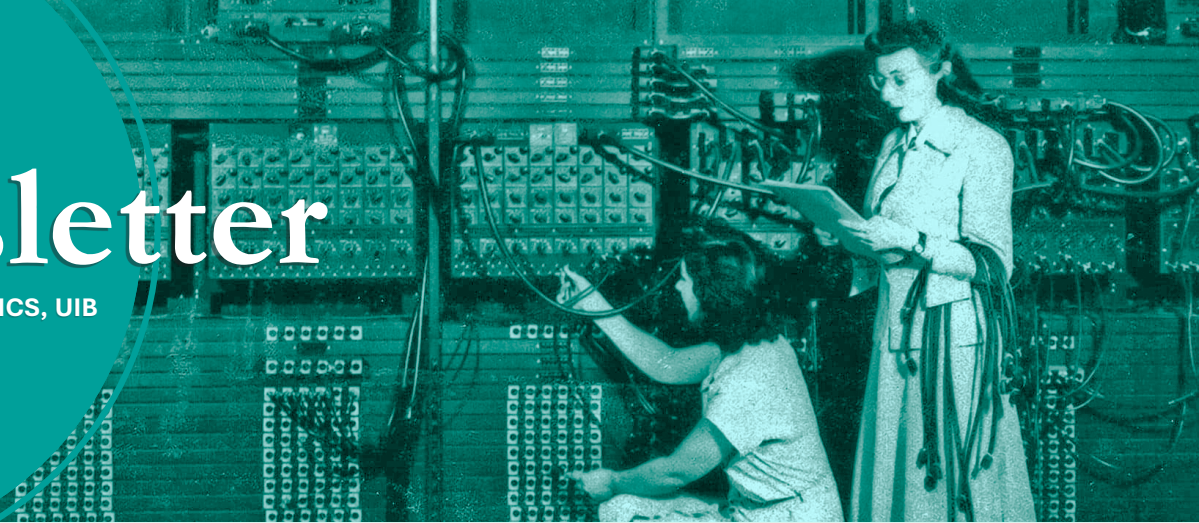


Newsletter

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATICS, UIB

No.01/2024, 19.01.2023



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,

I am writing this from home as we have been advised to work from home today (Friday) due to the large amounts of snow. Also, earlier this week there have been problems with traffic – buses, the light rail transit (Bybanen), planes and trains have been delayed or cancelled. So I hope many of you are taking the advice to work from home today.

Recommending working from home, and changing all meetings to be online, brings back memories from the pandemic. Even though we were less affected than people in many other countries, we had periods of working from home and minimal social interactions. For me personally, I did okay during that period, but coming back to work I realized that I had really missed the daily interactions with colleagues, students, collaboration partners and so on.

In terms of work environment and psychosocial work environment, I think we are still feeling some after-effects of the pandemic at the department. Many have found new routines and got used to working more from home. As a department, and maybe especially at the research group level, I think this is still affecting us. I would like to encourage the research groups, and each one of you, to think about what can be done to alleviate this problem. There may be a snowball effect. If some people in a group stay at home, others will have less reason to come in to work. And it may take a joint effort or agreement to reverse the situation – and come

back to a situation where the norm is to come to the office every day. The physical presence and social interactions it enables are important for our well-being. Many colleagues are new in Bergen and have limited social networks outside work, making this even more important. But it is also important to enable spontaneous scientific exchanges and interactions, both among colleagues and between students and colleagues. I would encourage each of you to try and make it to work as often as at all possible, and also to take initiatives within the groups to help bring people into work. Even though what has been said earlier about economic moderation etc. still holds, it is possible to use some of the group budgets (that we plan to increase slightly again this year) to help stimulate physical presence and social and scientific interactions. At the department level we are doing things like the faculty and staff lunches, department seminars, the “lønningspils”, Christmas dinner, boat trips, and retreats. If you have ideas for other things we could do, please do let us know.

I wish you all a nice weekend and hope to see you physically back at work next week!

