

Newsletter

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATICS, UIB
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SUMMER
FEATURE!



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,

These days we are blessed with wonderful weather in Bergen – and this week we have celebrated the FPT Fest (also known as Mike Fest) with a week-long scientific program gathering the world's best experts in the field of parameterized complexity – a field that was founded by our professor emeritus Michael Fellows (who turned 71 yesterday!) Hooray for Mike and Fran – and for the Algorithms group putting together a great program and running a successful conference with more than 120 participants!

We are also nearing the end of the semester. For me, quite a lot of this semester has gone into strategy work and into recruitment. These are important tasks for a head of department, and I am happy to say that both (all) processes seem to be going well.

Recruitment is one of the most important things we do at the department. We recruit students into our study programs, and it is crucial that we attract enough students and the right students, who are motivated for our study programs. We recruit PhD fellows and post-docs who spend a few years with us, contributing significantly to our research and educational activities while also strengthening the foundation for their further careers, whether in academia or elsewhere. We recruit technical and administrative staff who perform important roles supporting or running our main activities within education and research. And we recruit associate and full professors who will be the scientific leaders at our department potentially for the next decades. In all cases it is important that

we attract the best applicants and that our assessment procedures help us select the right person for the job (while also keeping in mind the agenda of gender balance and diversity).

And of course, once recruited, it's important that the new colleague or student gets a good start with us (through a process known as “onboarding”) so that they will be happy, thrive and develop in the new position and contribute to the overall success of our department. These aspects are also important in our ongoing strategy work, both on a group-level and for the department. The process of developing the strategies enable important discussions about priorities within the groups and at the department, and the strategy documents will make it easier for new colleagues to navigate the department and contribute in the best possible way.

This will be the last newsletter before the summer holidays, and I hope you will all take a break and re-charge your batteries before next semester. I wish you all a fantastic summer and look forwards to seeing you again in August!

Enjoy the weekend!

Inge





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

Her latest posts:

- [Travle uker før sommerferien](#)
- [Viktig steg fremover for Nygårdshøyden sør](#)
- [Hva har vi lært av Havuken og hvordan bruker vi det videre?](#)

Poster workshop

On the 6th of June, there was a poster workshop for the department, where the participants got to learn about graphic design, get feed back on their posters, and perhaps most importantly; play with plasticine.

If were unable to attend this workshop, stay tuned: The workshop will return!



MikeFest

As mentioned above by Inge, over 130 participants have been celebrating FPT Fest in honour of Mike Fellows.

Thank you to all who have contributing in organising this event!

[Here is a OneDrive folder containing some photos from the past week \(feel free to add some of your own\)](#)



PhD updates



There's a new PhD in town...

Congratulations, Roberto Parisella!

Roberto Parisella successfully defended his thesis "On a New, Efficient Framework for Falsifiable Non-interactive Zero-Knowledge Arguments" on the 9th of June.

Congratulations, Roberto!

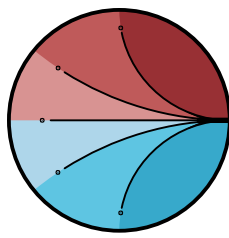
Current issues

All-hands meeting

June 22nd at 13:00-14:00, Large auditorium 2nd floor

The university is bolstering its IT security through a project named SikkerIT, and moving towards centralizing systems and staff. We are one of three pilot departments at the UiB. Informatics has also signed a collaboration agreement with the IT division where we aim to work closely together towards secure usable IT support.

Inge will lead this all-hands meeting, and representatives from the IT division will also be present for the Q&A session.



CEDAS
Center for Data Science



NORBIS

Joint CEDAS-NORBIS Summer School

7-11 August 2023, sign up before the 21st of June.

We are pleased to announce that the Joint CEDAS-NORBIS Summer School 2023 on data science and its biomedical applications is now **open for registration**: [Summer school registration](#)

Check the program information on this web page for an overview of the exciting summer school program, including invited talks as well as a Keynote Address and a Capstone Address.

The deadline for registering is June 21, 2023.

We can only offer a limited number of places. Shortly after the registration deadline, you will receive a message regarding the status of your registration (either confirmation of participation or waiting list). Confirmed participation is free of charge (including the dinner on Thursday), but the participation is binding (in case of a “no show” we may have to bill you the costs that incur on our side). Traveling and accommodation is to be accounted for separately, if needed.

This summer school assumes that all participants take part throughout the entire duration of the summer school, i.e., from Monday to Friday. If you cannot make it, due to medical reasons or other emergencies, you need to notify the organizing committee as soon as possible. This may give the organizers the chance to offer your place to someone on the waiting list.

Erasmus+ staff mobility for training

All employees at the University of Bergen can receive a grant for a mobility to an institution, organization or university in Europe through Erasmus+.

[Read more about Erasmus+](#). Application deadline 15th of September.



