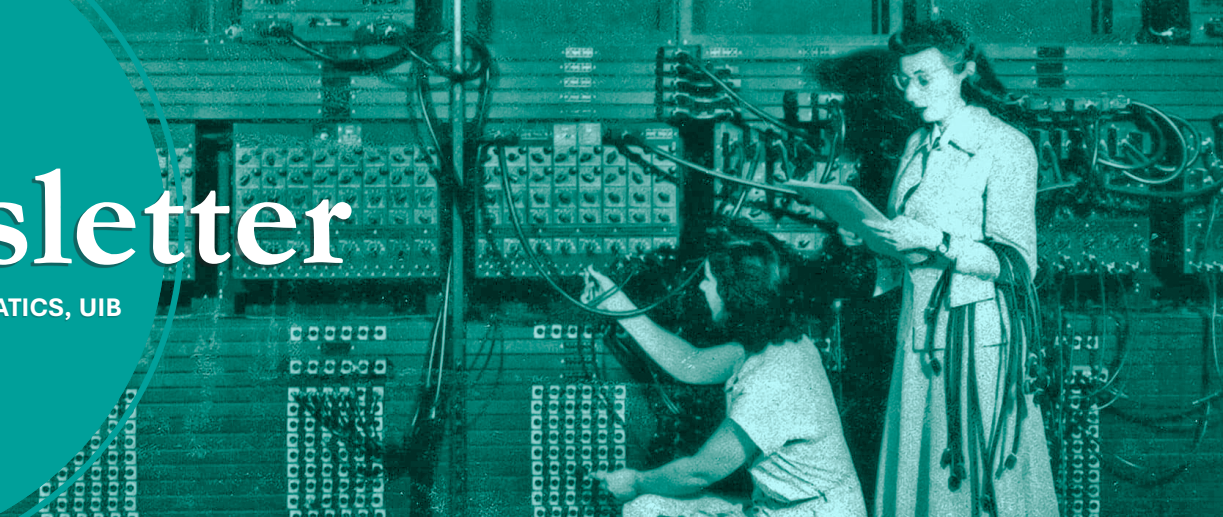


Newsletter

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATICS, UIB

No.05/2024, 01.03.2024



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,

After having had a large number of coworker conversations (assessment interviews) and having seen preliminary analyses of the survey we did in the autumn, I have a good basis for saying that almost all staff at the department enjoy going to work and are enthusiastic about the workplace!

The early analyses have already given us food for thought. Extensive research performed internationally, as well as at our sister faculty at the University of Oslo, show that women have an accumulated disadvantage in our academic field compared to men. Our own survey seems to show that our department is no different. However, a significant proportion of colleagues, mainly male, responded to the survey saying they did not believe this to be the case. Why did we believe that our department would be different? How are we going to adjust our attitude to this new data? I believe this is worth reflecting on.

I am part of a group working out a new action plan for “Kjønnsbalanse, likestilling, inkludering og mangfold” (gender balance, equity, inclusion and diversity) at the faculty level, and we will propose to extend the program to address multiple aspects of diversity.

In our department level survey, the data shows very clearly that staff from outside Europe and North America to a larger extent consider themselves as a minority at the workplace and believe that cultural/ language barriers are preventing them from acquiring information about labour rights and other opportunities. On the positive side, close to 100% of them feel that they are included in the social activities at the workplace as their colleagues and are trusted equally as their colleagues.

The results of the survey will be presented at the HSE (Health, Safety, Environment) section at the upcoming Department gathering (April 22-23 – note the dates!) and we plan to have discussions linked with gender equality and diversity. I see this as important in order to make the department an even better place to work for everybody – for the good of our research and educational activities.

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:

- [En kjernefasilitet](#)
- [For MatNat har 2023 vært et innholdsrikt år](#)



For he's an ACM Fellow...

Congratulations, Fedor!

The Association for Computing Machinery has announced the 2023 ACM Fellows, and among them is our very own Fedor Fomin!

