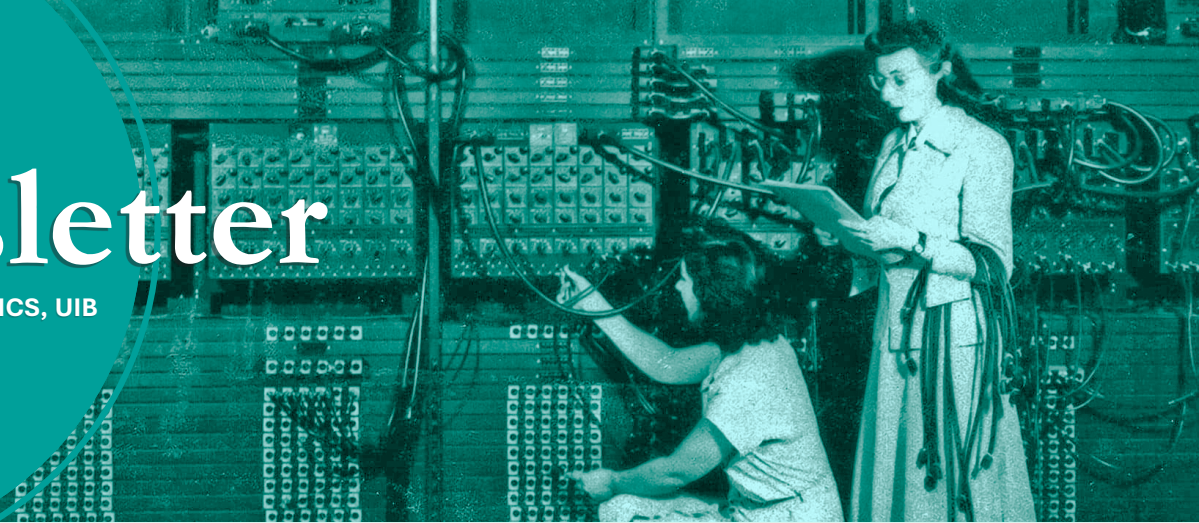


Newsletter

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATICS, UIB

No.05/2023, 10.03.2023



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,

Today I would like to say some words about some centers that are important for our department. These centers differ not only in their scientific focus, but also in their organization and composition.

[Selmer Center in Secure Communication](#) is internationally leading within cryptography and security aspects of information and communication systems, established in 2003 and currently led by Lilya Budaghyan. It is named to honor Ernst Selmer who did seminal work within cryptography forming the basis of modern crypto machines in [NATO](#) and [NSA](#). The center also works closely with [Simula UiB](#) – having focus on cryptography and information theory.

The [Centre for Data Science – CEDAS](#), is a relatively young center established in 2018. It is led from our department with Helwig Hauser serving as its leader from the very beginning. Recently, Pekka Parviainen joined as co-leader, reflecting the importance of visualization and machine learning within data science in general. The center also includes researchers from bioinformatics/CBU, algorithms and from the Departments of mathematics and Information science and media studies respectively. The center plays an important role in coordinating efforts between groups and in profiling these.

The [Computational Biology Unit – CBU](#) has a longer history, being established in 2002. It got its current organization in 2013 as a center hosted by our department and including research group leaders (associate and full professors) from several other departments at our faculty and at the medical faculty. CBU also leads the research infrastructure [ELIXIR Norway](#), which includes activity at four other Norwegian universities (UiO, NTNU, UiT, NMBU) with a total staff of around 40. ELIXIR Norway is

led by Sushma Grellscheid, CBU is led by Nathalie Reuter with Tom Michoel as deputy head. Since 2016 CBU, has been supported by Trond Mohn Foundation.

During the last couple of years, several of our research groups have engaged towards energy informatics and last year we set up the [Energy Informatics Lab](#) as a cross-groups activity. This includes researchers in the optimization, machine learning and programming theory groups. The Lab serves an important function in coordinating and strengthening our efforts in this area – and in helping its visibility. The Lab is in close collaboration with among others the [Bergen Offshore Wind Center \(BOW\)](#).

