Newsletter

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATICS, UIB
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Contributions or comments to the newsletter are very welcome.
Old newsletters can be found here.

Dear Colleagues,

I am sure many of you are experiencing the same as me – that the days are flying past quickly. All the time there are deadlines and urgent issues that need to be handled. It is challenging to find time to dive deep enough into more challenging questions that cannot be dealt with in short breaks between meetings or lectures.

Sometimes, outside events or developments require attention and require us to re-think what we are doing. The announcement of ChatGPT at the end of last year is one such event. While the capabilities of this new AI tool came as less of a surprise to researchers in language AI models, it in many ways was a breakthrough reaching a million users in five days. It caused attention across all sectors. The immediate reaction from schools and universities was that we need to prevent our students from using this and other advanced AI tools – especially in context of exercises or exams. After more careful thinking, it may be that we and our students can use these tools to improve their learning. We need to think again about what the important learning outcomes are, and how we can help students toward these, and finally how to assess and grade their performance.

I very much enjoyed that UiB AI meeting we had last week in the UiB Aula – where our David Grellscheid took part in a panel debate. The way I understood David, he had found that ChatGPT was quite limited in what programming tasks it could deal with in a good way. And designing exam questions, one could have these limitations in mind and design tasks where the chatbot would fail. If our exams can easily be done by using AI, this does not help motivate students to work hard and obtain the insights and expertise required for their further careers. So having the AI's capabilities in mind when designing tasks and exams is certainly one useful approach.

We want to educate students who will develop the future informatics and AI technologies – and to use these in a knowledge-based way for the good of their employers and the society. We need to follow development of new AI tools and see how we can adapt. Maybe for some courses, we will need to forbid use of certain AI tools. But in general, I think we should encourage productive use of the best technologies available – and ensure that they are available to all in a fair manner – and design exercises and exams with this in mind. This may be demanding. But who else to show the way than the best informatics department in the country?

I hope you all find a bit of time to think about this and other important questions in between deadlines and lectures. 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:

- #RealfagUiB
- Oppsummering av annerledes året 2022

ChatGPT talk

The aforementioned AI panel can be streamed on Youtube here.

Current Issues

Darwin Day/Horizons lecture: Making Sense of Cancer

13.02.2023 - 16.00–18.00
at Studentsenteret, Egget

A talk by Professor Jarle Breivik (UiO). Nothing in biology makes sense except in the light of evolution. So what is the evolutionary meaning of cancer? What will it take to get rid of it? In this lecture, professor in medicine Jarle Breivik explores the evolutionary logic of cancer.

Read more.

Global Women's Breakfast 2023

More Voices at the Table

Join us on February 14, 2023 for the IUPAC Global Women's Breakfast, held in conjunction with the U.N. Day of Women and Girls in Science. The goal of the GWB series is to establish an active network of people to overcome the barriers to gender equality in science. GWB is also a flagship event of the International Year of Basic Sciences for Sustainable Development bringing together people from all science disciplines.

Read the programme here.

Kakeklubben is back!

Wednesdays 12:00 in Kremle

Kakeklubben (the cake club) is a casual meetup where you can practice your Norwegian, meet people from across the department, and eat cake!
No signup, the cake is provided and you can bring your lunch along.

Yoga is back!

Wednesdays 14:30-15:30 in Blåbær

Our instructor has returned; yoga is back on the 1st of February! You can bring your own mat or borrow one.

No signup required.

Survey: Sense of belonging in the academic community

Dear colleagues,

How well we feel connected to our working environment and research groups are important indicators of whether we maintain a well-functioning academic community. In relation to our course in university pedagogy MNPED 660, we want to get some insights into this topic within the STEM disciplines.

Please consider participating in our survey here.

Completing the survey should take around 10min. As a participant, you can partake in a lottery to win 2 cinema tickets and 2 pizza vouchers in Bergen.

Thank you for your collaboration!

Julien, Konrad, Joao and Juan

NORA Norwegian Artificial Intelligence Research Consortium

Annual Conference 2023

Registration is now open for the NORA Annual Conference 2023. The conference will take place in Tromsø, 5-6th of June.

Read more and sign up.

Reminder: Guest routine

Inviting and hosting guest researchers is a natural and welcomed part of our academic work. It is still crucial to act according to our routines and procedures when planning to invite a guest.

If you are inviting a guest researcher to our department, you must now follow the new guest routine found here.

Teachers retreat

Save the date 28 and 29 March!

To all teachers at the faculty

The faculty's teachers retreat will be held **28 March 12:00-17:00 and 29 March 9:00-12:00**. It will take place on campus and will therefore not include an overnight stay.

More information on the program and theme will be published later.

