Dear Colleagues,

I want to thank again everybody who joined the Department gathering at Solstrand earlier this week! I very much enjoyed the presentations, the discussions, and the social interactions! And again, thanks to Kine and Linda who did the major job in terms of organization, and to Sondre for organizing the quiz!

I am also grateful to Pinar who took time to visit her “home department” and share with us some thoughts and perspectives from the pro-rector’s office. Her presentation was very inspiring! A special message that I took home, and that I hope everybody else also took note of, is to be more active in sharing information about our research, study programs and activities! And to use the opportunity when we are invited to give presentations about artificial intelligence (and other topics) to also inform about the department and our important role in educating future leaders in ICT and in AI! These days AI is on the agenda across the society and it’s a golden opportunity for us to come into closer dialogue with companies, government, and researchers in other disciplines. We can also tell them about our great study programs(!) and the important role that these play in building the solid informatics expertise needed to provide more robust and secure IT systems – underpinning the whole society. Just yesterday, air traffic in all of southern Norway was affected by a computer problem in the air control system, just another example of the importance of upgrading national informatics expertise and digital infrastructure.

Today the data on number of applications for all higher education study programs in Norway are released. Even though our study programs are still popular, there is a marked decrease in the number of applicants for several of our study programs including Computer technology (“datateknologi”) and the Data science siving program. Numbers from other study places (including NTNU and UiO) indicate that this may be a national trend. We will still fill our study slots, but with lower application numbers there will be less competition affecting how motivated and hard-working students we get. This again underlines the importance of increasing our visibility, especially towards potential students, but also their parents and the society in general. And I hope everybody will engage and contribute!

On a positive note, the number of students applying to our other bachelor program is quite stable and the number of applications to our master program is increasing quite a lot. With a continued good collaboration with our fantastic student organization echo, I am confident that we collectively will succeed in maintaining an excellent student environment and education at a high level of quality, and in this way contributing to a better future both at the department and for the society.

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:

- Nytt forskningscenter i realfagslæring på MatNat
- Strammere økonomiske tider

Solstrand 2024

Thank you for your contributions and good company at the annual department gathering.

We look forward to doing it again next year!
Department council election

It’s nearly time for the department council election!

The voting doesn’t start until the 22nd of May at 09:00, but you can see who the candidates are on [the election page].

These are the groups who will vote for new representatives this year:
- Group B - Temporary staff in teaching and research positions
- Group D - Students

Note about purchases

If you need to purchase something for work, you **have to** talk to Kine-Marie Møll and let her make the order. Do not put in an order yourself. This includes everything from restaurant visits, services, hotels, food, equipment and other items.

If you are planning any purchase and are uncertain of what you need to do, contact Kine-Marie as soon as possible, no later than two working days before the order must be completed.

**For procurements over 100 000 NOK**, you have to contact Kine-Marie far further in advance, as a procurement process must be followed.

Exception: If you need to order IT equipment, Randi H Eilertsen is the person who can take your order.

UiB AI #10: Theory, humans and natural sciences

Welcome to our next AI seminar! Topics cover theoretical research in the core of AI, studies interplaying between human learning and machine learning and application of AI methods.

Program:
- Fabio Massimo Zennaro (Department of Informatics): Causal reasoning in practice
- Asieh Abolpour Mofrad (Department of Informatics): Interfacing Psychology and AI: A Journey from Human Learning to Machine Adaptation
- Asgeir Sorteberg (Geophysical Institute): AI in weather and climate research – The clash of two cultures
- Iain Johnston (Department of Mathematics): In-ferring accumulation pathways from pathogen evolution to disease progression
- Jarl Giske (Department of Biological Sciences): A salmon makes up its mind

Read more: [UiB AI #10](#)
Praktisk Informatikk: Trenger vi fortsatt å studere informatikk og algoritmer når alle kan KI og KI kan alt?

02.05.2024 - 16.15–17.30, Stort auditorium
Påmeldingsfrist: 30.04.2024 - 12.00

Et foredrag for studenter og ansatte på Institutt for informatikk.
This talk will be held in Norwegian.