Fedor has been awarded the fellowship “for contributions to the development of parameterized complexity and exact exponential algorithms.”

Other inductees this year include inventor of the World Wide Web; Tim Berners-Lee, as well as the “godfathers” of AI; Yann LeCun, Geoffrey Hinton, and Yoshua Bengio.

Welcome, new colleagues!



Irene Di Muzio

Irene is from Italy, where she did her master's in Cryptography at the University of Trento. Now she is joining the Selmer Center as a PhD candidate.

Welcome, Irene!

Current issues

Upcoming events:

12.03 & 14.03	Women's self-defence course
13.03	First aid course (More info TBA)
13.03	Next Lønningspils
21.03	Teachers' retreat
22.04-23.04	Annual department gathering at Solstrand
22.05-24.05	Department council election

Register your next of kin in the Helse Norge portal

If you do not have a registered partner, parents or children living in Norway, your relatives will not be automatically informed if you are hospitalized, nor get any information when contacting the hospital.

If your next of kin, or at least some of your closest family live outside Norway, it is crucial that you register them as your next of kins in the Helse Norge portal. This will become part of our onboarding procedure, but if you are already onboard, please log in and register your next of kin and provide information on how they can be contacted under [your contact details on Helsenorge](#).

The most important election of 2024*



In 2024, we are electing new representatives for the department council, groups B and D. Students and temporary staff are encouraged to submit nominees before the 18th of March!

Read more: [Election of members to the department board at The Department of Informatics](#)

**most important at our department*

UiB AI #9: Trustworthy AI

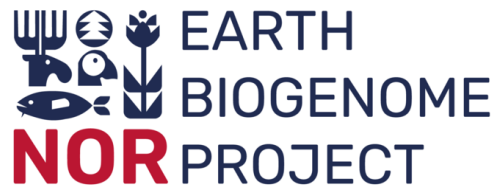
(Seminar) 08.03.2024
10.00–12.00 - Storsalen,
Nygårdsgaten 5, 1st floor
Registration deadline:
06.03.2024 at 23:00

The department of Information Science and Media Studies and the faculty of social sciences is concerned with the social and collaborative aspects and properties of AI. In this edition of the UiB AI seminar series, we showcase four research examples on how we work with trust and AI. The short presentations will be followed by a panel debate.

Programme:

- Creating Embodied Artificial Trustworthiness by Ragnhild Mølster (presenter) and Jens Elmelund Kjeldsen
- Should we trust the world with a IP-hungry AI in it? by Richard Misek
- Trustworthy journalism through AI by Andreas Lothe Opdahl, [based on a paper](#)
- Trust but verify by Rustam Galimullin
- Panel: Should we seek trustworthiness for AI or for its human collaborators?

[Read more and register for the Trustworthy AI seminar here.](#)



Norwegian Biodiversity and Genomics Conference 2024

EBP-Nor invites you to our annual conference in Oslo, Norway, taking place in week 15!

EBP is a global, non-profit initiative aiming to sequence and catalogue the genomes of all 1.5 million eukaryotic species on Earth within 10 years. EBP-Nor is the Norwegian contribution to this ambitious project. We would like to share the conference with everyone interested in biodiversity and genomics, and we hope you will participate!

The conference is open to everyone, so please share the event with your colleagues and anyone else you think might be interested.

Program:

- April 8-10: Workshops where you can learn more about how to use bioinformatic tools to analyze and interpret genome sequencing data (University of Oslo).
- April 11-12: Conference at Forskningsparken with presentations from renowned researchers in biodiversity and genomics.

[For more information and registration, please read more on \[ebpnor.org\]\(https://ebpnor.org\).](#)

Women's self-defence course

(Few spots left)

This year, the course will be done over two days on the 12th and 14th of March.