Open Science Seminars Spring 2023

The UiB University Library continues its popular Open Science seminar series in spring 2023 with a number of webinars on Research Data Management and Scholarly Communication:

Introduction to Data Management Plans February 3rd and May 12th
Research Data Management in the active phase of research February 17th
Make your research visible using researcher profiles March 17th
How to make your data open & FAIR March 31st and May 26th (in Norwegian)
Open Access publishing step-by-step April 14th
Finding & reusing research data April 28th
Data Management Planning WORKSHOP May 12th

career center for early stage researchers

UiB Ferd

“UiB Ferd supports early stage researchers in their career development”

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.

Upcoming UiB Ferd events include:

- New course: Improve Your Academic Writing and Presentation Skills in English
- Introduction to Data Management Plans (DMP) (Course)
- GIS-Workshop (Workshop)
- Research Data Management in the active phase of research (Course)
- Get a better overview of your research field (Workshop)

International Newsletter

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

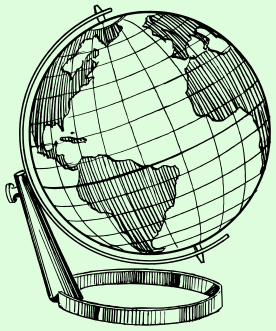
If you have moved to Bergen from a different country, we highly recommend subscribing to the newsletter here.

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

Upcoming events from the UiB International Centre:

- Paying tax in Norway
- Introduction course for new employees (Course)
- Paying tax in Norway (Seminar)
- Mobility seminar for researchers (Seminar)
- Paying tax in Norway (Seminar)

(We really care about taxes in this country)



Vacant positions

PhD Research Fellow in Informatics – Cryptology (up to 2 positions)

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. An overview over our research support services is also available online.

north2north program: North2north is the mobility program in the UArctic network. UiB sends one institutional application for n2n funding.

UiB researchers and students can apply for support for visiting n2n partners. Units that wish to invite employees from North American and Scottish n2n partners can now also apply for support for incoming employees for the academic year 2023 - 2024. You cannot get an n2n scholarship if you already have funding from another mobility program (Erasmus, Norplus, etc.).

For more information, please visit this website.

Application deadline: 26 February 2023

Forskningsrådet

Researcher Project for Young Talents (FRIPRO): The Research Council of Norway is planning to open a call for funding to give talented young researchers the opportunity to pursue their ideas and lead a research project. This call is targeting researchers in the early stages of their careers, 2–7 years after their PhD defence, and under the age of 40.

Application deadline: 15 March 2023 (tentative date)

Forskningsrådet

New **Green platform:** Project should, among others, have a goal to solve specific challenges and issues that will accelerate the green transition of Norwegian business and industry towards 2030 and 2050. Projects are to be carried out by a consortium comprising a minimum of three partners, of which at least two are companies.

Mandatory outline to be submitted by 8 March 2023 (1.00 pm Norwegian time).

Peder Sather: The Peder Sather Center for Advanced Study supports projects carried out by researchers at UC Berkeley in collaboration with researchers from eight Norwegian universities. The Center offers grants between $10K and $25K. Funds are made available for two academic years. Grants can support activities such as workshops, mini-conferences, virtual intellectual exchanges, the undertaking of exploratory and pilot studies, activities such as PhD student exchanges, longer-term stays for Principal Investigators, the collection and analysis of data, and other core research activities.

Interested applicants should visit the Proposal Application Guidelines on the Peder Sather Center Website.

Application deadline: 3 April 2023

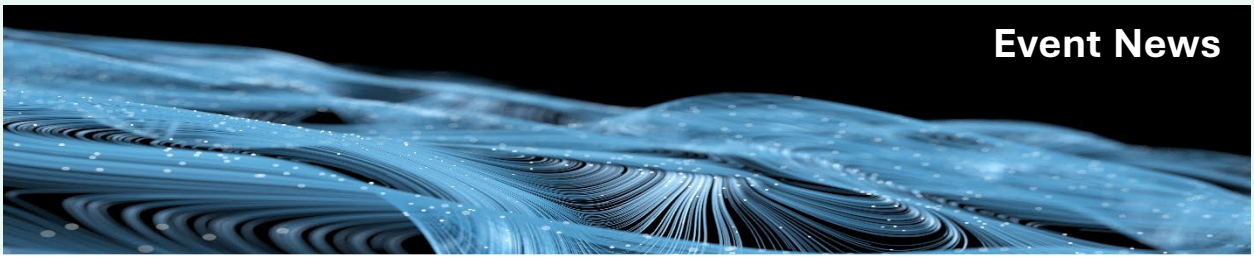
COST: "COST funds interdisciplinary research networks called COST Actions. These Actions bring together researchers, innovators and other professionals including industry specialists, who are based in Europe and beyond, to collaborate on research topics for a period of 4 years. The funding a COST Action receives covers the expenses of networking activities rather than research and as such is used to organise and fund events, Short-term Scientific Missions, Training Schools, communication activities, and virtual networking tools."