All the best,

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:

- [Tanker etter allmøterunden](#)
- [Nye statsråder og forslag til statsbudsjett](#)

PhD updates



Upcoming PhD defence...

Ramin Hasibi

Ramin Hasibi is defending his thesis "Deep Learning and Deep Reinforcement Learning for Graph Based Applications" on the 26th of January from 10:15 to 12:15 the VilVite auditorium.

[Read the announcement: Ramin Hasibi](#)

Welcome, new colleagues!



Yasin Tharak Miran

Yasin is originally from Sri Lanka, but did his master's degree in software engineering at the University of Limerick in Ireland.

He is now joining CBU as a senior engineer, where he will be working with ELIXIR.

Welcome, Yasin!



Amy Zhang

Amy is from Canada, where she did a master's degree in biomedical communications at The University of Toronto. She has now joined the Visualisation group as a PhD candidate.

Welcome, Amy!



Roxanne Ziman

Roxanne is from Canada, where she did a master's degree in biomedical communications at The University of Toronto. She has now joined the Visualisation group as a PhD candidate.*

Welcome, Roxanne!

**this is not a copy/paste mistake, this master's programme in Toronto just happens to produce good PhD applicants.*



Evita Uglum

Evita is from Sogndal. She did her master's degree here at UiB, and has also been working at UiB's division of financial services for the last half year. Now she is joining our study section, with some additional general administration tasks.

Welcome to our department, Evita!



Willem Schooltink

Willem is from the Netherlands, but he did his master's in our very own Machine Learning Group. He enjoyed the view from the 6th floor so much that he is staying to do a PhD.

We are happy for your continued presence, Willem!

Current issues



New waste disposal spots

We are no longer able to use “Miljøstasjonen” (the waste disposal station) the next building over.

Instead, we have to start using our own facilities.

Please read more about the new spots for [waste disposal in this document](#). If there are any changes, an updated version of the document will be in the fact box on [the department's HSE pages](#).

The indoor garbage chute in our building still works for smaller amounts of waste.



Facilities for active commuters

The biology block has newly renovated locker rooms for commuters who want to change/shower after cycling/running/run-swimming to work. These rooms have lockers that can be padlocked. At the end of each year, the lockers must be emptied and padlocks removed. This is to avoid lockers being “occupied” without being in use.

Find more info about the facilities in the fact box on [the department's HSE pages](#).

University Library Open Science webinars

How to meet Open Science requirements

Introduction to data management plans (DMP)

How to make your data open & FAIR

Research data management in the active phase of research

09 Feb. 2024

08 Mar. 2024

05 Apr. 2024

03 May 2024

26 Jan. 2024

23 Feb. 2023

22 Mar. 2024

19 Apr. 2024

Finding & reusing research data

Make your research visible using researcher profiles

Introduction to data management plans (DMP)

Open Access – step by step

Questions?

Contact the Library Research Support Team:

Open publishing:
bora@uib.no

Research data:
research-data@uib.no

Bibliometric services:
bibliometri@uib.no

Go to uib.no/ub/kalender for more information and to sign up!





POPVIT I BIBLIOTEKET

KUNNSKAPSEPLET

EN REISE GJENNOM MYSTERIET AV DET MENNESKELIGE GENOMETS «MØRKE MATERIE»



Kun 2% av vårt DNA består av proteinkodende gener. Resten har lenge blitt avskrevet som "søppel-DNA". Forsker i kreftgenetikk **Dr. Maria Johansen** vil i dette foredraget utforske de resterende 98% ikke-kodende genene – populært kalt **"genomets mørke materie"**. Disse genene *kan* være nøkkelen til å forstå fysiologien vår, inkludert kreft og andre funksjonsfeil.

NÅR: TORSDAG 25. JANUAR KL 14:15

HVOR: BIBLIOTEK FOR MATEMATISK-NATURVITENSKAPELIGE FAG

Konferanse: RESPONS

Universitetet i Bergen og Utenriksdepartementet har gleden av å invitere deg til dagskonferanse om Norges utenrikspolitikk, tirsdag 13. februar.