Please sign up here before the 8th of March at 12:00:

[Skjemaker for women's self-defence course](#)

12th of March:

15:00 Pizza in Skogen

15:30 Theory lesson

16:30 Walking as a group to Sammen city

17:00 to 19:00 Practice

14th of March:

17:00 Start of practice at Sammen city

19:15 Dinner somewhere nearby (our treat)



Trenger vi alternative pengesystemer?

12.03 - 16:30–18:00 - Realfagbygget, Auditorium 2

Pengesystemene er kritisk infrastruktur i samfunnet. Hva koster det å drive dem? Og er det fornuftig med tanke på fremtidig samfunnssikkerhet å holde oss med ett eller flere alternative pengesystemer? Svein Ølnes og Arne Krokan innleder til debatt.

Our competitors in newsletterology

Did you know there are other people who also make newsletters?

Here are a few that may be relevant to you:

- [Newsletter for international UiB staff](#)
- [UiB Ferd newsletter](#)
- [Nytt fra W4-prosjektet \(In Norwegian, only available to UiB employees\)](#)
- [Eitri Medical Incubator](#)

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 read more and sign up for the UiB Ferd newsletter here.](#)



Upcoming UiB Ferd events include:

08.03.24: [Make your research visible using researcher profiles](#) (Course)
Registration deadline: 06.03.2024 at 10:00

13.03.24: [How to create a solid elevator pitch for job opportunities or academic advancement](#) (Course)
Registration deadline: 11.03.2024 at 23:59

15.03.24: [Introductory course to LaTeX](#) (Course)
Registration deadline: 14.03.2024 at 12:00

22.03.24: [How can you make your research data open and FAIR?](#) (Course)
Registration deadline: 21.03.2024 at 12:00

05.04.24: [Introduction to Data Management Plans \(DMP\)](#) (Course)
Registration deadline: 04.04.2024 at 12:00

10.04.24: [Dual Career Seminar - working and learning in Norway](#) (Course)
Registration deadline: 08.04.2024 at 23:55

11.04.24: [Healthy Working Habits: Time Management and Writing Motivation](#) (Course)
Registration deadline: 09.04.2024 at 23:55

The UiB University Library and its [Digital Lab](#) offer a wide range of interesting courses and events – please find more information in the [calendar](#).

Vacant positions

- [PhD Research Fellow in Informatics – Cryptology](#)
- [PhD Research Fellow in Informatics – \(energy informatics, optimization and machine learning\)](#)
- [PhD Research Fellows \(2 positions\) in Informatics: Algorithms, Logic and AI](#)

[See all open positions at UiB](#)

Please visit the [HSE page on uib.no](#) for info about health and safety efforts at our department, as well as info about your representatives

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](#).



Forskningssrådet

FRIPRO: The Research Council of Norway has published information about the current FRIPRO (groundbreaking research) calls on their website.

- [Researcher Project for Experienced Scientists \(FRIPRO\)](#)
- [Researcher Project for Early Career Scientists \(FRIPRO\)](#)
- [Three-year Researcher Project with International Mobility \(FRIPRO\)](#)

Application deadline: open-ended



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. [...] 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.”

Application deadline: 1 April 2024



Forskningssrådet

Support for events: In 2024, there are also [funds](#) available within the portfolio of Enabling technologies!

Application deadline: open-ended



UTFORSK: “The Norwegian Directorate for Higher Education and Skills announces up to NOK 90 million in funding to [educational partnerships](#) between higher education institutions in Norway and Brazil, Canada, China, India, Japan, South Africa, South Korea, and the United States of America (USA).”

Application deadline: 15 April 2024



Klima og energiomstilling - utlysning av såkornsmidler og reisestøtte 2024: Det lyses ut:

- Såkornsmidler til prosjektsøknader og utvikling av utdanningstilbud innen klima og energiomstilling.
Søknadsfrist 15. mai 2024 kl. 14:00

Ta kontakt med Stefanie Meyer for full utlysningstekst og søknadsskjemaer.



