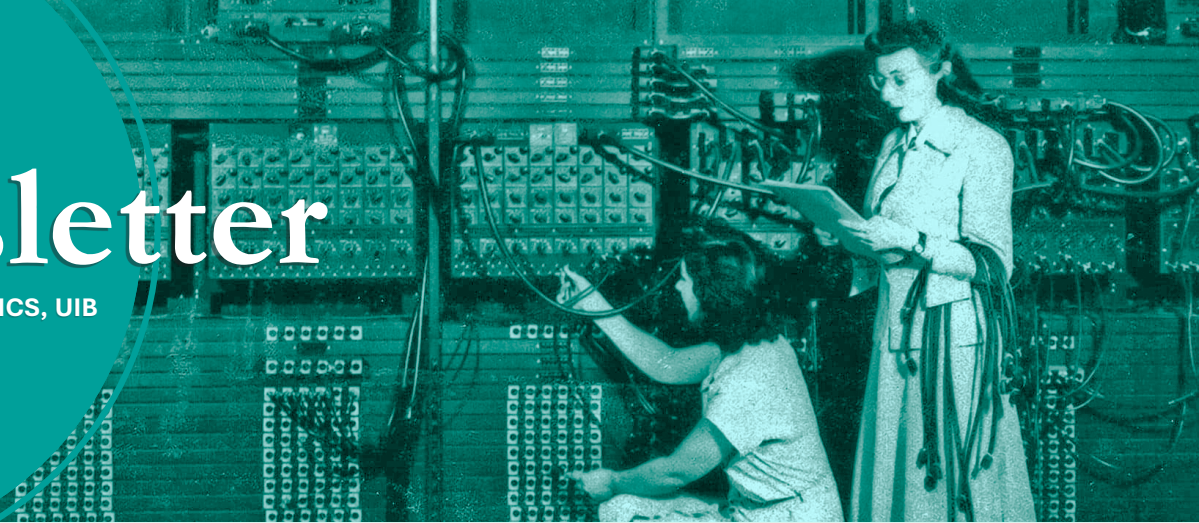


Newsletter

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATICS, UIB

No.01/2024, 05.01.2024



Editor-in-chief: Inge Jonassen. Editor: Randi Heggernes Eilertsen.
Contributions or comments to the newsletter are very welcome.
Old newsletters can be found [here](#).

Dear Colleagues,

First, I would like to wish you all a Very Happy New Year!

This year the Department is turning 40 and we're planning a celebration in October – keep an eye out for an announcement later this year!

As mentioned in the last newsletter, this will be an exciting year. First now in January we will finalize the reports to be submitted for the EVALMIT assessment. This is a good opportunity to summarize and reflect on our status, and to think about important priorities going forward. Linked with this process, we are also finalizing our [Department Strategy](#). I appreciate all the work the research groups are putting into this – and the help I'm getting from the writing groups for the department strategy and for the EVALMIT report to be submitted from the department.

While the assessment is focusing on results achieved over the last ten years, the strategy is forward-looking. The department has a strong and proud history of research in fundamental computer science with a strong emphasis on theory and the mathematical underpinnings. This provides an excellent platform for our future research programs. In the current draft of the Department Strategy, one action point under Research is "Working with research groups to identify pressing basic problems in computer science that can be addressed by the department and developing research programs to approach these problems." This will be important when we recruit new (associate) professors, and I look forward to working with each research group to do this in the best possible manner. Recruiting new colleagues

is one of the most important processes and decisions for the future of the groups and the department. This will be high on my agenda in the coming year(s).

In these discussions and processes, we should not consider the current group structure as written in stone. Again, quoting from the Strategy draft: "The department will also in the future consider establishing new groups and phasing out or re-orienting existing groups." As we are finalizing the EVALMIT documents, it will be a good time to re-visit the draft of our Strategy document before the Department council does the finalization. I believe the document will be useful in the coming years to help steer decisions and priorities. And it will help others, including (potential) new colleagues, to get to know us.