Our department is also engaged in a number of other centers and consortia, including the [Mohn Medical Imaging and Visualization center](#), the [Center for Cancer Biomarkers](#), [Digital Life Norway](#), the [Centre for translational research in Epidemiology \(TRACE\)](#), and [NORA](#).

The various centers have different functions for the department, but they all play a role in enabling and profiling interdisciplinary research efforts. In my view, this is important for the department. It all builds on continued strong disciplinary research efforts within each of our groups, and contributes to strengthen this research.

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:

- [Et godt resultat for 2022 må inspirere til fortsatt godt arbeid, ikke bli en hvilepute.](#)
- [#RealfagUiB](#)

Informatikkdagen 2023

On Tuesday this week, we had one of our big yearly student recruitment events: Informatikkdagen!

The large auditorium was filled with potential students, who we will hopefully see again next year. Thank you to Gnist for organising the event and thank you to all who participated in indoctrinating the youth!



On behalf of CEDAS, Hauke Bartsch talked about his journey from studying informatics to being a researcher in Germany, the US and Norway.



Our students did most of the work, from organising the event to personally serving slushies!



Pictured: Marte serving both snacks and facts (about our study programs).



A class from Voss Folkehøgskule stayed another day to get a custom lecture from Nikolay.



Congratulations to professor Iain Johnston – associated group leader at CBU – with the Meltzer price for young researchers!

[Read more in “På høyden”](#)



Self-defence course

On Thursday this week, women of our department were invited to a self-defence course with the BSI Karate club at Sammen City. It was a lot of fun, and the women who participated will now be maintaining their new skills through impromptu fights in our hallways.

Welcome, new colleagues!



Karoline Christiansen

Karoline is an HR advisor at the faculty, taking over from Lene Sørheim. She will be helping our department with recruitment, onboarding and HR administrative support in general.

Welcome, Karoline!

PhD updates



PhD Defence: Cosimo Damiano Persia

Cosimo Damiano Persia will be defending his thesis "Learning Possibilistic Logic Theories" on the 15th of March at 14:00. The defence will take place in Lite Auditorium (2nd floor of Høyteknologisenteret).

[Read more.](#)

Current Issues



First aid course

A first aid course for our department staff will be held on the 28th of March at 13:00 to 16:00. The course will be held in Blåbær, and only has 15 spots available.

[Sign up here.](#)



Cross-floor coffee break

We'd like to advertise that every Friday at 10:00 (sharp) at Skogen there is a communal coffee break for all Ph.D. students and postdocs at our department.

PS: This illustration is AI generated, your experiences at the coffee break may differ.

Department of Informatics gathering 2023

It is a pleasure to invite you all* to this year's department gathering at Voss, Scandic Hotel on April 17-18.

The registration is now open: [Department of Informatics Gathering 2023 \(uib.no\)](https://uib.no) Closing date for registration: **March 28**

*all employees of the Department of informatics, group leaders of CBU, emeriti and the main board of Echo

Below is the tentative program, subject to minor adjustments:

17th of April:

08:29 Train leaves Bergen station
09:43 Arrival at Voss, Scandic Hotel
10:10 Welcome – outline of program
10:20 Short about EVALMIT
10:30 Strategy for the department
– presentation and discussion
11:30 Lunch
12:30 EVALMIT research group strategy assessment
– 10 minutes presentation for each group
14:10 Break
14:30 Continuation: Panel discussion with group
presenters in panel.
15:15 Break
15:30 Research funding – Stefanie's pitch
16:00 Kunnskapsløftet 2020 - All new students al-
ready know programming: a talk by Sondre Bolland
16:30 End of day 1
19:00 Dinner

18th of April:

09:00 Education/Teaching: Fredrik's corner
10:30 Break
11:00 HSE-seminar: GenderACT and local
action plan – introduction
11:30 Inspirational talk by Knut Liestøl
(to be confirmed)
12:00 Group work to develop survey questions
12:45 End note
13:00 Lunch
14:06 Train leaves Voss station
15:26 Arrival in Bergen

Please join in for a nice time at the wonderful Voss
together with your awesome colleagues!