Institutt for Informatikk inviterer til andre foredrag i møteserien "Praktisk Informatikk", der vi belyser informatikkens møte med industri og praksis - den virkelige verden! Pizza blir servert. Denne gangen møter vi vår tidligere student og algoritmiker Frederic Dorn, som nå jobber i Frende med forsikring og data science.

Arrangement og påmelding på UiB.no: Trenger vi fortsatt å studere informatikk?

NIKT2024
25 - 27 November 2024, Bergen, Norway

We have the pleasure of welcoming you to the 36th Norwegian ICT Conference for Research and Education, NIKT 2024. The conference is hosted by Department of Information Science and Media Studies at Faculty of Social Science, University of Bergen.

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.

Proceedings for all tracks are available at this link: https://www.ntnu.no/ojs/

Important deadlines:
- 1 September: Abstract submission
- 8 September: Full paper submission
- 11 October: Notification of acceptance
- 25 October: Camera ready paper
- 1 November: Registration

More info on NIKT2024.no

Career Management Skills
07.05.2024 - 09.00–12.00
Registration deadline: 03.05.2024 - 23.55

How can reflecting on your future career be beneficial to you as an early stage researcher? How to invest in career thinking and not be overwhelmed? Join this course for enhanced knowledge about career planning.

See the UiB.no event here: Career Management Skills

Read more about the 2024 CATER School

2024 CATER School
This summer school is aimed at PhD students, postdoctoral researchers, early-career researchers, practitioners (e.g., employees at relevant government or non-governmental agencies and private sector employees) who are engaged with, working in a sector threatened by, or generally interested in learning about, climate risk, resilience and action.

Read more about the 2024 CATER School
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:

03.05.24: Open access - step by step (Course)
Registration deadline: 02.05.2024 at 12:00

06.05.24: The how and why of UiB - and why it matters to you (Course)
Registration deadline: 30.04.2024 at 23:00

07.05.24: Career Management Skills (Course)
Registration deadline: 03.05.2024 at 23:55

07.05.24: Introductory course to LaTeX (Course)
Registration deadline: 03.05.2024 at 12:00

30.05.24: Project Management for Academics (Course)
Registration deadline: 29.05.2024 at 15:00

07.06.24: Live Mock Job Interview (Event)
Registration deadline: 05.06.2024 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.

Save the date: CEDAS Data Science in Practice event
June 10th 2024

CEDAS is organising a “Data Science in Practice” event that aims to bring together data science “theorists” and “practitioners” both from industry and from academia. The program includes interesting talks and case studies.

More information about program and registration will follow.

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

Vacant positions

- PhD Research Fellow in generative machine learning with geoscience applications [Distinguish]
- Researcher 1108 in Informatics – Computational Biology
- Lead AI postdoctoral research fellow position in Algorithms and AI
- Lead AI postdoctoral research fellow position within Reeb graph learning
- Lead AI postdoctoral research fellow position within Cryptography and Security of 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.

**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)](https://www.ssb.no/en/research/special-schemes/fripro)
- [Researcher Project for Early Career Scientists (FRIPRO)](https://www.ssb.no/en/research/special-schemes/fripro)
- [Three-year Researcher Project with International Mobility (FRIPRO)](https://www.ssb.no/en/research/special-schemes/fripro)

Application deadline: open-ended

**Industrial PhD Scheme:** “The Research Council has established the [Industrial PhD Scheme](https://www.ssb.no/en/research/special-schemes/industrial-phd-scheme) to boost research efforts and long-term competence-building for Norwegian trade and industry through the recruitment of doctoral candidates. [...] Under this call, funding will be provided for at least 49 Industrial PhD projects. Of these, funding will preferably be awarded to: 2 projects of relevance to Maritime, 2 projects of relevance to ICT security and cryptology, 10 projects within the field of Artificial Intelligence, 35 Industrial PhD projects open to all themes and industries.”