In the coming weeks, we will of course also be busy starting the new semester. Although the spring semester is the longer one, I know it will be intense for many of us. I appreciate all the hard work that goes into teaching and following up our students. We will continue to provide our students with fundamental knowledge and skills, that will enable them to use and develop the technologies of the future. And this educational activity still needs to be based on solid and leading research performed at our department.

I wish you all a very nice weekend!

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. Her latest posts:

- [For MatNat har 2023 vært et innholdsrikt år](#)
- [Tanker etter allmøterunden](#)



”Programmering på videregående ga nye studenter et klart forsprang”

The report from the didactics group, [”National Prior Knowledge Test in Programming”](#), was featured in a Khrono article this week.

[Read the Khrono article here.](#)

Welcome, new colleagues!



Alex Popov

Alex is from Russia, where he did his master's degree in Information Systems and Human-Computer Interaction at the St. Petersburg School of Physics, Mathematics, and Computer Science.

He has now joined the Didactics group as a PhD candidate.

Welcome, Alex!

PhD updates



Congratulations, Nidhi Purohit!

Nidhi Purohit defended her thesis "Multivariate Analysis of Clustering Problems with Constraints" on the 14th of December.

Congratulations, Nidhi!



Congratulations, Phillippe Samer!

Phillippe Samer defended his thesis "Polyhedra and algorithms for problems bridging notions of connectivity and independence" on the 21st of December.

Congratulations, Phillippe!

Current Issues



Yoga - mark the dates!

Due to scheduling issues, yoga will start on Tuesday 9th of January at 14:30, and be on Tuesdays the following 4 weeks. (16th, 23rd and 30th of January and 6th of February).

After this, it will be on Wednesdays from 14:30 as usual (minus the 27th of March and 1st of May).

Welcome back to Blåbær!



Lønningspils

Join us for our monthly staff meet-up on Thursday the 11th of January from 17:00 to 20:00 at the bar on the first floor, which can be found in the corner to the right when you exit the lifts.

To celebrate the very special third edition of the lønningspils, there will be free pizza!

Erasmus+ mobility for teaching

Teachers, researchers, postdoctoral fellows and temporary staff at UiB may go on teaching mobility. Teaching mobility provides good opportunities to establish and maintain contact with foreign colleagues and educational institutions in EU countries in addition to Iceland, Lichtenstein, Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey.

Spring application deadline:
20th of January

[Read more: Erasmus+ mobility for teaching | Employee Pages | UiB](#)

Erasmus+ staff mobility for training

Erasmus+ mobility for training gives employees the possibility to receive training, new knowledge and new experiences. Staff mobility may also contribute to increased international cooperation between UiB and European institutions in EU countries, Iceland, Liechtenstein, Macedonia, Serbia and Turkey. All employees at UiB can apply for scholarships, including technical-administrative staff and researchers. Both permanent and temporarily employed staff may apply for Erasmus+ funding.

Spring application deadline: 20th of January

Read more: [Erasmus+ staff mobility for training | Employee Pages | UiB](#)



UiB Ferd Career Centre supports doctoral candidates, postdoctoral fellows, researchers and associate professors. We offer a range of services designed to help you develop your career within or beyond the university.

[You can sign up for the UiB Ferd newsletter here.](#)

22.01.24: [GIS Workshop](#) (Workshop)
Registration deadline: 19.01.2024 at 12:00

23.01.24: [Proposal writing for dummies \(Course\)](#) Registration deadline: 19.01.2024 at 23:00

26.01.24: [How to meet Open Science requirements \(Course\)](#)
Registration deadline: 25.01.2024 at 12:00

30.01.24: [GIS Workshop](#) (Workshop)
Registration deadline: 19.01.2024 at 12:00

The UiB University Library and its [Digital Lab](#) offer a wide range of interesting courses and events – please find more information in the [calendar](#).

International Newsletter

UiB has a newsletter made especially for internationals, where you can find useful tips and news about upcoming events.

If you have moved to Bergen from a different country, we highly recommend subscribing to the newsletter [here](#).

You can also follow the International Centre calendar to find events that are of particular interest to international staff and students.