Photo by [David Gubler](#). CC BY NC SA 2.0

Kunnskapseplet: How can we avoid an apocalyptic post-antibiotic era?

[16.03.2023 – 14.15 at the MatNat library](#)

The problem with growing antibiotic resistance is widely known and accepted as a threat to global health, yet the question remains: what is being done to prevent the coming of this age? In this popular science talk, Dr. Illimar Rekand will look into this and the background of the ever-growing problem.

The event will last about 30-45 minutes: Coffee and cookies will be served. Everyone is welcome!

"Kunnskapseplet" is a series of popular science talks at the Library for Mathematics and Natural Sciences. Would you like to hold a talk? Contact kjersti.enerstvedt@uib.no



Rent a cabin!

UiB owns four cabins that can be rented by employees. However, due to high demand, only a lucky few are selected in a raffle a few times per year.

If you want to rent a cabin this spring, apply [here](#) before the 12th of March.

You can read more about the UiB cabins [here](#).

(The website unfortunately only has information in Norwegian because they assume only Norwegians enjoy spending a weekend getting lost in the mountains and losing a toe to frostbite. This is your chance to prove them wrong.)

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](#).



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.](#)

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.



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:

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](#)

Introduction to Data Management Plans [May 12th](#)

Vacant positions

[PhD Research Fellow in Informatics: Visual Data Scienceto Master Complex Simulation Ensembles](#)

[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.



New UiB idé: [UiB idé](#) gives employees and students the opportunity to apply for support to test and develop good innovation ideas. The maximum funding amount is NOK 500,000 for researcher projects, and NOK 100,000 for student projects.

Application deadline: 31 March 2023



New Bergen Faculty Exchange program:

Scientific staff and PhD candidates can apply to UiB for [research stays](#) at the University of Washington (UW), and the Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN).

Application deadline: open-ended



HFSP Research Grants: Norway is a member of the "Human Frontier Science Program Organization" (HFSP). "[Research Grants](#)" are awarded for three years, to international (preferably intercontinental) teams of 2 – 4 members who have not collaborated before. Participation of researchers from disciplines outside the traditional life sciences, such as biophysics, chemistry, computational biology, computer science, engineering, mathematics, nanoscience or physics, is recommended."

Deadline for sending the letter of intent: 21 March 2023



HFSP Postdoctoral Fellowships: Norway is a member of the "Human Frontier Science Program Organization" (HFSP). "The [postdoctoral scholarship](#) is for three years and is awarded to talented postdoctoral fellows with ground-breaking research projects in the life sciences. [...] the program also encourages postdoctoral fellows with a background in fields other than biology to apply for projects to solve fundamental problems in the life sciences." Please note that there are strict mobility rules and special requirements regarding the supervisor.

Deadline for sending the letter of intent: 11 May 2023



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, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary mobility.” This scheme follows strict mobility rules. Applicants should have a PhD degree at the time of the deadline for applications, and must have no more than eight years experience in research.

Application deadline (tentative): 13 September 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](#).