Tema for konferansen er «Global orden og demokratiske verdier i en tid med maktforskyvning og stormaktrivalisering». Utenriksminister Espen Barth Eide vil delta.

Tid: Tirsdag 13. februar, klokken 10.00–15.30

Sted: Universitetsaulaen i Bergen

Konferansen er en del av regjeringens landsomfattende konferanseserie Respons. Målet med Respons-konferansene er å skape et forum for innspill og debatt om norsk utenrikspolitikk; hvilke utfordringer står vi overfor, og hvilket handlingsrom har vi? [Les mer om konferanseserien på regjeringens nettsider.](#)

Respons-konferansen i Bergen vil forsøke å gjøre opp status for demokratiske verdier, rettsstaten og menneskerettighetene i verden i dag, og diskutere på hvilke utenrikspolitiske områder og hvor i verden norsk utenrikspolitikk kan utgjøre en positiv forskjell for disse verdiene. [Les mer, og se program for konferansen på uib.no.](#)



UNIVERSITETET I BERGEN



Utenriksdepartementet



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

09.02.24: [Finding & reusing research data](#) (Course)

Registration deadline: 08.02.2024 at 12:00

12.02.24: [How to write a competitive CV for the Industry?](#) (Course)

Registration deadline: 09.02.2024 at 23:55

23.02.24: [Introduction to Data Management Plans \(DMP\)](#) (Course)

Registration deadline: 22.02.2024 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

- [PhD Research Fellows \(2 positions\) in Informatics: Algorithms, Logic and AI](#)

[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](#).



Forskningssrådet

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



NordForsk

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 DLN Industry Internships: “PhD students in Norwegian biotechnology have the opportunity to [explore career options outside academia](#) through Digital Life Norway’s Internship Program.”

Application deadline: 31 January 2024



Forskningssrådet

Researcher projects (thematic calls): The Research Council of Norway has published preliminary information about researcher project calls for [early career scientists](#), [experienced scientists](#) and [large interdisciplinary projects](#) for a variety of pre-defined topics.

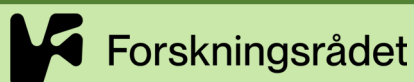
Application deadline: 6 March 2024 (tentative)



Forskningssrådet

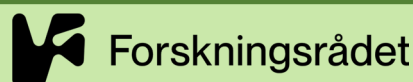
Support for events: In 2024, there are also [funds](#) available within the portfolio of Enabling technologies!

Application deadline: open-ended



Collaboration projects: The Research Council of Norway has published preliminary information about [Collaborative Project to Meet Societal and Industry-related Challenges](#). “The purpose of the funding is to encourage research organisations to collaborate with relevant actors from the industry sector and society in order to develop new knowledge and build research competence that is necessary to address important societal challenges. We require you to collaborate with at least two relevant actors from outside the research sector.”

Application deadline: 13 March 2024 (tentative)



Knowledge-building projects: The Research Council of Norway has published preliminary information about [Knowledge-building Project for Industry](#). “The purpose of the funding is to encourage research organisations to cooperate with trade and industry to generate knowledge that business and industry and society need to solve major societal and business challenges. We require the business sector to provide cash financing for the projects.”

Application deadline: 13 March 2024 (tentative)



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



New UTFORSK: “The Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills announces up to NOK 90 million in funding to [educational partnerships](#) between higher education institutions in Norway and Brazil, Canada, China, India, Japan, South Africa, South Korea, and the United States of America (USA).”

Application deadline: 15 April 2024
[Info seminar: 31.01.2024 \(register by 30.01.2024, noon\)](#)



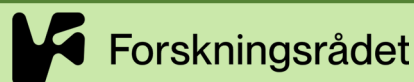
New Utrecht Network Young Researcher's Grant: “This grant is intended for self-organized [mobility](#) at one of the Utrecht Network partner universities. Minimum length of stay 4 weeks (mobility is not restricted to semesters but may also take place during the holidays). The period of mobility must start between 1 May 2024–31 March 2025.”

Application deadline: 20 February 2024



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



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



Event News

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.

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)!

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

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>