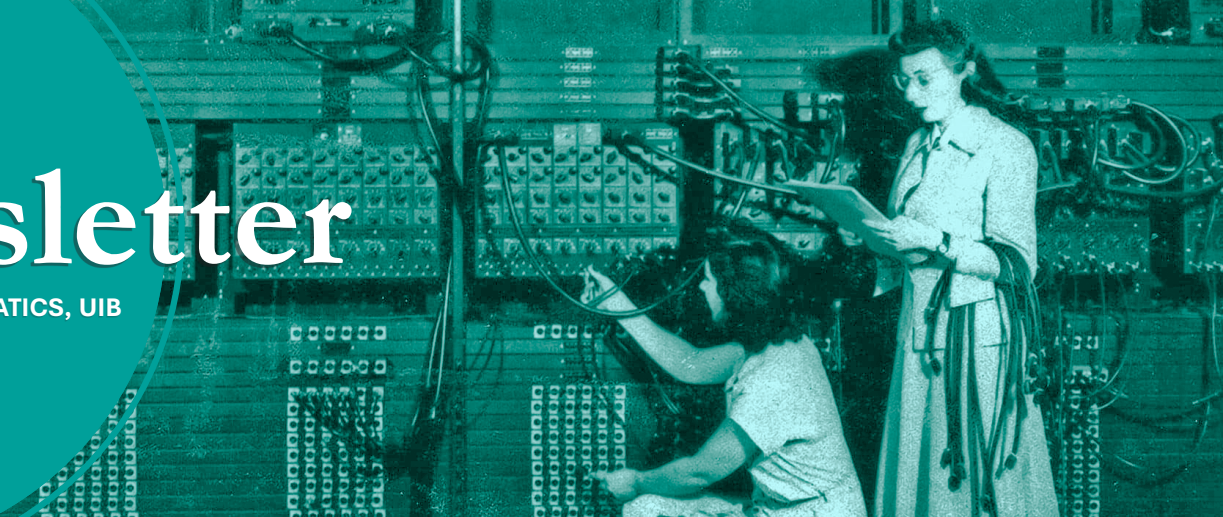


Newsletter

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATICS, UiB

No.10/2023, 02.06.2023



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,

We are approaching the end of the spring semester and many students are having their last exams before the summer break these days. And many are coming to the end of their study programs. Today I will attend the master ceremony at the faculty and look forward to congratulating and celebrating the newest batch of completed master's degrees – and of course cheering extra for those coming from our department! I am really proud of the students who reached this important milestone and all our staff who have helped and supervised them to completed degrees!

In addition to educating and supervising the students enrolled in our own programs, we provide courses for all students from the faculty, and we are also responsible for two of the DIGI courses made available for all students across the entire university. From this autumn the courses will also be available for all staff at the university. I am happy to say that we have also received support from HK-dir (the Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills) to develop this into a set of smaller continued education courses for a total of 20 credits. Our department, and in particular Fredrik Manne, is playing an important coordinating role in this work.

In this issue you will find more information on the celebration of Mike Fellows in the week June

12-16. On Wednesday June 14th, the sessions will take place next-door at Vilvite and you are all invited to join. More details can be found in a separate section of the newsletter. I hope to see many of you there!

As you know, there is an increased focus on IT security for our own systems at the UiB. At the department we are working tightly with the IT section to improve security while supporting our research and educational activities as well as possible.

Following a decision taken by the board of the university, we will have changes in the way IT is organized and we are planning a meeting with all staff (allmøte) on this one of the coming weeks. An invitation will arrive in your mailbox.

I wish you all a very nice June and a 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:

- [Viktig steg fremover for Nygårdshøyden sør](#)
- [Hva har vi lært av Havuken og hvordan bruker vi det videre?](#)
- [Tiden flyr når en jobber med høyere utdanning](#)



Graduate ceremony

Today, the students who are graduating with a master's and bachelor's degrees had the opportunity to attend a graduation ceremony, where they received their diplomas. Here are the informatics students who graduated. Professional photos will be uploaded to [the MatNat flickr album](#).



