

NEWSLETTER

Department of
Informatics



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Editor-in-chief: Inge Jonassen. Editor: Linda Vagtskjold. Contributions or comments to the newsletter are very welcome.

Dear colleagues,

I do hope everybody is doing well despite the new Covid wave and again restrictions on social interactions, home office etc.

I appreciate all the engagement and discussions we had at the “teachers meeting” last Thursday focused on our use of group leaders and the new regulations regarding grading of exams. As it looks now, new rules from the government means that each exam – that is to be graded with A-F (and not simply passed/failed) will need to be graded by two people including an external sensor. This will be effective from the autumn semester of 2022. This practice will not only be expensive and cause logistical challenges, but it will also make it difficult for us to use mid-term exams or assignments handed in during the semester as basis for setting the grade. In my own experience, using assignments as basis for setting the grade has motivated many students to work harder through the semester and significantly improved the learning outcome. And from discussions with many of you, I think this is an experience many of us share. So, as far as I can understand, this change of regulations will result in us spending more resources without any clear indication that it will lead to better results. In the future we will have to think through how course work is assessed, to ensure that the learning outcome is as good as possible. And not the least, that we keep arguing towards the government that this is a change to the worse and suggest other ways to ensure the students’ rights to a fair grading of their exams. At the department we will continue working to find as good solutions as we can, and we will have multiple meetings towards the March 1st deadline when we need to submit the final descriptions of grading schemes to be used for the courses to be given in the autumn.



A piece of very good news for the Department just came in: Our Research Infrastructure application ELIXIR3 will be supported by the Research Council of Norway – enabling the continued development of ELIXIR Norway coordinated by UiB.

This will be the last newsletter before the holiday seasons, and I would like to use this opportunity to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays – and to thank all of you for all the great efforts in 2021!

-Inge



The Dean's Blog – Gunn Mangerud

[The Dean's blog](#) aims to inform us of ongoing work and processes at [Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences](#).

Her latest postings:

- [Fremragende utdanning kommer ikke av seg selv](#)
- [Likestilling i akademien](#)



Welcome new colleagues!



Palash Sarkar

Palash is our new postdoctoral fellow in Informatics - Signal Design for Wireless Communications connected to the project "*SETA - Sequences and their applications*" financed by the Research Council of Norway through the IKTPLUS program. Chunlei is the project leader and will be his supervisor.

Palash is from India. He did his PhD in Boolean Function Based Sequence Construction for Wireless Communication at the IIT Patna in 2020.

Current Issues [På Høyden](#) - [Khrono](#) – [News from NFR](#) – [News from UiB](#) – [Informatics on Facebook](#)

Short overview of upcoming department events

December 17	Group contact meeting
December 22	Defense Anna Maria Eilertsen
February 4, 2022	Petter Bjørstad celebration in the University Aula
April 4-5	Department gathering 2022, at Solstrand
April 20-23	6th Creative Mathematical Sciences Communication conference (CMSC'22) in Bergen

Current corona measures

[Please find updated information here.](#)

PhD updates

There's a new PhD in town - Congratulations Ksenia Lavrichenko!



Ksenia successfully defended her thesis "*Computational methods for DNA Copy Number Variation Analysis*" on 29th November.

Congratulations to Ksenia, the CBU and to supervisor Inge!

[Here you can learn more about her project](#)



PhD defense – Anna Maria Eilertsen

Anna Maria will defend her thesis "*Improving the Usability of Refactoring Tools for Software Change Tasks*" on 22nd December at 14:00 [on zoom](#).

- Opponent: Professor Massimiliano Di Penta, University of Sannio
- Opponent: Associate Professor Olga Baysal, Carleton University
- Committee member: Postdoc Mikhail Barash, UiB
- Leader of the defense: Associate Professor Ana Ozaki, UiB

[Please find the press release here](#)

All are welcome!

NORBIS conference - SAVE THE DATE!!

The 8th and last NORBIS conference will be arranged next year at Rosendal Fjordhotell week 43, 24-28 October. More information to come! But for now, save the date!