Vacant positions

- [MSCA SEAS postdoctoral research fellow in informatics for marine sustainability](#)

[See all open positions at UiB](#)

Upcoming Funding Opportunities

Please contact research coordinator [Stefanie Meyer](#) if you plan to apply. All applications need to be approved by the department leadership before submission. By following the link, you can find out more about our [research support services](#).



Forskningsrådet

FRIPRO: The Research Council of Norway has published information about the current FRIPRO (groundbreaking research) calls on their website.

- [Researcher Project for Experienced Scientists \(FRIPRO\)](#)
- [Researcher Project for Early Career Scientists \(FRIPRO\)](#)
- [Three-year Researcher Project with International Mobility \(FRIPRO\)](#)

Application deadline: open-ended



Nansenfondet: “Ordningen består av [seks stiftelser](#) som har et felles styre og som forvaltes etter de samme reglene. [...] I samsvar med de enkelte fonds vedtekter kan det søkes om midler til blant annet drift, forskningsutstyr, faglige reiser og vitenskapelig assistanse. Innen realfag og medisin prioriteres vanligvis støtte til drift og mindre utstyrsenheter. Det forutsettes at prosjektleder eller veileder søker for sin forskningsgruppe.”

Application deadline: 15 January 2024



Meltzer, University Fund and more: If you are looking for seed funding for travels, sabbaticals, events, and more, then please have a look at the [Application portal for Funds and Bequests](#). At our department, the most commonly used funding schemes are:

- **Bergen University Fund:** dissemination and publication of research results, hosting of scientific conferences and workshops etc.
- **L. Meltzer's Research Fund, Project grant:** for students and PhD candidates, support for academic projects (e.g., project development, fieldwork, equipment, materials, etc.)
- **L. Meltzer's Research Fund, Academic activities at the University of Bergen:** applications in two categories – A) Sabbaticals (only for those who have been granted a sabbatical by the department leadership), B) Scientific Trips and Activities (incl. scientific trips, organization of events, research funds/small operating funds that support research)
- **Det alminnelige naturvitenskapelige forskningsfond ved Universitetet i Bergen:** research and other scientific activities at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (UiB)

Application deadline: 12 January 2024



Research Stay with Alan Turing Institute

2024: NORA is collaborating with the Alan Turing Institute, the UK's national institute for data science and artificial intelligence, to [support two researchers](#) from its network partners to stay for six months at the institute.

Deadline: 17 January 2024 at Midday BST



Direktoratet for
høyere utdanning
og kompetanse

New Tilskot til kompetanseutvikling:

“[Tilskot til bransjen for informasjons-tryggleik og IKT](#) er ein del av tilskotet gjennom treparts bransjeprogram for kompetanseutvikling. Tilskotet i denne utlysinga skal dekke utvikling og løpande gjennomføring av tilbod frå 2024 til juni 2027.”

Application deadline: 5 February 2024



NordForsk

New NordForsk Arctic Sustainability:

NordForsk has published a pre-announcement for an [upcoming call for proposals on Sustainable Development of the Arctic](#). Referring to potential drivers of change in the Arctic, e.g. climate change, technology development, migration, tourism, demographic changes, changes in the geopolitical situation, this is a call for “research that can contribute to new knowledge for a sustainable development of the Arctic. The call has no thematic priorities, but three keywords can inspire the applicants when developing their research ideas into proposals: Security, Natural Resources and/or Societal Changes. It will be required to consider the indigenous perspectives when relevant. The research funded must be truly interdisciplinary and excellent, combining and integrating skills from multiple disciplines to contribute with new and groundbreaking knowledge for a sustainable development of the Arctic.”