Application deadline: 25 October 2023

CAS project: The Centre for Advanced Study (CAS) invites researchers to pursue excellent, fundamental, curiosity-driven research in Oslo for one academic year. Assemble your international dream team of prominent researchers and apply for a research stay at CAS.

Faculty members who hold permanent, full-time, tenured academic positions at CAS' partner institutions in Norway are eligible to apply. The applicants will function as project leader and will assemble and lead their research group at CAS.

Application deadline: October 2023



New AI+ 2023

AI+ is an international conference on "applied artificial intelligence". The purpose of AI+ is to offer Norwegian as well as international environments an arena for competence sharing and interaction within the field of artificial intelligence, which will provide a solid foundation for succeeding with computer-driven economy and innovation.**Event**: 28 February 2023.

AI+ 2023 will take place on 3-4 May at Brygga kultursal in Halden, Norway.

The European Commission has released the new work programs for Pillar II (Global Challenges) for the years 2023-2024. We have sent an email to all group contacts for further information about the research support services at the department for Pillar II proposals, as well as a list over potentially interesting topics (see also below). We encourage everyone/all our groups to look carefully at the work programs and identify relevant topics. For questions, please do not hesitate to contact Stefanie Meyer.

29.03.2023
Efficient trustworthy AI - making the best of data (AI, Data and Robotics Partnership)

13.04.2023
Integrated, multi-scale computational models of patient patho-physiology ('virtual twins') for personalised disease management

13.04.2023
Better integration and use of health-related real-world and research data, including genomics, for improved clinical outcomes

20.04.2023
Computational models for the development of safe and sustainable by design chemicals and materials

05.09.2023
Digital twin for forecasting of power production to wind energy demand

23.11.2023
Security of robust AI systems

19.03.2024
Fundamentals of Software Engineering

19.03.2024
Explainable and Robust AI (AI Data and Robotics Partnership)

05.09.2024
Critical technologies for the future ocean energy farms

20.11.2024
Post-quantum cryptography transition

You can find all work programs here: Horizon Europe Reference Documents

NORBIS activities

Collaborative courses open for registration:

Workshop for aspiring supervisors.

This course aims to prepare young researchers to be supervisors either at an early supervisor stage or before entering the role and is tailored for young researchers in biotechnology. This three-day intensive course aims to prepare young researchers to be supervisors either at an early supervisor stage or before entering the role. It is tailored for young researchers in biotechnology and will consist of lectures, group work, and discussions. The course is organized by the Digital Life Norway Research School.

Time and place: Apr. 12, 2023–Apr. 14, 2023, Valberg Slektsgård outside of Trondheim.

Maximum 20 participants.

Registration is directly through DLN research school web page. Click here for more information and registration.

NORBIS will fund our members to participate and it is first come, first serve. For this course, both PhD students and posdocs are eligible to receive travel funding. To obtain the funding, both PhD students and postdocs have to send a verification of attendance and travel budget including tickets to contact-norbis@uib.no. NORBIS will cover the overnight stay for the course, and this expense is not needed for the budget, only your travel to Trondheim. You can receive up to NOK 2500 for the round trip (travelling to/from Tromsø and Bodø allows for a higher limit), and if you cannot find tickets within our rates, please explain this in your application. Take care of the environment and travel by train whenever possible.

Machine Learning in Medical Bioinformatics

This course is organized by MedBioInfo and open for NORBIS members. The course is given on site in Linköping.
Dates: May 8-12, 2023

Organizers: Björn Wallner at Linköping University

Registration: OPEN. The registration is limited to NORBIS members only and PhD students have priority.

Registration deadline: April 1st, 2023.

Practical information

The workshop will consist of a mix between research talks, the theory behind the research, and actually applying the theory yourself in practical exercises. Topics discussed during the workshop: Unsupervised and supervised learning. Various machine learning techniques, ranging from linear models, support vector machines, random forests, neural networks, and deep neural networks. Please note there is a per-assignment that has to be completed before the course.

Link to course: https://norbis.w.uib.no/machine-learning…bioinformatics-4/

Courses that soon will open for registrations:

- **Bioinformatics for DNA metabarcoding and long-read amplicon data,** 17-21 April at UiO. Course responsible is Håvard Kauserud.
- **SMED8020 Genetic Epidemiology,** 22-26 May at NTNU. Course responsible is Ben Brumpton.

More courses to be announced soon!

SAVE THE DATE!

CEDAS and NORBIS are joining forces and will co-arrange this year's summer school! So please clear your calendar for the second week of August because this is something you don't want to miss out of.

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