Statistical methods in relatedness and pedigree analysis

Dates: 10th-14th January 2022. **Location:** University of Oslo. **Organiser:** [Magnus Dehli Vigeland](#)
Credits: 4 ECTS. **Evaluation:** The students will do a project after the course, delivering a written report within a month. The report will be marked as passed/not passed. **Lecturers:** Magnus Dehli Vigeland, PhD (UiO), Thore Egeland, Professor (NMBU) **Short description:** The course introduces statistical methods used in relatedness and pedigree analysis, with applications in forensic genetics, medical genetics and pedigree reconstruction. [More information and registration here](#)

Population genomics

Dates: 28th February-4th March, 2022. **Location:** North University, Bodø. **Course responsible:** Joost Raeymaekers. **Lecturers:** Joost Raeymaekers, Lars Martin Jakt, Irina Smolina, Alexander Jüterbock, Britta Meyer, Mark Ravinet, Emiliano Trucchi, Oscar Gaggioti, Bart Peeters, Anja Westram, Kostas Sagonas. **Credits:** 5 ECTS. **Evaluation:** The evaluation will be report-based. The students will analyze a population genomic dataset (preferably their own data or data related to their own research topic), interpret and write a report. The students deliver the report within a month after the end of the course.

Short description: This course brings together an international collection of lecturers and course participants to study techniques for the analysis of population genomic data. The course consists of a series of lectures, demonstrations and computer laboratories that cover theory and practice of population genomics analyses. [More information and external link to registration here](#)



High Performance Computing in Bioinformatics

Dates: March 14-25, 2022. **Location:** University of Oslo. **Course code:** INF9380. **Organisers:** Torbjørn Rognes, Abdulrahman Azab, Arvind Sundaram. **Invited lecturers:** Martti Louhivuori & Jussi Enkovaara, CSC (IT Center for Science), Finland. Abdulrahman Azab, Chief Engineer, University Centre for Information Technology, UiO. Arvind Sundaram, Research scientist, Norwegian Sequencing Centre, Oslo University Hospital. Bjørn-Helge Mevik, Darren Starr, Leon Charl du Toit, Marcin Krotkiewski, Maiken Pedersen, Ole Widar Saastad, Sabry Razick, USIT, UiO **Credits:** 5 ECTS. **Evaluation:** Practical student project (home exam) with hand-in of written report. **Short course description** This course focuses on the application of high performance computing (HPC) to bioinformatics analysis. The main target is to provide a background on how to effectively use HPC clusters for running computationally or data intensive bioinformatics applications. The course will mainly include teaching students selected bioinformatics tools and workflows, and how to use HPC platforms to speed up and maximize the overall throughput of intensive bioinformatics analysis. [More information and external links to registration as visiting student at UiO here](#)



Research, Science and Seminars [ScienceNorway.no](https://www.sciencenorway.no) - forskning.no

EMBO survey

EMBO launched [this survey](#) to better understand the needs of life scientists and their awareness and perceptions of EMBO, its programmes and scientific publications across life scientists in Europe and beyond. It takes less than 15 minutes to complete the survey. It is open until 17 December

Visual Computing Forum – Ask Me Anything with Prof. Eduard Gröller

Our Visual Computing Forum, VCF, see vis.uib.no/vcf, is a series of regular seminars, organized by the visualization group for over ten years, already, with invited talks from visualization, visual data science, image processing, computer graphics, etc.

Last week, on 3rd Dec., as a first-time event, we hosted an online VCF seminar with Prof. Eduard Gröller doing an AMA session – AMA stands for Ask me Anything. Eduard Gröller is Professor at the Institute of Visual Computing & Human-Centered Technology, TU Wien in Austria, and an Adjunct Professor of Computer Science with us at UiB. During the session, Eduard answered many a priori submitted questions and shared useful, related resources with the audience. We were very glad to see a substantial interest, especially among young colleagues, asking relevant questions about academic work and life, challenges in modern research, as well as questions about general, professional advice – given the very positive response, we consider repeating this idea of an AMA session in VCF.