UiB ide: «[UiB idé](#) gives employees and students the opportunity to apply for support to test and develop good innovation ideas.»

Application deadline: 19 April 2024



New COST: “Participants are invited to submit [COST Action proposals](#) contributing to the scientific, technological, economic, cultural or societal knowledge advancement and development of Europe. [...] A COST Action is an interdisciplinary research network that brings researchers and innovators together to investigate a topic of their choice for 4 years. COST Actions are typically made up of researchers from academia, SMEs, public institutions and other relevant organisations or interested parties.”

Application deadline: 23 October 2024



**AI centres
Research Council**

New AI seminar organized at UiB

UiB is organizing a seminar in connection to the upcoming AI center call. The seminar will take place on **10 April** between **10.00-14.00** in Nygårdsdølen 5 (Storsalen).

The aim of the event is “to stimulate the AI research environments to collaborate on AI Research Center proposals. If you would like to coordinate or collaborate in a proposal, we provide you with the opportunity to present your work in this seminar. **The deadline for registering a presentation is 22 March.**” The deadline for registering without a presentation is 2 April.

More information about the event and the registration link is available on the following website: [Mobiliseringsseminar: KI for tillit og bærekraft | UiB AI | UiB](#)

NORBIS activities

Courses open for registration!

- **Non-members can also register**

Metabolic pathway analysis

Time: February 19th to March 1st, 2024. Please note that the course is two weeks.

Place: University of Bergen, Department of biomedicine

Course responsible: [Ines Heiland](#), [Mathias Ziegler](#), and [Suraj Sharma](#)

Invited lecturers: [Sascha Schäuble](#), HKI, Jena Germany

Suggested amount of ECTS: 10

Number of participants: max 20

Registration form: [HERE](#) **Registration deadline:** February 5th

Course description

This course will provide an introduction to the computational analysis and reconstruction of both small and genome-scale metabolic networks. The main goal is to familiarize students with relevant state-of-the-art computational tools and databases, as well as to provide the students with hands-on experience in metabolic modelling approaches. Furthermore, we will cover the mathematical basis of constraint-based analysis of genome-scale metabolic models and provide a foundation for stability and control analysis of dynamic models.

Link to course site: <https://norbis.w.uib.no/metabolic-pathway-analysis-2/>

Population genomics 2024

Dates: 18 – 22 March, 2024

Location: North University, Bodø

Course responsible: Joost Raeymaekers

Registration: Sign up before 1st of March 2024. [Please click here to visit the course page for registration and updated information.](#)

Lecturers:

Joost Raeymaekers, Lars Martin Jakt, Irina Smolina, Alexander Jüterbock, George Antunes Pacheco, Emiliano Trucchi, Oscar Gaggioti, Anja Westram

ECTS: 5

Course description:



The 2024 course in Population Genomics at Nord University in Bodø 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. Topics include population genetic theory, introduction to command line, data formats, coalescence/population demography, analysis of population structure, adaptive evolution and inferring selection, gene-environment interactions, landscape genomics, and the analysis of admixture/hybridisation. Both understanding theory and acquiring the skills to analyse data are part of the learning outcomes. There will be a local support team with teaching assistants.

For more information please see our website: <https://norbis.w.uib.no/populationgenomics2024/>

Microbial comparative genomics

– phylogenetics, genome sequencing, genome annotation, antimicrobial resistance, comparative genomics

Time: April 8-12, 2024

Place: University of Bergen, Computational Biology Unit

Course responsible: [Anagha Joshi](#) and [Tom Michoel](#)

Invited lecturers: Dr. [Grigorios Amoutzias](#), [Marios Nikolaidis](#)

Suggested amount of ECTS: 5

Number of participants: Max. 20

Registration form: [Here](#) **Registration deadline:** March 8th.