Application deadline: mid of May 2024; call opens mid of February 2024



New NORA Annual Conference Awards: “The [NORA Annual Awards](#) are given to recognise exceptional efforts of individuals and actors in the Norwegian AI community throughout the year.” You can nominate candidates in the following categories:

- NORA Award for Lifetime Achievement
- NORA Award for Distinguished Early-Career Investigator
- NORA Award for AI Community Building and Education
- NORA Award for Diversity in AI
- NORA Award for Outstanding Publication of the Decade 2013 – 2023
- NORA.startup Award

Nomination deadline: 12 March 2024



Forskningssrådet

New SFI: “The [Centres for Research-based Innovation \(SFI\)](#) develop expertise that is important for innovation and value creation. Long-term research in close cooperation between R&D-active companies and prominent research groups will strengthen technology transfer, internationalisation and researcher training. The centres have been established for a maximum period of eight years. The SFI centre will be announced in 2024, where funding will be announced for at least eight centres through a two-stage application process.”

Call text to be published: April 2024
Application deadline: 18 September 2024



Forskningssrådet

New SFF: The [Norwegian Centres of Excellence scheme \(SFF\)](#) “scheme gives Norway’s best researchers the opportunity to organise their research activities in centres that seek to achieve ambitious scientific objectives through collaboration. The research conducted at the centres must be innovative and have major potential to generate ground-breaking results that advance the international research frontier. [...] The next call for proposal by the SFF scheme is planned in 2025 and allocated towards the end of 2027.”

Open info meeting: Spring 2024
Call text to be published: Early 2025



New NordForsk Webinar: Pathways to Research Impact

“NordForsk’s upcoming webinar on how NordForsk measures and communicates research impact and how we use the data.” Event date: 9 January 2024, 1.30-3.00 pm. [Register here](#).

New Essential ERC - A very basic introduction to the European arena for excellent science

“This is a short, very basic webinar for early stage and mature researchers who wants to know more about the grants offered to excellent researchers at all experience levels. What can you apply for, how do you apply, when and at what stage? After the presentation, there will be a Q&A.” Event date: 13 February 2024, 2-3 pm. [Registration deadline](#): 13 February 2024, 11 am.

New 4th International Conference on Applied Artificial Intelligence (ICAPAI 2024)

“The theme of the 4th International Conference on Applied Artificial Intelligence (ICAPAI 2024) will be “Human-Centric AI for the Digital Society”. ICAPAI will provide an excellent international forum for sharing knowledge and results in theory, methodology and applications of Artificial Intelligence that enables a more Digitalized Society. The conference aims to provide a platform to researchers and practitioners from both academia and industry to meet and share information about cutting-edge developments in the field.” Event date: 16 April 2024 (Halden, Norway). For more information, please visit the [conference website](#).

NORA Annual Conference 2024

“The [NORA Annual Conference](#) is an annual event that 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.” Save the date (3-4 June 2024, Kristiansand, Norway)!

SCAI'24 - The 14th Scandinavian Conference on AI

“The [14th Scandinavian Conference on AI \(SCAI'24\)](#) [10-11 June 2024, Jönköping, Sweden] invites researchers and industry practitioners working on all facets of AI to submit their research. Organised as a joint venture by the Swedish AI Society (SAIS) and Norwegian AI Society (NAIS), the event invites researchers from all over the world to participate in ongoing discussions.” Submission deadline: 2024-03-22. Registration deadline: 2024-05-12.

CRISTin registration of 2023 publications

To all scientific staff at the Department of Informatics!

We kindly remind you to...

- check that all of your 2023-publications are (correctly!) registered in CRISTin*,
- to add missing publications to the system,
- to make sure that a full-text version is uploaded for all research *articles*, and
- to register the project code for publications that are a result of projects funded by the EU, RCN, or other funders that require open access

The deadline for completing those tasks is **31 January 2024!**

General instructions: A publication shall only be reported once. Revised editions shall not be reported. To count as an academic publication, the publication has to fulfill certain criteria (see [here](#) for more information). Furthermore, in order for an institution to count a publication wholly or partially for reporting, the name of the institution must be listed as an author's address in the publication itself.

Where to find more information: How to [register publications](#) in CRISTin. Guidance for [uploading full-text versions of articles and registering project codes](#) in CRISTin, and [Frequently Asked Questions](#) regarding the uploading of a full-text version in CRISTin.