If you wish to be notified about future VCF events, write an eMail to Sherin.Sugathan@UiB.no – we will gladly add your eMail-address to your VCF-invitees eMail list.

The fifth SDG Conference Bergen, 9-11 February 2022

SDG Conference Bergen

About the conference

Programme

About the SDGs

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UB

SDG Conference Bergen

About the conference

CONCEPT NOTE SDG 2022

**Ways of knowing, modes of inhabiting:
Dialogues across a fragmented Earth for the
2030 Agenda**

Read the concept note for the 2022 SDG Conference Bergen.

The contemporary Anthropocene world can be described as one with deep lines of conflict, generating so large disalignments of almost ontological nature, that people do not share the same world. Some live in a world where there is still space for economic growth; where endless growth is possible to accommodate. This is a world where nature is perceived as abundant and as an un-depletable source of extraction. Others live in a world where nature is collapsing and where we need fundamental social and economic change in order to survive. Some live in a world where the dramatic consequences of climate change are experienced, on a daily basis. Others pursue their lives surrounded by the security and comfort of private wealth.

The SDG Conference Bergen 2022 will unpack and explore these differences and lines of conflict, which are political but also epistemological, and even ontological. These are results of not only different geographical and political positions, but also different modes of inhabiting the world. We need to ask whether our current mode of habitation is sustainable. What are the alternatives?



Scene from the 2022 SDG Conference Bergen, Photo: Paul S. Amundsen for the University of Bergen

The annual national SDG Conference Bergen was initiated by the University of Bergen and the annual event is planned in dialogue with the other Norwegian universities, the Ministry of Education and Research, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation.

For more information about the conference in 2022, please visit the dedicated [event website](#).

Unplugged! CMSC2022, April 20-23 at the Univ of Bergen

APRIL 20 - 23, 2022 University of Bergen, Norway

CREATIVE MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES COMMUNICATION



APRIL 20-23 CMSC 2022

6th Creative Mathematical Sciences Communication Conference

Website: cm-sc-uib.org

Join scientists, researchers, teachers and artists in developing new ways of communicating mathematical and computational thinking, including computing activities across the curriculum, at every level. We welcome contributions in art forms such as dance, art, theatre ... many ways to communicate science to the public.

CMSC aims to provide materials and learning scenarios to teach kids without computers, following the *Computer Science Unplugged* philosophy (www.csunplugged.org). Modeling, clever information representation, the design and analysis of algorithms, all have the potential to unlock a great amount of creativity. Let's attract children to open problems, to dare reach for gold. We aim to create more activities as iconic as the Sorting Network.



COST: There is no registration fee! Space is limited so register soon.



The Solstrand Hotel will have participants names and details. You may pay for your accommodation there upon check-in. The Conference Banquet, coffees, lunch on Wednesday and Thursday and breakfast will be included with the room.

The conference will feature talks by leading researchers and communicators in the mathematical sciences, sharing their experience, new initiatives and ideas.

Please bring your own experimental activities. Describe how your outreach actions have contributed to your own scientific research or teaching.

SCHEDULE

- Wednesday 20 April. Conference begins. Buses depart the University of Bergen at 8:00 am to go to the Solstrand Hotel for CMSC on Wednesday/Thursday, with the Banquet at the Solstrand Hotel on Wednesday night.
- Thursday 21 April. Conference continues on a fjord trip back to the University of Bergen (UiB).
- Friday 22 April. Parameterized Complexity research workshop at UiB. Lunch with the Algorithms Group. Materials and space for ongoing discussions and preparing activities for the Festival. An evening activity (to be decided).
- Saturday 23 April. All -Bergen Community Science Festival, family-friendly activities, good food, science, technology and fun for all ages. The CMSC participants will share the activities we create.



SPONSOR



UNIVERSITETET I BERGEN Institutt for Informatikk

Publishing Open Access and Data Management Plans

The University of Bergen Library has prepared very good websites on the current status of local, national and international open access (OA) policies as well as their services related to OA publishing. Please have a look at their websites and make yourself familiar with the different policies as well as the existing publishing deals with several of the academic publishers. [UiB's policy for Open Science](#) can be found by following the link. Furthermore, UiB has a publication fund for OA that can cover the article processing charges (APC) when publishing in eligible open access journals.

