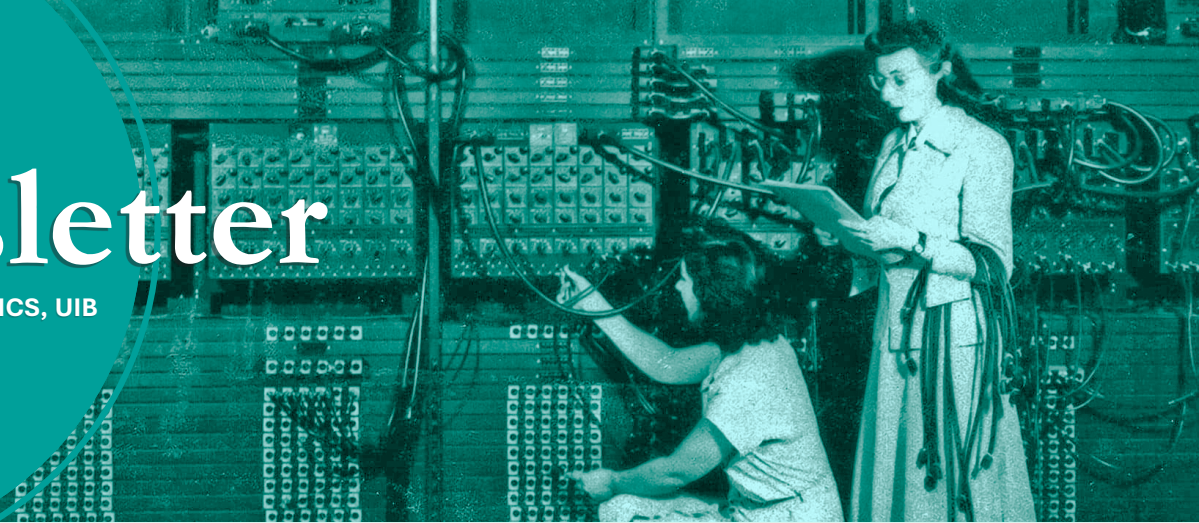


# Newsletter

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATICS, UIB

No.07/2023, 21.04.2023



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,

This week we had the annual department gathering at Voss and my impression was that people were very happy to come together both for discussions and to interact socially. I know that many of you feel there are too many surveys, but we decided to send out one to enable you to give your feedback. We appreciate your input as this will help us plan later gatherings and events. I also really appreciate all the engagement in plenum and group discussions at Voss. There is value in the discussions themselves and importantly they help us develop the strategy for the department, advance towards improved gender equality etc.

When it comes to the gender and diversity, this is a challenging topic to discuss. As we saw from the presentation by Knut Liestøl, the FRONT project in Oslo has found that their women have accumulated disadvantages as compared to men when it comes to building a career. The FRONT study was done at The Faculty of Mathematics and Natural sciences at the University of Oslo – and there is reason to believe that their situation is similar to ours. Still, we want to perform a survey among our staff and students. Compared with the survey in Oslo, we will have a lower number of participants giving less statistical power when analyzing the results. Nevertheless, it may give us hints about our local situation and whether there are particular aspects that give our women colleagues and students challenges.

It is also worth including questions addressing possible challenges experienced by our male colleagues and students. When developing the survey, I think it will be useful to look at the one used in Oslo together with the suggestions coming out of our discussions at Voss. Next, our plan is to take the survey along to meetings with

different groups of staff and students to try and achieve a higher participation rate than what we typically obtain using online questionnaires. I hope everybody will help us in this work – and that the results of the survey will help us understand the situation and decide what steps are needed in the further work towards better gender equality and balance at our department.

Over the last couple of weeks, we had several trial lectures by candidates interviewed for open tenure track positions at the department. I encourage all of you to attend the upcoming trial lectures to meet potential new colleagues, learn about their research fields and to help giving a good impression of our department! For each of the open positions, we have had search committees tasked with identifying and contacting potential applicants with a particular focus on identifying women candidates. There is still a majority of men in these fields of science both nationally and internationally, and we are not the only informatics department trying to attract women applicants. We want to employ the best applicants and apply only moderated quotation rules so the gender balance will positively improve over time.

I wish you all a nice weekend, and Eid Mubarak to those celebrating!