Main contact person at the Department of Informatics: Stefanie Meyer

*Current research information system in Norway

Invitation to showcase your research at the SDG Conference 2024

Dear PhDs and postdoctoral researchers,

The sixth SDG Conference Bergen will take place 7-9 February 2024 with the theme “The role of universities in transformative change” (see [SDG Conference Bergen | University of Bergen \(uib.no\)](https://sdgconferencebergen.no) for details). This digital conference provides new opportunities to present emerging and important research by motivated PhD students and postdoctoral researchers addressing the conference themes. We therefore invite all PhDs and postdoctoral researchers that are interested to present a digital videorecorded poster on your research and how it relates to the theme of the upcoming conference.

Digital poster details

- Each PhD student or postdoctoral researcher may submit a (maximum) two-minute videorecorded poster (in English) by **31 January 2024**.
- The videorecorded poster could be you presenting orally into the camera your research, showing a presentation or other form of digital content using a combination of presentation techniques. This videorecorded poster should be of fairly high digital quality but may very well be recorded with your smart phone.

How to upload your digital poster

- 1) The videorecorded poster is to be **uploaded at vimeo.com**.
- 2) Log in with the following details:
Email: sdgconference@apriil.no
Password: SDGC24posters!
- 3) Send a **notification email to sdgconference@apriil.no**.
- 4) By **early February 2024** you will receive notification about whether your poster is accepted. If accepted, your videorecorded poster videos will be showcased at the conference platform and available for all digital participants to view. For technical questions regarding uploading the recording, contact sdgconference@apriil.no.

This is a great opportunity to share your research with a global audience and we hope to see your presentation at the conference!

PS! Extra tips for your recording session:

- Please try to find a plain and tidy background, like a white wall.
- Be conscious of your lighting.
- Find a quiet space.
- Use your smartphone to record yourself presenting. The video and audio quality are usually a lot higher on your phone than your laptop.
- Look directly into the camera while recording (that means: do not look at yourself on the screen if you are using your phone to record).
- The camera should be in landscape-mode, and the view should cover your head and shoulders.



NORBIS activities

Courses open for registration!

- **Non-members can also register**

Metabolic pathway analysis

Time: February 19th to March 1st, 2024. Please note that the course is two weeks.

Place: University of Bergen, Department of biomedicine

Course responsible: [Ines Heiland](#), [Mathias Ziegler](#), and [Suraj Sharma](#)

Invited lecturers: [Sascha Schäuble](#), HKI, Jena Germany

Suggested amount of ECTS: 10

Number of participants: max 20

Registration form: [HERE](#) **Registration deadline: February 1st**

Course description

This course will provide an introduction to the computational analysis and reconstruction of both small and genome-scale metabolic networks. The main goal is to familiarize students with relevant state-of-the-art computational tools and databases, as well as to provide the students with hands-on experience in metabolic modelling approaches. Furthermore, we will cover the mathematical basis of constraint-based analysis of genome-scale metabolic models and provide a foundation for stability and control analysis of dynamic models.

Link to course site: <https://norbis.w.uib.no/metabolic-pathway-analysis-2/>



Microbial comparative genomics

– phylogenetics, genome sequencing, genome annotation, antimicrobial resistance, comparative genomics

Time: April 8-12, 2024

Place: University of Bergen, Computational Biology Unit

Course responsible: [Anagha Joshi](#) and [Tom Michoel](#)

Invited lecturers: Dr. [Grigorios Amoutzias](#), [Marios Nikolaidis](#)

Suggested amount of ECTS: 5

Number of participants: Max. 20

Registration form: [Here](#) **Registration deadline: March 8th.**

Course description

The course will be given over a week (5 days Monday-Friday) with lectures (34 hours including discussions) in the mornings and practical hands-on sessions in the afternoons. On the last day there will be a summing-up session where the students can provide feedback. The students will receive a reading list before the course and are expected to prepare well for the course. The students will do a project after the course and deliver a report within two weeks after finishing the course. Students must bring a laptop running a UNIX-Like operating system (any flavor of Linux, UNIX or Mac) to the course and will receive software installation instructions along with the reading list.

