Dear colleagues,

I wish you all had a nice summer! As you know I took over the job as head of department from August 1st and this is the first department newsletter I write. I am happy and I feel honored to have been given the responsibility to lead this department that I love so much. It is hard to take over after Pinar Heggherennes who did an outstanding job as head of department. But I will do my very best. And I’m very happy to be supported by a really well-functioning administration and not the least that the department has a highly competent and motivated scientific staff!

This week I have had the pleasure to meet new batches of bachelor and master students. It is really inspiring to see so many young people who have chosen to come and invest several years to study with us. It also gives us a lot of responsibility to provide them with the best education we possibly can. Then it is good to know that our highly competent faculty members, post-docs and PhD-students are eager to do exactly that! And that we have a highly professional and dedicated study section supporting us and helping the students!

I have been very impressed by the efforts done during the pandemic and I think the zoom seminars we had to exchange experiences and inspire each other is something we should carry on also in post-pandemic times. And even though I hope we can now do most of the teaching physically, I expect that some of the techniques and activities used during the pandemic can also be beneficial going forward.

On my agenda as head of department is to maintain and strengthen the community feeling of the department – and of the groups! And to make our activities and expertise more visible to the outside world! The department leadership and administration will take a special responsibility in this, but it will depend on a much broader engagement!

I would like to thank everybody for all efforts done preparing for semester start and to wish all of you a very nice weekend before the semester starts for real next week!

Inge

The Dean’s Blog – Gunn Mangerud

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

Gunn is our new Dean effective from 1st August. This is her first blog posting: Endelig kan vi ønske velkommen til en (semi-) åpen campus!
Welcome new colleagues!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role and Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Arash Azamifard</strong></td>
<td>Arash is our new Chief Engineer in the CBU service group. His main work tasks include software development with a focus on e-infrastructure for bioinformatics and computational biology. The position contributes to the development work undertaken in the context of ELIXIR Norway, and related national and international e-infrastructure projects associated with ELIXIR Norway. Arash is from Iran. He holds a PhD from the Amirkabir University of Technology in 2019. His latest position before he joined us, was with Nansen Environmental and Remote Sensing Center.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Sondre Bolland</strong></td>
<td>Sondre is our new one-year research assistant in the Didactics group. He has also accepted a PhD position with us and will start in this position in August next year. Sondre will be working with the Didactics group with technical assistance like maintain/develop existing scripts + systems for automatic marking and student feedback, make tutorial documents for tech setup, tech contact for codegrade-module in mitt.uib etc. He will also be assisting with content development: develop good quality scaffold code for exercises in INF101, develop and review Python exercises in INF100 together with subject specialists and INF113 support with assignments. Sondre is Norwegian, from Trondheim. He will be finishing his Master’s in Informatic, Logic with Michal Walicki this semester.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Linnin Gyberg</strong></td>
<td>Linnin is our new study advisor in the Administration. The first year of employment she will be serving in Mo Yan’s role with course and exam scheduling, exam complaints, course evaluation and other quality developing measures, Inspera, Leganto etc. Linnin is Norwegian, from Kristiansand. She hold a Master’s in Administration and Organization Theory from the UiB in 2019. Before she joined us, she worked in a similar student advisor position at the Faculty of Social Sciences.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Grunde Wesenberg</strong></td>
<td>Grunde is our new PhD student in Machine Learning. His position is connected to the project “Machine learning for computational efficient predictions of long-term congestion patterns in large-scale transport systems” financed by the Norwegian Research Council and hosted by the TØI (Transportøkonomisk institutt). His supervisor will be Ana Ozaki. He will do his duty work and have his physical work place with TØI in Oslo. Grunde is Norwegian. His Master’s is in Theoretical Particle Physics at NTNU in 2014. After that, he studied for two more years; practical teaching skills (PPU), followed by a year of computer science courses.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Pedram Keyvani</strong></td>
<td>Pedram is our new Chief Engineer in the CBU service group, initially in a six months’ contract. His main work tasks include software development with a focus on e-infrastructure for bioinformatics and computational biology. The position contributes to the development work undertaken in the context of ELIXIR Norway, and related national and international e-infrastructure projects associated with ELIXIR Norway. Pedram is from Iran. He holds a Bachelor Civil degree from the Azad University of Chalus in 2009 and has long work experience as web developer.</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Current Issues  Pål Hayden - Khrono – News from NFR – News from UiB – Informatics on Facebook

Department Gathering 2021 – save the date!
Our department gathering 2021 will be at the new Scandic Hotel at Voss on October 18-19. All Informatics staff, emeriti, CBU group leaders and members of echo are welcome to join. We will soon announce the program and open the registration. For now: please save the date!

Current corona related restrictions  https://www.uib.no/en/corona
The current UiB restrictions are based on those given by Bergen commune and valid until 22nd August. There is a certain possibility for the same restrictions being prolonged for some more time. Inge will send you updates on email as soon as we are provided with new updates from our UiB leadership.