Spring cleaning

A big thank you to all staff and students who participated in the spring cleaning, and helped us get rid of this large, rather strange collection of stuff.

Enjoy your newfound space!

Welcome, new colleagues!



Illimar Rekand

Illimar is from Tromsø, but he has been in Bergen since he did his bachelor's degree, and recently finished his PhD at the Department of Biomedicine. He is now joining CBU as a chief engineer, where he will be working with ELIXIR.

Welcome, Illimar!



Dario Garigliotti

Dario is originally from Argentina but did his PhD in Stavanger. He is now joining us as a postdoctoral fellow within AI and algorithms.

Welcome, Dario!



Samaneh Abolpour Mofrad

Samaneh is originally from Iran but did her PhD here in Bergen at HVL (but we don't hold it against her ;-)). She is now starting as a postdoctoral fellow as part of the [SEAS programme](#), working with topological and geometric machine learning.

Welcome, Samaneh!

PhD updates



PhD Defence: Roberto Parisella

Roberto Parisella will be defending his thesis "On a New, Efficient Framework for Falsifiable Non-interactive Zero-Knowledge Arguments". on the 9th of June at 13:00.

The defence will take place in the VilVite auditorium.

Read more here: [Roberto Parisella \(Disputas\)](#)

Current Issues

Mike's day

From the 12th to 16th of June, a conference will be held in honor of Mike Fellows.

The conference is organized by the algorithms group, but on Wednesday the 14th there will be events open to all members of our department, with broader topics and a celebration of Mike.

All the Wednesday talks will be held on the second floor of VilVite, and there will be a lunch served in the lobby. [If you want to attend the lunch, please sign up here.](#)

Here are the open events which you can attend on Wednesday the 14th:

09:00 — 10:00: Morning invited talk: History of parameterized complexity — Dániel Marx

10:00 — 10:30: Coffee break

10:30 — 11:30: Morning symposium : Mike R. Fellows — O NO! Unfinished Business in Parameterized Complexity: A Radical Vision of the Future of PC that Comes from its Roots

11:30 — 12:30: Panel discussion with Daniel Lokshantov, Dániel Marx, Blair D. Sullivan and Stefan Szeider. Moderated by Bart MP Jansen

12:30 — 14:00: Lunch break

14:00 — 16:00: Afternoon symposium: CS unplugged — Frances A. Rosamond

16:00 — 16:30: Coffee break

16:30 — 17:30: Afternoon invited talk: Story time

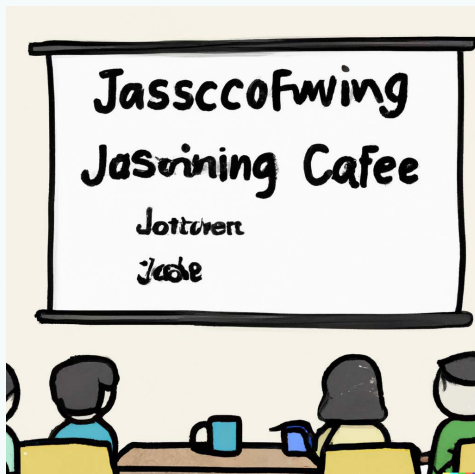


Illustration: The JavaScript language committee meeting as imagined by DALL-E.

UiB to host a JavaScript language committee meeting

The Department of Informatics will host the 97th Plenary Meeting of Technical Committee 39 of ECMA International, the standardizing body for the JavaScript programming language.

The plenary meeting will be held during 11-13 July 2023 at VilVite. While the meeting itself is by invitation only, two side events will be organized:

a [scientific workshop](#) with [Bergen Language Design Laboratory](#) on Tuesday 11.7.2023

a [community meetup](#) on Thursday 13.7.2023

The side events are open to public.

