bergen.

We congratulate Rune with his new job, thank him for all his good work and positive contributions to our working environment and colleagues, and wish him all the best for his future career!

Welcome back Kari Merete Erslund! She is now engaged in Rune’s position on a temporary basis. The position will probably be announced as open later this semester.

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Congratulations colleagues!

**Trond Steihaug**
Happy birthday to Trond who turned 70 on 6th August!

He will retire from his position as Professor effective from 1st September, but will continue to be our dear colleague as Professor Emeritus.

There will be a gathering to celebrate his birthday and mark his retirement on the 8th October. Invitation and more details will come soon. In the meantime - save the date!
Tom Michoel

Congratulations to Tom who got funding from the IKTPLUSS program of 12.8 mill for his project "Intelligent systems for personalized and precise risk prediction and diagnosis of non-communicable diseases". Pekka and Anagha will also contribute on the project together with some of the best international experts on the field.

About the project: In the near future, standard medical blood tests will be replaced by tests that measure the concentrations of thousands of proteins simultaneously. We want to develop algorithms to predict future disease risk from such data. To overcome the problem that correlation is not causation, we will use unique training data from medical partners to learn how biological processes happening in disease organs (heart, liver, fat, …) cause specific patterns in the blood data, such that when we then do a blood test in a new individual, we can “reverse engineer” the status of their disease-related organs, and thereby predict their disease risk.

Current Issues

Corona updates

- Please keep a one meter social distance at all times. No more than two people at the same time in the elevators. Stick to the right side when ascending or descending the stairs.
- Wash hands frequently!
- All students and staff must complete and pass the e-learning course in infection control.
- If you have symptoms of sickness of any kind, you should stay at home. If you are not well enough to work, please report a sick leave in the HR-portal. If you are well enough to work, then please work from home and let Pinar or Linda know. If you have the slightest suspicion, please call 115116 for advice; it now very easy to get tested for free at Bergen Legevakt (emergency dispensary), very close to our department at Danmarks plass. The UiB has also opened its own test centre for students and employees. Please learn more here.
- Since all of our employees have designated offices, and we don't have open office spaces with free seating at our department, we expect all our employees to be present at the department premises, as recommended by the university leadership. However, it is very important to avoid public transport at peak hours. If you have the possibility to work flexible hours, please come and leave the office late (or early) enough to avoid peak hours of public transport. If your family situation does not allow flexible hours, we can work out a schedule for part time (max 50%) home office. This needs to be discussed with and approved by Pinar or Linda.
- All employees are asked to make sure that they have registered their mobile number in the HR portal. This is for urgent messages by sms from the UiB leadership and to make it easier to follow up infection tracking if needed. How to do this: New form – Personal and family information – add your mobile phone number and chose “No” to “private mobile phone” (or else your mobile phone number will not be accessible in the phonebook) – move next to page 3 – Send. When you have already opened this form – please also check that your next of kin is added.
- Nobody is allowed on campus at night (between midnight and 06:00).
- Stricter alcohol restrictions are inferred for all meetings organized at university premises. People cannot bring alcohol from outside, and one needs a license to serve alcohol as an organizer.
- All travels abroad and guests from abroad need to be discussed with Pinar or Linda before making plans and sending invitations. Recall that the recommendation from the Norwegian government is that one should avoid all travels abroad that are not strictly necessary. This applies to all countries regardless of whether they are in Europe, green, red, or gray.
- Yoga classes restrictions: maximum 10 attendants. Mats will be wiped with disinfection after use. Fruits in the Reception on Mondays are cancelled until further notice and the coffee machine in the 4th floor dining room is not in service at the moment.
- Please follow the information on these pages frequently: UiB Corona info Info from the government Info from the Norwegian Institute of Public Health
Parking at the University
Anyone who parks in the University's parking spaces must have a valid digital parking permit. Parking in reserved spaces also requires a separate digital parking permit which is managed by the unit that has use of the reserved space. Parking inspections of the University’s parking spaces take place around the clock. From 01.01.2021 all reserved spaces for units will be removed and paid parking will be introduced at UiB.