Before you (your group) pay(s) any fees for making an article openly available, please consult the webpages to see if you are entitled to a discount, may get the fees refunded through the publication fund, or maybe don't even have to pay anything based on an existing agreement with the publisher!

If you have questions, please contact the department's research coordinator [Stefanie Meyer](#).



**Publication fund for
Open Access at UiB**



**Open access
publishing deals**



**Open Access - what,
why and how**



CRISTIN

Current Research Information System in Norway

Please check and register your publications in the CRISTin database by 31 January!

CRISTin (Current research information system in Norway) is a research information system for hospitals, research institutes, and universities and university colleges. One of the primary purposes of the system is to collect all the registrations and reporting of research activities of institutions within the three sectors in a common system.

As every year, we ask you to log into CRISTin and check if your publications for the last year (2021) are complete and correctly registered. Please correct potential errors and inconsistencies and add missing publications. In addition, UiB requires a full-text version of all research articles to be uploaded to the database. The deadline for completing those tasks is **31 January 2022**.

More detailed information on how to register publications in CRISTin, as well as guidelines on how to upload the full text, can be found here:

<https://www.uib.no/en/ub/79539/cristin>

<https://www.cristin.no/english/researcher-pages/register-publications-nvi.html>

Please note, that the budget of our department is partly dependent on the publications that our scientific staff are authors and coauthors of. The research groups will be rewarded according to their registered publication points.



Plan S requirements

For calls for proposals from and including 2021, the [Research Council of Norway](#) (RCN) will require full and immediate open access to all articles from projects that receive funding from the Council. According to the [Plan S requirements](#), there are **three main ways to OA**: publishing in OA journals, publishing in venues under a transformative arrangement, or making a version (either the AAM or final version) of the article available by depositing it in an open archive. For any chosen route to compliance, the publication must be **openly available immediately** with a Creative Commons Attribution license (**CC BY**). Coalition S has recently launched a [journal checker tool](#), where you can check whether your chosen journal/venue is Plan S compliant and which routes are available. Currently, the requirements apply only to scientific articles. During 2021, cOAlition S will develop joint open access requirements for scientific books and book chapters (monographs and anthologies). When this has been done, the RCN will introduce requirements for scientific books in line with the recommendations made by cOAlition S. Please also note that the RCN requires all articles to be archived in a suitable open archive (no matter which OA route was used). We recommend to use CRISTin for this purpose.

Data Management Plans

A data management plan, or DMP, is a formal document that outlines how research data are handled throughout the whole project life cycle – including the planning phase, the operational phase, and project conclusion – as well as beyond the lifetime of the project. DMPs are a key component of Open Science practices, where the overall principle is that research data should be "as open as possible, as closed as necessary".

UiB has its own [Open Science policy](#), where it is stated that all research projects led by UiB researchers shall have a DMP. For externally funded projects, also the funding agency's Open Science principles and DMP requirements have to be followed.

In principle, project leaders should strive to manage their research data according to the FAIR principle. FAIR means that research data have to be findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable.

The exact content of a data management plan will vary according to research field and type of project. It is important to determine what "research data" actually entails. The University of Bergen Library (UB) has included some comments regarding this on their [website](#), showing that both entirely new data and data generated through the analysis of existing data (secondary data) need to be described. Analysis software/program code created in the research process could also be relevant to consider. Special rules apply to sensitive data.

For more details and guidance, please have a look at UB's website on [Data Management Plans](#) (DMPs). Here you can find information on what should be included in a DMP, how to write it, where one can get support when developing it, upcoming training events and a list of links to several online tools that can help you to structure your DMP.