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:

- [Tiden flyr når en jobber med høyere utdanning](#)
- [Strategi 2023-2030 – et realfaglig kraftsentrum](#)

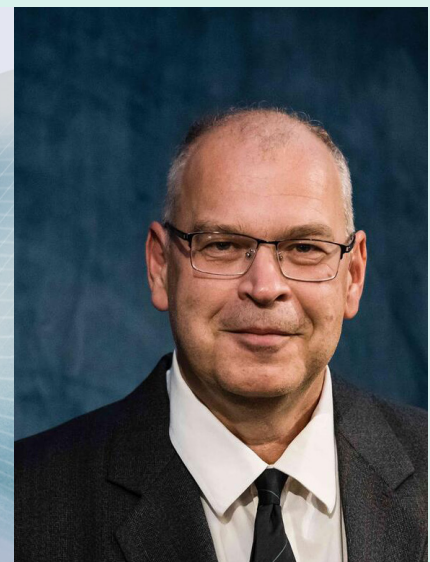


### Annual department gathering

This week we talked, presented, argued, ate, drank, played shuffleboard, and tested the limits of the hotel playground climbing equipment together in Voss.

As mentioned by Inge, please give us your feedback here: [Feedback survey](#)





## TMS/UiB AI grant for Algorithmic Foundations of Trustworthy AI

Trond Mohn Foundation (TMS) and UiB have developed the research program «Trustworthy AI2, and on the 14<sup>th</sup> of April it was announced that three new research projects have been selected for funding. Among those was «Algorithmic Foundations of Trustworthy AI». The project is a collaboration between the Department of Informatics at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, and the Department of Information and Media Studies, the Faculty of Social Sciences, and will be led by our own Fedor V. Fomin. Congratulations!

## PhD updates



**There's a new PhD in town...**

### Congratulations, Reent Schlegel!

Reent is currently defending his thesis, "Coding for Privacy in Distributed Computing", and by the time you read this newsletter, we presume the champagne has been popped.

We would like to congratulate him in advance and wish him a great celebration this weekend!

# Current Issues



## Department Council Election

This spring, new members are being elected for the department council in group B (temporary staff in teaching and research positions) and D (students).

These are the candidates up for election:

**B:** Sondre Sæther Bolland, Rikke Aas and Kenneth Langedal

**D:** Emma Gustavsen Rolfsnes, Steinar Simonnes, Torger Bocianowski and Henrik Eide.

If you are in group B or D, you will be able to vote for your representatives 23.05 09:00 to 25.05 12:00.

[Read more about the candidates and election here.](#)

## UiB Cabins

There's a new application period for renting the UiB cabins. If you wish to rent a cabin between the 25<sup>th</sup> of June and 13<sup>th</sup> of August, apply here before the 26<sup>th</sup> of April:

[Velferdshytter til utleie](#)

[Read more about hiring UiB cabins here \(English\).](#)



## “Sykle til jobben”

“Sykle til jobben” (Cycle to work) is an annual campaign with the goal of getting as many people as possible active. The campaign period is from **the 5<sup>th</sup> of May to the 16<sup>th</sup> of June 2023**.

The website describes the campaign as «low-threshold, social, environmentally friendly, unique and fun competition.» However, those who have participated before know that “Sykle til jobben” is about so much more. It's about alliances, rivalry, collecting kilometers, rigorous data logging and yes, occasionally about cycling to work.

If you want to join the drama, go to the [“Sykle til jobben”-website](#) and sign up. You can join a team or be solo.



## Department Discord

We have a department discord channel, in which you can find notices about events, alerts about leftover cake, and generally great banter.

[Join our discord here.](#)



# NIKT 2023

Welcome to the 35th Norwegian ICT conference for research and education in Stavanger, 27-30 November.

This conference is an important annual meeting place for ICT-researchers in Norway. The conference will last from Monday 27 November 09:00 - Thursday 30 November 16:00.

The conference is hosted by Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at Faculty of Science and Technology, University of Stavanger. [Read more about NIKT2023](#)

The conference consists of four tracks:

- NIK – Norwegian Informatics Conference
- NOKOBIT – Norwegian Conference for Organizations' Use of IT
- NISK – Norwegian Information Security Conference
- UDIT – Norwegian Conference for Education and Didactics in IT subjects

## Important dates:

25 August: Abstract submission

1 September : Full paper submission

6 October: Notification of acceptance

20 October: Camera ready paper

27 October: Registration

## NORA.ai Summer School 2023

The NORA Summer Research School will take place at UiT The Arctic University of Norway from the 12 - 17 June 2023. The Summer Research School offers four intensive courses on current topics within the field of Artificial Intelligence.