Please find detailed information about the parking scheme at the UiB [here](#).

Student / Teaching matters

New online course: Introduction in programming
Our new course attracted an huge amount of applicants. Please read the nice [web news about the course here](#).

Knut Anders is their lecturer!

PhD updates

PhD defense – Lars Jaffke
Lars Jaffke will defend his thesis "Bounded Width Graph Classes in Parameterized Algorithms" on 26th August at 10:15 in a [digital meeting room (Zoom)](#).

- Opponent: Assistant Professor Meirav Zehavi, Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
- Opponent: Professor Dimitrios Thilikos Touloupas, AlGCo project-team, CNRS, LIRMM
- Committee member: Associate Professor Ahmad Hemmati, Dept of Informatics
- Leader of the defense: Professor Jan-Joachim Rückmann, Dept of Informatics

All are welcome! Please find [the press release here](#).

NORBIS Annual conference – save the date!
NORBIS Annual conference will be arranged November 2-4th, 2020! If the national guidelines allow, we will gather at beautiful Ullensvang Hotel in Hardanger for student talks, poster sessions, invited speakers and other fun activities. [More information here](#)
ICT Research School Annual Meeting 2020
The ICT Research School 2020 is going to take place on 26-27 October 2020 in Park Hotel Vossevangen. We would like to encourage all PhD students enrolled in the department's PhD program to join. Regular registration ended on 2 August. Please contact the organization committee if you missed the deadline.

The ICT Research School's annual meeting is organized by and for PhD candidates at the Department of Informatics. The aim of this meeting is to strengthen networking and collaboration among the research school's PhD candidates, as well as to give them the opportunity to hold a seminar/lecture on an individually selected subject to complete the dissemination part of the training component.

If you have any questions, please contact:
Alessandro Budroni <Alessandro.Budroni@uib.no>
Nooshin Heidari <Nooshin.Heidari@uib.no>
Dan Zhang <Dan.Zhang@uib.no>

For those who have forgotten to register by the deadline and/or new PhD candidates who haven’t heard about the meeting before now, you can still register by filling out the this form.

For those who are planning to give a talk, please register first even though you haven’t decided the title of the talk yet. The deadline for confirming the title of the talk is 1st September.

UiB Department of Informatics Writing Workshop 2020 – Registration is now open!
Welcome to the Department of Informatics Writing Workshop 2020 (23-27 November 2020)! The aim of this workshop is to learn about clear and concise writing and to motivate each other to communicate our science in the best possible way!

Registration is now open. Registration deadline is 19 October 2020. Please find more detailed information here.

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

Northern Lights Deep Learning Workshop 2021
Tromsø (“North Pole”) 19-20 January
Mini Deep Learning School 18 January (included)

Please learn more here.

New book by Helwig among others published on Springer!

Foundations of Data Visualization,
edited by Min Chen, Helwig Hauser, Penny Rheingans, and Gerik Scheuermann,
in four parts
with 21 chapters (almost 400 pages)
by 58 contributors

See Springer.com/gb/book/9783030344436 for more information!
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. 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.

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. The Research Council has an open call on Artificial Intelligence, Robotics and Autonomous Systems. “The objective of this call is to further develop expertise and capacity in artificial intelligence, robotics and autonomous systems. Efforts are to help to move the research front, build vital competence and create new opportunities for people and society in the short and long term.”

Please note that these are collaborative projects where two or more of the project partners have to come from outside academia (i.e. the private or public sector), and have to stand for at least 10% of the effort. Application deadline: open-ended.

Researcher Projects 2021. To support scientific renewal and development in research, the Research Council plans to open several calls for researcher projects in early 2021. “Researcher projects are to contribute to important new insights, scientific publication, researcher training and international research collaboration.” Currently, the following calls are planned:

- Researcher Projects for Scientific Renewal,
- Researcher Projects for Young Talents,
- Three-year Researcher Projects with International Mobility,
- Large-scale Interdisciplinary Researcher Project.