*New* Application deadline: postponed from April to 5 June 2024

**Young CAS Grant:** The [Young CAS Grant](https://www.youngcasgrant.com) “is the funding opportunity offered to early career scholars below the age of 40. Recipients of a Young CAS Grant receive funding and support for their research project and gain valuable experience in organising multiple workshops and a two-month research stay at the Centre.”

Application deadline: 10 June 2024

**NordForsk:** “The Nordic countries have teamed up with Canada and the USA to launch a [NordForsk call](https://www.nordforsk.no/en) on the sustainable development of the Arctic. [...] three keywords can inspire applicants when developing their research ideas into proposals: Security, Natural Resources, and/or Societal Changes.”

Application deadline: 4 June 2024

**Support for events:** In 2024, there are also [funds](https://www.ssb.no/en/research/special-schemes/support-for-events) available within the portfolio of Enabling technologies!

Application deadline: open-ended
**New SPIRE:** SPIRE funds are strategic funds used to facilitate international research collaboration. You can apply in two different categories: 1) international research collaboration to promote external funding applications, 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 register your guest(s) prior to submitting your SPIRE proposal. When submitting your SPIRE proposal, please indicate if you have obtained 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.

Application deadline: 9 May 2024

**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

**New Abel Prize:** The Abel Prize recognizes “pioneering scientific achievements in mathematics”.

Nomination deadline: 1 September 2024

**New AIM SQuaREs:** AIM’s SQuaREs program allows a dedicated group of four to six mathematicians to pursue an ambitious research program. [...] AIM provides the research facilities and the financial support for each member of the group, and the group may return in future years to continue their collaboration. Each group will be supported for up to three meetings over three consecutive years.

Application deadline: 1 November 2024

**New NORPART:** NORPART supports “project partnerships between higher education institutions in Norway and partner institutions in selected partner countries in the Global South. [...] The overall aim of NORPART is to contribute to enhanced quality of higher education in Norway and selected partner countries, through academic cooperation and mutual student mobility.” UiB also offers special support for applicants.

Application deadline: 3 June 2024
NORBIS activities

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Workshop: Genealogies and Ancestral Recombination Graph
Time: 17-19th August, 2024
Location: Drøbak Research Station (Tollboden)
Workshop responsible: José Cerca (UiO) and Ole Kristian Tørresen (UiO)
Registration: https://github.com/ebp-nor/GARG

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.

PLEASE NOTE: NORBIS WILL NOT COVER TRAVEL AND STAY FOR ITS MEMBERS FOR THIS WORKSHOP.

SAVE THE DATE!

Research Data Management course – September 2-4 at University of Bergen, by Korbinian Bösl

MORE ACTIVITIES WILL BE ONLINE SOON!
UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

Course: SMED8020 – Genetic epidemiology

Date: 27-31 May
Location: NTNU
Number of places: 18
Course responsible: Ben Brumpton

External students (non-NTNU) will need to register to study at NTNU as an external student here: https://www.ntnu.edu/studies/researchcourses
Registration deadline: May 1st, 2024.

REMEMBER TO APPLY FOR TRAVEL FUNDING FOR THE COURSE. See regulations here.

Oral exam one week after the course. For participants who are traveling to Trondheim, the oral exam can be arranged online.

Course content

The course focuses on the understanding of genetic epidemiology concepts and understanding of genetic variation in the population. Topics to be taught are study design, analysis methods (whole genome, mendelian randomization and functional follow-up), bias and confounding in analyses, implication of functional findings, the use of registry data and ethical considerations.

Link to the website: https://norbis.w.uib.no/genealogies-and-ancestral-recombination-graph/

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MORE ACTIVITIES WILL BE ONLINE SOON!

Transferable skills courses arranged by Digital Life Norway:

- **Writing for popular audience workshop** – May 3, 2024 10:00 – 12:30, Digital course arranged by Digital Life Norway. Please remember to decline your spot if you can’t join!
- **AI for scientific writing** – May 23, 2024 10:00 – 12:30, Digital course arranged by Digital Life Norway. Please remember to decline your spot if you can’t join!