Upcoming funding opportunities

On a monthly basis, the department releases a comprehensive overview over [upcoming funding opportunities](#) on its website for [research support services](#). Please inform research coordinator [Stefanie Meyer](#) about all planned and ongoing funding applications! This includes both applications you coordinate yourself, and those where you are included as a partner/collaborator! At this point, we would like to highlight the following upcoming calls and funding/research-related events:



Enabling technologies. There is an open call for Collaborative Projects on Digital Security and Artificial Intelligence, Robotics and Autonomous Systems. "The objective of this call is to develop new knowledge within one or both topics for the call: Digital security and/or AI, Robotics and Autonomous Systems. [...] The project must involve two or more Norwegian partners that are not research organisations. Partners that are not research organisations must together participate with a minimum of 10 per cent of the total project costs." **Application deadline: open-ended.**



Collaborative Project to Meet Societal and Industry-related Challenges. The Research Council of Norway has issued a preliminary call "to develop new knowledge and generate research competence needed by society or the business sector to address important societal challenges." Projects are required to include at least two Norwegian partners from the non-academic sector. "The partners from the business sector or other parts of society must participate actively in the project. At least 10 per cent of the project's total costs must be used by these partners." **Call opens on 15 December 2021. Application deadline: 9 February 2022.**



Researcher projects. The RCN has published preliminary calls for Researcher Projects for Scientific Renewal, Researcher Projects for Young Talents, and Three-year Researcher Projects with International Mobility. **Calls open on 15 December 2021. Application deadline: 2 February 2022.**



INTPART. The RCN has published a “notification of the upcoming call for proposals. Norwegian research organisations may apply for funding for partnerships with Brazil, Canada, India, Japan, China, Russia, South Africa, South Korea, the USA, Germany and France. Other countries may be added in the final call for proposals.” **Application deadline: 16 March 2022.**



UTFORSK. “The programme supports the establishment of long-term partnerships between Norway and Brazil, Canada, China, India, Japan, Russia, South Africa, South Korea, and the USA.” **Application deadline: 20 April 2022.**



ERC. Call deadlines for the 2022 calls are:

- Starting Grant ‘22, **13 January 2022**
- Consolidat. Grant ‘22, **17 March 2022**
- Advanced Grant ‘22, **28 April 2022**

ERC funding explained: Watch the ERC’s instructional videos.



Trond Mohn Stiftelse (TMS) Starting Grants. “The Trond Mohn Foundation Starting Grant programme aims to assist the University of Bergen (UoB) in recruiting young national or international candidates with outstanding academic merit and research potential.” **Application deadline: 8 March 2022.**

As this type of grant requires considerable contributions from the faculty and department, **all applications must be approved by the head of department before starting the application process!**

Need help?

*Please contact research coordinator Stefanie Meyer if you have questions with regard to your **planned and ongoing funding applications** as well as **all contractual work related to external funds!** All applications and agreements/ contracts need to be approved by the department leadership. In addition, you can have a look at our websites for research support services, where you will also find a list of our services.*

Horizon Europe info day @UiB

Do you want to learn more about EU's funding for research and innovation? Horizon Europe provides opportunities for researchers in all fields and at all career stages.



Photo: Renate Paulsen

UiB invites all researchers to participate in this event, where you will receive information and get the opportunity to ask questions about the funding instruments and processes of Horizon Europe.

Horizon Europe supports a wide range of research and innovation activities, including basic and applied research, innovation projects, and networking activities, and provides funding and opportunities for researchers in all fields and at all career stages.

[Registration](#) deadline: 31.12.2021, 3 pm

Vacant positions

Researcher in Molecular Biology

Please find [the announcement here](#). Closing date: 28.12.2021.

Postdoctoral Research Fellow position in Informatics – Cryptography

Please find [the announcement here](#). Closing date: 04.01.2022

Postdoctoral Research Fellow position within Informatics - Bioinformatics

Please find [the announcement here](#). Closing date: 06.01.2022

Studiekonsulent (vikarer for Ida og Pål)

Please find [the announcement here](#). Closing date: 09.01.2022

Summer internship at Simula - 2022

Simula Research Laboratory is now recruiting approximately [20 summer interns](#) to work within the fields of ICT research. Application deadline is 30.12.2021.