Link to course site: <https://norbis.w.uib.no/sequence-analysis...arative-genomics/>

Courses in collaboration with Digital Life Norway Research School

-These courses are open for NORBIS members only

Science communication - How to make an award-winning poster

When/Where: 4-6 March 2024, Røros Hotel

Registration deadline: 31 January 2024

How can you create a poster that does not only attract attention, but will help you get connected and even get feedback on your research? In our workshop you'll learn to use the principles of science communication in order to tell an engaging and memorable story about your research. From this story, you will create an attractive design that helps your audience understand your main message in a few seconds.

This 3-day workshop organized by DLN Research School, TNNN and NORBIS, provides young to mid-level researchers with the techniques and tools to effectively communicate their work in a poster presentation. It covers the basics of science communication, storytelling, and design principles. Throughout this combination of lectures, exercises, discussion and assignments, you will produce your own poster and pitch it to the group.

The course is all-inclusive. This means that the research schools will take care of hotel bookings, and travel costs will be reimbursed upon submission of a travel claim.

[Read more & register...](#)

Science communication - Pitch your science to any audience

When/Where: 7 March 2024, NTNU Trondheim & online

Registration deadline: 7 February 2024

Writing a short pitch is often the best start to any kind of science communication. To help you get on with this, we aim this workshop at defining your message, goal and target audience. But we will also cover some ways to formulate your message clearly and explain why this is so important. This workshop helps you to communicate with your peers, but also with subsidy organizations, policy makers or a wider audience. At the end of the workshop, you'll have a short pitch about your research.

This hybrid workshop is organized by DLN Research School, TNNN, and NORBIS. Participants based in Trondheim are welcome to attend in person for the entire day, while those located elsewhere can participate digitally from 09:00 to ~12:00.

[Read more & register...](#)

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES: SAVE THE DATE!

Workshop: Comparing genomes: Genome assembly and annotation, and hypothesis testing in comparative genomics.

Time: 1-5 April, 2024

Location: University of Oslo or University of Bergen

Workshop responsible: José Cerca (UiO), Ole Tørresen (UiO)

Workshop description: In this workshop, we will cover the technical principles of genome assembly, annotation, and genome comparison. We will explore the techniques related to genome sequencing, the software and strategies used for genome assembly and annotation. Following that, we will delve into comparative genomics, focusing on fundamental concepts such as genomic structural features (transposable elements, genes, centromeres), orthologs, and functional characterization of genes. Through this, participants will gain the necessary skills to test hypotheses in the field of comparative genomics.

For more information, visit our workshop website: <https://norbis.w.uib.no/activities/workshops/>

Workshop: Genealogies and Ancestral Recombination Graph

Time: April/May 2024

Location: Drøbak Research Station (Tollboden)

Workshop responsible: José Cerca (UiO) and Ole Kristian Tørresen (UiO)

Workshop description: The Genealogies and Ancestral Recombination Graph workshop (GARG'w) is a comprehensive 3-day program designed to introduce participants to the fascinating world of population genomics and how recombination events shape genomes. This hands-on workshop will focus on utilizing the tskit environment, a powerful tool for simulating and analyzing genomic data (whole-genome resequencing data), to explore and understand complex inheritance patterns within populations. Join us for this immersive 3-day workshop to gain valuable skills and insights into the world of genealogies and Ancestral Recombination Graphics using tskit. Unlock the secrets hidden in genetic data and discover the historical events that have shaped the genetic ancestry of species and populations.

In addition we have soft skills courses available that are organized with other national research schools. Please visit <https://norbis.w.uib.no/activities/transferable-skills/> for more information.

Travel funding from NORBIS

Are you NORBIS member and in need funding to go to an international course or conference? NORBIS are happy to announce that we have a limited fund available for travel for our members for these activities. If you like to know more, please visit our website: <https://norbis.w.uib.no/travel-funding-f...-and-conferences/>

Funding for arranging courses and workshops

Do you have a course you like to organize under the NORBIS umbrella but in need of funding? Our call for courses is open now: <https://norbis.w.uib.no/activities/proposals/>

For more information, please see our webpage: <https://norbis.w.uib.no>