Face mask. We encourage use of a face mask in all situations where it is not possible to keep a distance of 1 meter. This also applies on campus. The students are strongly encouraged to wear face masks in common areas – corridors, stairs, etc – where it may be difficult to keep the meter-distance. The department strongly encourages its staff to do the same! We hope this will help keep the infection numbers in control – and staff wearing masks will also send a signal to our students. If you don’t have mask, or want an extra one, please see Ingrid at the expedition office.

Home office/flexible work hours is recommended for employees who need public transport and has the possibility to work from home. If you need to work from home, this should be by agreement with your line manager. Note: if your work does not fit well with working from home, you should come to your campus office even if this implies using public transport. This can be for example to join a group seminar or the like. Sending lunch bags to home offices is no longer an option from this semester on.

Rapid testing. UiB will use rapid testing for students in the Buddy Week and in connection with teaching. Also employees are welcome to use the test station at the HighTek.

Travels. We follow national (and regional ie Bergen) regulations regarding traveling abroad. There should be an assessment of the importance of a trip before going since it involves a certain «risk». Our department policy will then be that trips abroad are approved by the head of department beforehand. Please notice that if there should be a quarantine requirement, expenses will not be covered by the university. For advice on how to book flights etc, see this website - especially now in the pandemic period, it is advisable to use the recommended travel agency since they can give advice on insurances, cancellation policies that are relevant in these times.

Reminder: Teams replacing Skype for Business from June 21th
From June 21th UiB will replace Skype for Business with Microsoft Teams. You will have the possibility to do external phone calls and receive phone calls in Teams. Skype for Business will be unavailable from June 21th and you should use Teams to make your calls. After your UiB phone number has been ported to Teams you will find a dialpad in your Teams menu by choosing the call option. For more information on how to use Microsoft Teams call functions check out our help pages.

If you are a member of Call Queues in Skype for Business, all queues will be ported to Teams. If this will have impact on your work, you will be contacted by our project team.

We have an opt-in option for you to be ported to Microsoft Teams before June 21th. If you want to, please contact our project team here.

For all others you will be ported to Microsoft Teams during the weekend 18-20 of June. Service may be unstable and unavailable this weekend in short intervals.
Vacant positions

Research assistant (up to 50%) at the department/Center for Data Science
Please find the full announcement here. Closing date: 25.08.2021.

Tenure Track Associate Professor in Informatics – applied cryptology
Please find the full announcement here. Closing date: 30.09.2021.

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

HR – HSE (Health, Safety and Environment) – Welfare
Employees welfare benefits - Credit card UiB – Fire extinguishing courses – Reporting Deviations

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 Kroken, 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!

Welcome to Yoga on Wednesdays! (starts 25th August 😊)
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!

The first Yoga class this semester will be on 25th August.

PhD updates

PhD defense - Nikolay Stoyanov Kaleyski
Nikolay will defend his thesis "Towards a deeper understanding of APN functions and related longstanding problems" on 24th August at 15:15 on zoom.

- Opponent: Professor, Daniel Panario, Carleton University
- Opponent: Senior researcher Anne Canteaut, INRIA (Institut national de recherche en informatique et en automatique)
- Committee member: Resercher George Petrides, UiB
- Leader of the defense: Professor Helwig Hauser, UiB

Please find the press release here

All are welcome!
**New deadlines for PhD thesis submission**
The thesis must now be submitted 12 weeks ahead of the defense, and not 10 weeks as before. This is introduced to allow for longer processing should there be a need for small revisions in the thesis. Summer and Christmas holidays do not count towards this deadline.

This results in the following deadlines for defenses before Christmas / summer holidays:
- Defense before Christmas 2021: deadline 24 September (for defense 17 December)
- Defense before summer holidays 2022: deadline 8 April (for defense 1 July)

The evaluation committee must still submit its evaluation report four weeks ahead of the defense. [Learn more here.](#)

**Annal NORBIS conference - SAVE THE DATE!**
The 7th Annal NORBIS conference is planned to be arranged 27-28th 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.

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

**NORA Annual Conference, 2021**
Register for the first inaugural NORA Annual Conference 2021. [Register for the conference now!](#)

![NORA Annual Conference, 2021](#)

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.

**Registration for the NordicAiMeet2021 is now open!**

![NordicAiMeet2021](#)

[Learn more and register here](#)
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 Cristin 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

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**Proposal writing course on 4-5 October 2021 & proposal writing classes**

To all **PhD candidates** enrolled in the ICT Research School and **Postdocs** at the Department of Informatics!

If you would like to get an overview of the funding landscape in Norway, learn more about writing a research grant application and gain insight into clear and concise writing, then join us for the **Introductory course on how to write competitive research grant applications on 4-5 October**!

The course is a two-day event composed of lectures and exercises. A detailed course description is attached to this email. For those participants who have concrete plans for sending a proposal in winter 2021/spring 2022, we will in addition offer a series of 1-2 hour proposal writing classes where we have a closer look at some of the important elements of a research grant application as well as help you to finetune your individual project descriptions and CVs.