[Read more about the JavaScript events here.](#)



Department Council Election: Results

The results are in! Here are the new representatives for the department council:

Gr. B – nominees: 3

Elected representatives:

- Sondre Sæther Bolland

Elected deputies:

- 1. Rikke Aas
- 2. Kenneth Langedal

Gr. D – nominees: 4

Elected representatives:

- Steinar Simonnes
- Emma Gustavsen Rolfsnes

Elected deputies:

- 1: Henrik Eide
- 2: Torger Bocianowski

The election results was officiated 30.05.2023. Complaints must be filed to the election committee by the 7th of June 2023.

[Read the full election result announcement here.](#)

Poster workshop

6th of June 09:00 to 12:00

There are still free spots for the poster workshop next week!

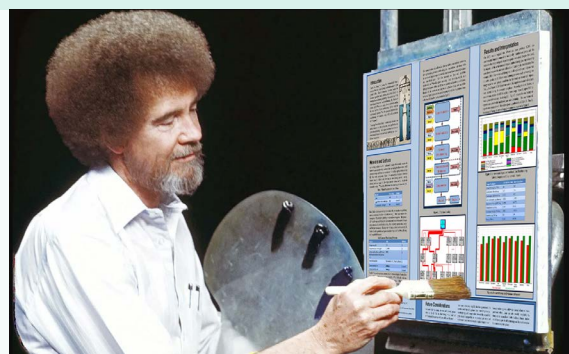
This informal workshop will give you the opportunity to:

- Get an introduction to the basics of effective visual communication.
- Learn about useful practical tools for graphic design.
- Rethink your approach to scientific posters.
- Receive feedback on your work in a friendly environment.

It is also going to be a lot of fun (This has been decided beforehand and is not up for discussion).

[Sign up for the poster workshop.](#)

[Read more about the poster workshop.](#)



DIGI courses

The University of Bergen is the first in Norway and is unique in a European context, to offer the course package DIGI (Digital forståelse, kunnskap og kompetanse) which was launched in the autumn of 2022. The package consists of eight 2.5-credit courses which are available to all students, regardless of their field of study.

Starting from autumn 2023, all employees can also take the courses in the DIGI subject package. Admission requires a general study qualification (GSK). Employees do not have to pay a semester fee to Sammen.

UiB employees must sign up with [Søknadsweb](#) between the 1st and 18th of June. Note that the courses have limited participants, and the first to sign up will be prioritized.

[Read more about DIGI here \(Norwegian\).](#)



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.](#)



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](#).

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. Here are some of the Centre's upcoming events:

- [Psychological Support Groups for Ph.D and early career scientists - 11.05.2023](#)
- [Paying tax in Norway \(Seminar\) – 12.05](#)
- [Working with Norwegians \(Seminar\) – 23.05](#)
- [Introduction course for new employees \(Course\) – 25.05](#)
- [Guided city walk \(Guided tour\) – 25.05](#)



Open Science Webinars 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:

- 12.05.2023 [Introduction to data management plan \(DMP\)](#)
- 12.05.2023 [Data management plan WORKSHOP](#)
- 26.05.2023 [How to make your data open & FAIR \(in Norwegian\)](#)

Vacant positions

- [Researcher within Machine Learning](#)
- [MSCA SEAS postdoctoral research fellow in informatics for marine sustainability](#)
- [Researcher in Informatics – \(SAT-Solving\)](#)
- [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](#).



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



Forskningsrådet

INFRASTRUCTURE: The Research Council has published 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).



New NORA Call for courses: "NORA has been granted a National AI Research School for an 8 year period stretching between 2022 and 2029. Under the research school activities various intensive courses would be funded as standalone courses, or as part of the summer & winter schools.

You can now [apply for funding and outreach support from NORA](#). We will support up to 3 courses every year depending on the proposals and funds available, with a funding up to 50 000 NOK for each course."

Application deadline: 1 August 2023



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



ERC - what to expect in 2024: The ERC has published an [announcement](#) regarding the 2024 (and subsequent) calls, which gives further detail on research assessment, the evaluation process, lump sum funding, as well as the tentative schedule of the 2024 grant competitions.