Course description

The course will be given over a week (5 days Monday-Friday) with lectures (34 hours including discussions) in the mornings and practical hands-on sessions in the afternoons. On the last day there will be a summing-up session where the students can provide feedback. The students will receive a reading list before the course and are expected to prepare well for the course. The students will do a project after the course and deliver a report within two weeks after finishing the course. Students must bring a laptop running a UNIX-Like operating system (any flavor of Linux, UNIX or Mac) to the course and will receive software installation instructions along with the reading list.

Link to course site: <https://norbis.w.uib.no/sequence-analysis-comparative-genomics/>

Courses in collaboration with Digital Life Norway Research School

-These courses are open for NORBIS members only

Science communication - How to make an award-winning poster

When/Where: 4-6 March 2024, Røros Hotel

Registration deadline: 31 January 2024

How can you create a poster that does not only attract attention, but will help you get connected and even get feedback on your research? In our workshop you'll learn to use the principles of science

communication in order to tell an engaging and memorable story about your research. From this story, you will create an attractive design that helps your audience understand your main message in a few seconds.

This 3-day workshop organized by DLN Research School, TNNN and NORBIS, provides young to mid-level researchers with the techniques and tools to effectively communicate their work in a poster presentation. It covers the basics of science communication, storytelling, and design principles. Throughout this combination of lectures, exercises, discussion and assignments, you will produce your own poster and pitch it to the group.

The course is all-inclusive. This means that the research schools will take care of hotel bookings, and travel costs will be reimbursed upon submission of a travel claim.

[Read more & register...](#)

Science communication - Pitch your science to any audience

When/Where: 7 March 2024, NTNU Trondheim & online

Registration deadline: 7 February 2024

Writing a short pitch is often the best start to any kind of science communication. To help you get on with this, we aim this workshop at defining your message, goal and target audience. But we will also cover some ways to formulate your message clearly and explain why this is so important. This workshop helps you to communicate with your peers, but also with subsidy organizations, policy makers or a wider audience. At the end of the workshop, you'll have a short pitch about your research.

This hybrid workshop is organized by DLN Research School, TNNN, and NORBIS. Participants based in Trondheim are welcome to attend in person for the entire day, while those located elsewhere can participate digitally from 09:00 to ~12:00.

[Read more & register...](#)

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES: SAVE THE DATE!

Workshop: Comparing genomes: Genome assembly and annotation, and hypothesis testing in comparative genomics.

Time: 1-5 April, 2024

Location: University of Oslo or University of Bergen

Workshop responsible: José Cerca (UiO), Ole Tørresen (UiO)

Workshop description: In this workshop, we will cover the technical principles of genome assembly, annotation, and genome comparison. We will explore the techniques related to genome sequencing, the software and strategies used for genome assembly and annotation. Following that, we will delve into comparative genomics, focusing on fundamental concepts such as genomic structural features (transposable elements, genes, centromeres), orthologs, and functional characterization of genes. Through this, participants will gain the necessary skills to test hypotheses in the field of comparative genomics.

For more information, visit our workshop website: <https://norbis.w.uib.no/activities/workshops/>

Workshop: Genealogies and Ancestral Recombination Graph

Time: April/May 2024

Location: Drøbak Research Station (Tollboden)

Workshop responsible: José Cerca (UiO) and Ole Kristian Tørresen (UiO)

Workshop description: The Genealogies and Ancestral Recombination Graph workshop (GARG'w) is a comprehensive 3-day program designed to introduce participants to the fascinating world of population genomics and how recombination events shape genomes. This hands-on workshop will focus on utilizing the tskit environment, a powerful tool for simulating and analyzing genomic data (whole-genome resequencing data), to explore and understand complex inheritance patterns within populations. Join us for this immersive 3-day workshop to gain valuable skills and insights into the world of genealogies and Ancestral Recombination Graphics using tskit. Unlock the secrets hidden in genetic data and discover the historical events that have shaped the genetic ancestry of species and populations.

In addition we have soft skills courses available that are organized with other national research schools. Please visit <https://norbis.w.uib.no/activities/transferable-skills/> for more information.

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>