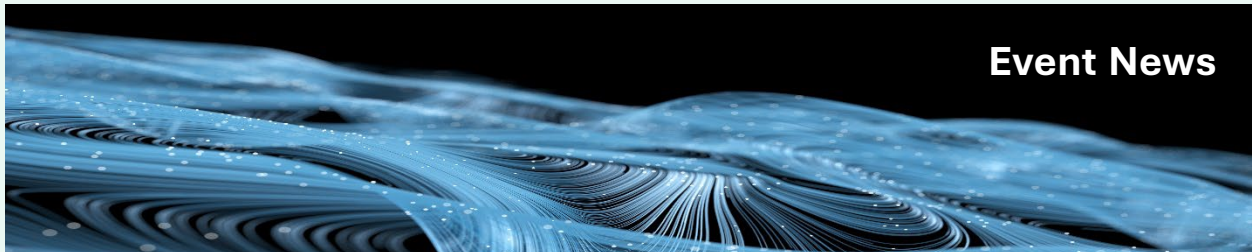
Faculty members who hold permanent, full-time, tenured academic positions at CAS' partner institutions in Norway are eligible to apply. The applicants will function as project leader and will assemble and lead their research group at CAS.

Application deadline: October 2023

UiB News

New Rights Retention Policy for publications

The goal of the University of Bergen is to make scholarly publications openly available. Scholarly articles are to be published open access or to be made available in open repositories. To achieve this goal and comply with funder requirements, while enabling researchers to publish in the journal of their choice, UiB has adopted a [Rights Retention Policy](#) from 1st December 2022.



Event News

New Cutting Edge AI

NORA will democratize AI by providing an accessible platform for people to gain knowledge, exchange ideas, and collaborate on projects related to AI. NORA has therefore recently launched its quarterly "CuttingEdgeAI" event series. The [registration](#) for the second event on **May 11th, 2023**, at Domus Bibliotheca in Karl Johans gt. 47, Oslo, is now open. The event is open to anyone, including industry, the public sector, SMEs and academia.

New Data Day 2023

Topics: 25+ Topics on Data & AI: Intelligent innovation, Intelligent Industries, SDGs, Industry 4.0, Cognitive Media, Health & Medicine, Legaltech & Law, Construction, Smart Cities, Robotics, Big Data Cybernetics, Cybersecurity, Finance & Banking, Maritime & Ocean, Transport & Mobility, Retail & Commerce, Smart Sustainability, Climate & Environment, Logistics, Circular Economy, Quantum Computing, Graph- & Neural Networks, Nordic Outlook for Data Science & AI, Investments in Data & Science, Norwegian AI Landscape, Future of Data Science & AI Innovation in Norway, Intelligent Apps & ChatGPT, Technology Sovereignty & AI.

Live & On-demand from 22.03.2023. For more information, please have a look at [this website](#).

New NeuroAI

NeuroAI is an emerging field at the intersection of brain sciences and artificial intelligence and is expected to become a large research field in the years to come. The main promise of NeuroAI is that by understanding how the brain and biological neural networks compute, it will be possible to identify the key components of human intelligence to drive the development of a more energy-efficient and flexible artificial intelligence (AI) that will match, or perhaps even surpass, human intelligence. NeuroAI is a truly multidisciplinary effort, spanning across several disciplines such as computer science, neuroscience, psychology, philosophy, linguistics, law, and ethics. Norway has unique world-class expertise in brain sciences and a fast-growing, well-organized AI community at the highest international level.

Recently, NeuroAI Norway was established as a special interest group (SIG). See [here](#) for more information.

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.

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 postdocs 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/>

SMED8020 Genetic Epidemiology

Date: 22-26 May

Location: NTNU

Number of places: 18

Course responsible: Ben Brumpton

Lecturers: Kristian Hveem, Maiken Gabrielsen, Frank Skorpen, Rebecka Hjort, Marta Moksnes, Therese Haugdal Nøst, Laxmi Bhatta, Nicole Warrington

Registration deadline: April 20th, 2023.

For more information and registration: <https://norbis.w.uib.no/smed8020-genetic-epidemiology/>

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.

SAVE THE DATE!

CEDAS and NORBIS are joining forces and will co-arrange this year's summer school! Are you considering joining the summer school? Then please fill out our survey here and you can help us shaping the summer school: <https://forms.gle/6TW9Yvwc4yfQy23k8>

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