Erasmus+

JavaScript events

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 for the public:

- [Scientific workshop](#) with [Bergen Language Design Laboratory](#), 11.7.2023
- [Community meetup](#), 13.7.2023

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

Studying Semantics in the Era of Pre-trained Language Models

WHEN: 21 June, 12:00 – 13:00

WHO: Meriem Beloucif, assistant professor, from the Uppsala University in Sweden will give a seminar on June 21st.

WHERE: MediaFutures

Media Futures ●

BIO: Meriem is an assistant professor at Uppsala University working on semantics and NLP for low-resource languages. Currently, her research focuses on neural machine translation and lexical semantics in large models, with a particular focus on low-resource languages.

Before joining Uppsala University, Meriem worked on comparative question answering at the Language Technology Group at Hamburg University. She also spent a year at Copenhagen University working on semantic parsing and machine translation for low-resource languages. She obtained a Doctor of Philosophy degree at the Department of Computer Science and Engineering in Hong Kong University of Science and Technology on improving machine translation for low-resource languages.



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](#)

Vacant positions

- [Researcher in Informatics – \(SAT-Solving\)](#)
- [PhD Research Fellow in Informatics: Visual Data Science to Master Complex Simulation Ensembles](#)
- [PhD Research Fellow in Informatics – Cryptology \(up to 3 positions\)](#)

[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](#).



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 NORPART: “[NORPART](#) shall enhance the quality of higher education in Norway and selected partner countries in the Global South through academic cooperation and mutual student mobility. The programme is funded by the Ministry of Education and Research and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.”

Application deadline: 20 September 2023

“The application support team at the Division of Student and Academic Affairs invites potential applicants and administrative support staff to participate in a seminar [22 June] with a focus on the programme and how to write successful applications.”

Register [here](#) by 19 June.



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



New Abel Prize: The Abel Prize is given to individuals that have contributed pioneering scientific achievements in mathematics. [Nomination](#) by 1 September 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 several applicants, the department may need to prioritize. We therefore ask everyone who wants to apply, to let us know latest by 1 September 2023!

Research Council News

New New portfolio boards

The new portfolio boards will start their work on 1 January 2024, after the members have been selected through an open nomination process this fall.

There will be [boards](#) for: Research system, Groundbreaking research, Health, Innovation, Enabling technologies, Food and bioresources, Democracy and global development, Welfare and education, Climate and environment, Sámi research, Energy and transport.



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 \(AI Data and Robotics Partnership\)](#)

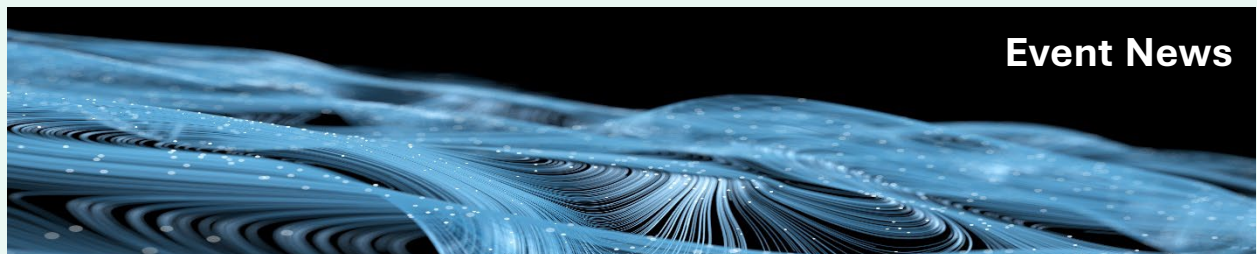
20.11.2024

[Post-quantum cryptography transition](#)

21.01.2025

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

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



Event News

New Proposal writing course for PhD candidates and Postdocs

Save the date!

If you would like to learn more about writing a competitive research grant application and gain insight into clear and concise writing, then join us for this introductory course on **16-17 October** here at the Department of Informatics! We are aiming for a two-day event composed of lectures and some exercises. The course is open to PhD candidates enrolled in the ICT Research School and Postdocs at the Department of Informatics.

New UiB's Best Ideas

The event will showcase past, present and planned UiB idé projects. We will hear about rescue devices for extreme climate conditions, educational gaming, cancer research, a new approach to disease diagnostics, social networks, biomaterials and bioreactors, marine habitats, AI-supported linguistic training, alternative food production, and more. **Event:** 19 June 2023, Eitri. [Register](#) by 19 June, 10 am.

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 but you can still register if you're quick!
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. The conference follows the same format as the NORBIS conference with focus on PhD students, lectures, workshops, poster sessions, networking. 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/>



CEDAS-NORBIS summer school: August 7-11th

CEDAS and NORBIS are joining forces and will co-arrange this year's summer school! See more information further up, under "Current issues".

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>