Application deadline: 10 February 2021.
Aurora and DAAD Mobility. “The AURORA and DAAD mobility programmes are designed to establish and expand the contact between educational and research institutions in Norway and corresponding organisations in France and Germany. The purpose is to strengthen European research collaboration under Horizon Europe, the next EU research and innovation framework programme. Researchers from Norway may seek support for funding for short-term visits in France or Germany for the purpose of launching and developing new joint research projects.” Application deadline: 2 September 2020.


EU Green Deal. “Fighting climate change and making Europe climate-neutral by 2050 is one of the main priorities of the European Commission. In support of this priority, the Commission is reinforcing Green Deal-related research and innovation [will soon release a] call for proposals under the current research and innovation programme - Horizon 2020.” Application deadline: not yet officially announced, but it is expected to be at the end of January 2021.

For more information about the Green Deal, please visit the following websites: European Green Deal call & A European Green Deal.

Olav Thon Foundation. Every year, the Olav Thon Foundation announces the following calls: (i) International Research Award for Mathematics/Natural Sciences and Medicine: An international award is given for excellent research in the field of mathematics/natural sciences and medicine. (ii) National academic prizes within Mathematics, the Natural Sciences and Medicine: One can make nominations for an Outstanding Teaching Award as well as apply for funding of student active research projects. As UiB has to prepare a support letter and submit all applications together, please note that the department’s application deadline is already 28 August 2020. Please send you applications to Stefanie.Meyer@uib.no.


European Research and Innovation Days. “European Research and Innovation Days is the European Commission’s annual flagship event, bringing together policymakers, researchers, entrepreneurs and citizens to debate and shape the future of research and innovation in Europe and beyond.” Event: 22-24 September 2020. Registration deadline: not yet announced.


Helse Vest research funds. Helse Vest's aim is to stimulate research activities in the health trusts in the region. Funds can be awarded to clinical patient-oriented research and health services research. Application categories include: PhD fellowships, postdoctoral fellowships, short-term projects, fellowships abroad, open project support, clinical researcher fellowships, career fellowships and overseas fellowships. Application deadline: 15 September 2020.

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.
Vacant positions

PhD position in Informatics - Sequence Design for Wireless Communication
Please find the announcement here. Closing date: 01.09.2020.

Postdoctoral Research Fellow position in informatics - applied cryptology
Please find the announcement here. Closing date: 15.09.2020.

PhD position in informatics - applied cryptology
Please find the announcement here. Closing date: 15.09.2020.

HR matters - Welfare – HSE (Health, Safety and Environment)

Ergonomic assessment of office workplaces on September 9
UiB’s physiotherapist will visit us on Wednesday 9th September at 09.00-12.00. Her mission is to help us with ergonomic assessment of our new employees’ office workplaces.

If you are not among the new employees since February 2020, but still want us to visit you for an ergonomic assessment of your office workplace – please sign up by sending an email to Linda Vagtskjold.

Yoga on Wednesdays – please join!
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 Meeting 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!
Det gode arbeidsmiljø

Arbeidsliv i endring - hva med arbeidsmiljøet?

Digitalt frokostseminar torsdag 17. september 0830-1000

Ledelse – tillit - medarbeider

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

Vernetjenesten ved UiB ønsker å sette fokus på betydningen av godt arbeidsmiljø gjennom frokostseminarserien Arbeidsliv i endring – hva med arbeidsmiljøet. Serien setter søkelys på arbeidslivs- og arbeidsmiljøfaktorer under endring og omstilling.


På frokostseminaret vil professor og instituttleder Bodil K Lund ved institutt for klinisk odontologi snakke om ledelse i krise og kaos. Kristin Kalvik, administrasjonssjef ved institutt for geovilenskap vil sette søkelys på medarbeideroppfølging i en uvanlig tid.

Professor i filosofi Espen Gamlund ved institutt for filosofi og førstesemesterstudier stiller spørsmålet om «Moralisering i koronaens tid?», og HR direktør Sonja Dyrkorn vil komme med betraktninger om ledelse og medarbeideroppfølging i koronatiden.

Seminaret arrangeres digitalt torsdag 17. september kl. 0830-1000 på Zoom.

Meld deg på seminaret her