We encourage everyone interested in ERC to have a look at the press release and make themselves familiar with the planned changes, especially those regarding the CV and track record. Please also note that some of the 2024 calls will have a submission deadline in 2023!

- StG-2024: 24 Oct 2023
- CoG-2024: 12 Dec 2023
- AdG-2024: 29 Aug 2024
- SyG-2024: 8 Nov 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



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.

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

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

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

NORBIS activities

MedBioInfo conference at Yasuragi hotel in Stocholm, 11-13 September

NORBIS offers up to 25 PhD student- and postdoc members to join this conference. PhD students will be prioritized.

Time: 11-13th September, 2023

Location: [Hotel Yasuragi](#) Stocholm

Registration deadline: June 5th. For sending in abstracts: 1st July.

Link to registration form so you get access to Canvas:

<https://forms.gle/bxQJaH5iCuQpfXSs6>

Description: This is the annual conference for our Swedish collaborator MedBioInfo. All participants are expected to present a talk or poster on this conference to be eligible to travel support. All info about the conference will be in Canvas and you will receive an email from Canvas with log in information.

Travel: You will book your own transport to Stockholm, we will book hotel for all participants. The conference will start after lunch on Monday and it is possible for participants traveling from Bergen, Oslo and Trondheim to arrive the same day. For those traveling from Bodø and Tromsø, we can cover an extra overnight stay.

There will be two days of NORBIS topic relevant talks from PhD students, keynotes, poster sessions and a soft skill workshop.

Please see our website for more information: <https://norbis.w.uib.no/medbioinfo-conference-2023/>



SAVE THE DATE! CEDAS-NORBIS summer school: August 7-11th

CEDAS and NORBIS are joining forces and will co-arrange this year's summer school!

In week 32 of 2023, i.e., from Aug. 7 to 11, we will enjoy the Joint CEDAS-NORBIS Summer School on data science and its biomedical applications in Bergen (at hotel Zander K) with an exciting program, including the following highlights (more details on the web page [1]):

- Keynote Address by Prof. Arvid Lundervold (Mon., Aug. 7)
- DIY Data Science 101 (Aug. 7+8)
- Statistics for Data Science (Aug. 8+9), including an Invited Talk by Matthias Villani
- Machine Learning for Data Science (Aug. 9+10), including an Invited Talk by Vaneeda Allken
- Visual Data Science (Aug. 10+11), including an Invited Talk by Jan Byška
- Capstone Address on Fri., Aug. 11

The summer school emphasizes hands-on learning (besides lectures about the involved concepts) and it is primarily designed for PhD students / early-stage researchers, who see a need for data science in their work.

We are very glad that we can now open the registration for this summer school. Since we are offering a limited number of places, only a confirmed registration opens for actual participation -- with the following link you can register your interest in participation. Soon you will receive a message from us with either a confirmation of your registration or information about your place on a waiting list. In the first week (from now), registrations from CEDAS and/or NORBIS affiliates will be prioritized (as well as registrations from PhD students / early-stage researchers). Note that a confirmed registration is binding -- in the case of a "no show", we may have to bill you the costs that we have for this then-not-taken place.

Use <https://bit.ly/43faUGE> to register -- since we will process confirmed registrations in the temporal order of receipt, it is highly recommended to register as soon as possible (we only have a limited number of places)

Lots of thanks go to CEDAS [2a], NORBIS [2b], the UiB Dept. of Informatics [2c], and the UiB Dept. of Mathematics [2d] for their support, enabling this summer school!

[1] <https://DataScience2023.w.uib.no/>

[2a] <https://www.uib.no/en/cedas>

[2b] <https://NORBIS.w.uib.no/>

[2c] <https://www.uib.no/en/ii>

[2d] <https://www.uib.no/en/math>

More information will come here: <https://norbis.w.uib.no/activities/summerschool/>

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>