[Read more about NORA Summer School 2023](#)

# NORA.ai

Norwegian Artificial Intelligence  
Research Consortium

## 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](#).



## Forskningsdagene 2023

Forskningsdagene (National science week) is a national yearly science festival, which this year will be 20.09 – 01.10. The purpose of the festival is to spread understanding and excitement around science, and this year's main theme is "Energy".

Read about the festival and ways you can participate [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:

Finding & reusing research data [April 28<sup>th</sup>](#)

Data Management Planning WORKSHOP [May 12<sup>th</sup>](#)

Introduction to Data Management Plans [May 12<sup>th</sup>](#)

## Vacant positions

[PhD Research Fellow in Informatics – 3 positions](#)

[PhD Research Fellow in informatics \(optimization\)](#)

[Researcher in Informatics – \(SAT-Solving\)](#)

[PhD Research Fellow in Computer Science Education](#)

[Researcher within Machine Learning](#)

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

[PhD Research Fellow in Informatics: Visual Data Science to 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 before submission. By following the link, you can find out more about our [research support services](#).



**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: 30 April 2023



**New SPIRE:** [SPIRE](#) funds are strategic funds used to facilitate international research collaboration. You can apply in two different categories: 1) proposal support, and 2) invitation of guest researchers. Please have a close look at the eligibility criteria and proposal requirements on the SPIRE website.

If you plan to apply for guest researcher support, then please consult the department's information site about our [guest researcher routines](#) and follow the described procedure *prior* to submitting your SPIRE proposal. When submitting your SPIRE proposal, please indicate if you have obtained preliminary approval from the department to invite this guest in case you are awarded SPIRE funds.

Proposals need to follow the template (see website) and have to be sent to Stefanie Meyer by the deadline.

Application deadline: 26 May 2023



**New Young CAS Grant:** The [Young CAS Grant](#) program supports outstanding young researchers in project development and network building. Funding is given for workshops and a longer stay at CAS in Oslo (for the PI and the core group of collaborators). One can invite colleagues from all over the world. CAS provides funding, office spaces and administrative support. The research should be blue-sky and have the potential to advance the research front in the relevant field(s). Researchers from all disciplines can apply.

Application deadline: 9 June 2023



## Forskningssrådet

**New INFRASTRUCTURE:** The Research Council has published preliminary information about this year's Infrastructure call. Only initiatives who have submitted a [mandatory project outline](#) (deadline: 21 June 2023) are eligible to apply for funding under the [main call](#) (tentative deadline: 15 November 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: 13 September 2023



**New Sabbatical:** All at least 50%, permanently employed professors and associate professors can apply for a [sabbatical](#) and, if relevant, related travel funds.

Application deadline for the next academic year: 1 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

In case there are many applicants, the department may need to prioritize. We therefore ask everyone who wants to apply, to let us know latest by 1 September 2023!




**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



**New ERC training event for StG and CoG:** On 12-13 June, the university is holding a course on how to write a convincing ERC proposal. Register [here](#) until 10 June.





## Horizon Europe News

We encourage all our groups to look carefully at the work programs for 2023-2024 and identify relevant topics. For questions, please do not hesitate to contact Stefanie Meyer.

**19.03.2024**

[Fundamentals of Software Engineering](#)

**19.03.2024**

[Explainable and Robust AI \(AI Data and Robotics Partnership\)](#)

**20.11.2024**

[Post-quantum cryptography transition](#)

**21.01.2025** (*new date*)

[Critical technologies for the future ocean energy farms](#)

You can find all work programs here: [Horizon Europe Reference Documents](#)



## Event News

### **New 2023 NAIS Symposium**

“The [2023 symposium of the Norwegian AI Society](#) aims at bringing together researchers and practitioners in the field of Artificial Intelligence from Norway and Scandinavia to present on-going work and discuss the future directions of AI. With the symposium NAIS provides a forum for networking among researchers as well as building links with related research fields, practitioners, businesses, and the public sector.” **Event:** 14-15 June 2023, Bergen, NO.

### **New Nordic AI Meet 2023**

“The main purpose of the [symposium](#) is to provide a platform for AI researchers in early careers to exchange ideas, build collaborations and form a nordic approach to building AI solutions for the societal good. - The call for abstracts is open! The deadline is 30 Apr 2023.” **Event:** 2-3 October, Copenhagen, DK.

# 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](mailto: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>