**Dates & time:** Proposal writing course, 4-5 October 2021 (ca. 8 am – 15.30 pm)* Proposal writing classes, every Thursday from 12 pm – 2 pm, from 14 October 2021 until 16 December 2021*  
**Place:** Scandic Ørnen (proposal writing course). Høyteknologisenteret, Datablokken, 5th floor (proposal writing classes)  
**Language:** English  
**Registration deadline:** 30th August 2021, via [this link](#). NB: there is a limited number of seats.

**Course & class leaders:** Stefanie Meyer & Mathew Stiller-Reeve  
Stefanie has worked as research advisor with a focus on grant applications for the past 6 years. She has experience from working with a variety of local, national and international funding schemes, including The Meltzer Research Fund, the Research Council of Norway (mainly researcher and collaborative projects) and the EU (mainly ERC and MSCA individual fellowships). In addition, Stefanie has substantial experience in scientific project management from working as a research associate and/or project/task manager in different EU and NFR projects. Mathew Stiller-Reeve has a PhD in climate science from University of Bergen. During his PhD he started a writing community called SciSnack which brings early career scientists together to improve their writing skills. He is now a freelance communicator & educator and holds writing courses for researchers from all disciplines and all career-levels. Mathew has worked extensively with science communication and is an associate editor at the journal Geoscience Communication.

* The proposal writing course and classes are open to all PhD candidates enrolled in the Department of Informatics' PhD program as well as the department's Postdocs. The proposal writing course is for those of you who are interested in learning how to write competitive research grant applications. The proposal writing classes are for PhD candidates and Postdocs employed at the department who have concrete proposal plans. We recommend that those of you who want to participate in the class meetings also join the course (but it is not mandatory).

Kind regards,  
Stefanie & Mathew
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.

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 CRIS tin 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:

**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.

**Enabling technologies.** The Research Council of Norway has published the calls for both researcher and collaborative projects in the area of technological convergence related to enabling technologies.

**Researcher projects:** “Funding is available for projects that will lead to radical new technologies based on collaboration between established technological areas in the enabling technologies. Biotechnology, ICT and nanotechnology are typical examples of enabling technologies. The projects’ objective must be to find solutions that can be implemented. The projects can be high risk/high gain [...]”

**Collaborative projects:** “Funding is available for projects that will lead to radical new technologies based on collaboration between various social actors and established technological areas in the enabling technologies. Biotechnology, ICT and nanotechnology are typical examples of enabling technologies. The projects must be based on concrete societal challenges and build collaboration, knowledge and technological expertise suitable to meet these challenges. The projects can be high risk/high gain [...] The project must involve at least two Norwegian partners that are not research organisations.” Application deadline: 15 September 2021.

**AURORA researcher exchange NO-FR.** “Researchers from Norway may seek support for funding for short-term visits in France for the purpose of launching and developing new joint research projects.” Application deadline: 15 September 2021.

**Akademiaavtale.** As part of the Academia Agreement between Equinor and the university, UiB has announced a call for funding travels and inviting guest researchers in relevant strategic areas. You can find more information on the website. Application deadline: 1 September 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.

MSCA Doctoral Networks. “The **MSCA Doctoral Networks** aim to train creative, entrepreneurial, innovative and resilient doctoral candidates, able to face current and future challenges and to convert knowledge and ideas into products and services for economic and social benefit. [...] MSCA Doctoral Networks will implement doctoral programmes, by partnerships of universities, research institutions and research infrastructures, businesses including SMEs, and other socio-economic actors from different countries across Europe and beyond.” **Application deadline: 16 November 2021. (next: 15 November 2022)**

HelseVest. **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, open project support, clinical researcher fellowships, career fellowships and overseas fellowships. Application deadline: 15 September 2021.**

**MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships.** “The goal of **MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships** is to enhance the creative and innovative potential of researchers holding a PhD and who wish to acquire new skills through advanced training, international, interdisciplinary and inter-sectoral mobility.” This funding scheme is part of Horizon Europe’s Pillar I (Excellence). It is highly competitive and has quite strict eligibility criteria, but also represents an excellent opportunity to recruit talented young researchers to UiB and/or to gain experience abroad. If you are interested in this funding scheme, please contact Stefanie Meyer. **Application deadline: 12 October 2021. (next: 14 September 2022)**

**Horizon Europe, Global Challenges.** The work programmes for 2021-2022 have been published on the Funding and tenders portal. Relevant clusters within the Global Challenges include: Cluster 1 (Health), Cluster 3 (Civil Security for Society), Cluster 4 (Digital, Industry and Space), Cluster 5 (Climate, Energy and Mobility). A selection of potentially interesting topics will be available soon in the department’s overview of upcoming funding opportunities.

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.
Nordic AI Meet. “The main purpose of the symposium is to provide a platform for young AI researchers to exchange ideas, build collaborations and form a nordic approach for building AI solutions for the societal good.” Event: 1-2 November 2021. Registration is open.

NORA Annual Conference 2021. The first Norwegian Artificial Intelligence Research Consortium Conference (NORA) Annual 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.” Event: 17-18 November 2021.