



Biannual Report Spring 2022

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What is TODOS?

Doctoral Students and Postdocs at UiT The Arctic University of Norway (TODOS) is an interest organization for PhD candidates & postdocs at UiT. We focus on three important aspects of being a successful PhD candidate & postdoc: good academic work environment, healthy social life, and representation of our interests in various university boards and committees. Every semester we organise multiple academic events and social gatherings, spanning the Narvik, Harstad, Tromsø and Alta campuses. Through this, we hope to contribute to improving your PhD & postdoc experience.

The Spring 2022 TODOS board & elections

<i>Board Chair</i>	Koen van Greevenbroek
<i>Vice Chair*</i>	Barbara Sophia Stein
<i>Treasurer</i>	Lennart Maximilian van Ligtenberg
<i>Chair of Academic Affairs</i>	Miriam Kristine Nilsen
<i>Chair of Social Affairs*</i>	Nadine Jacques
<i>Chair of Communications*</i>	Seshathiri Dhanasekaran

*Starred positions are up for election at the summer general meeting



Left to right: Lennart, Nadine, Miriam, Koen, Barbara, Seshathiri.

Note from the Board Chair

Dear PhD candidates and postdocs at UiT,

Now that the spring semester of 2022 is coming to a close, I'm happy to present to you our biannual report. It's a good time to look back and reflect on how TODOS has been doing, and there is plenty of activity to report on.

Below, we give an overview over the events we have organised this semester. As always, our focus is to include all our members and provide the opportunity for PhDs and postdocs from across different faculties to meet. In this sense even academic events such as our writing retreats play an important social role, and are often some of the only ways for participants to easily meet other young academics outside of their own field.

Last year's board did a great job increasing our budget and revising our constitution, with better inclusion of other campuses apart from Tromsø as a specific goal. This spring we took the first steps in realising this vision, organising mini-writing retreats at the Narvik, Harstad and Alta campuses. In so doing we have also created good contacts at these campuses, and from next semester we will have official campus representatives on the TODOS board. This way we can better support activities and events at the smaller campuses, as well as conducting some cross-campus events.

I would like to thank in particular Barbara, Nadine and Seshathiri, who are at the end of their board term, for their valuable work over the past year. The board has formed an amazing team thanks to you, and it's amazing to see how much we can get done together even if we are just a bunch of full-time PhD candidates.

To everyone, I would like to already wish you a great summer, and I'm looking forward to seeing you at our summer BBQ party / general assembly. The elections will be exciting, and I'm sure a great board will come out of it for the autumn semester.

Regards,

Koen

Events

TODOS organised a number of academic and social events in the spring of 2022, here ordered chronologically.

Akekveld



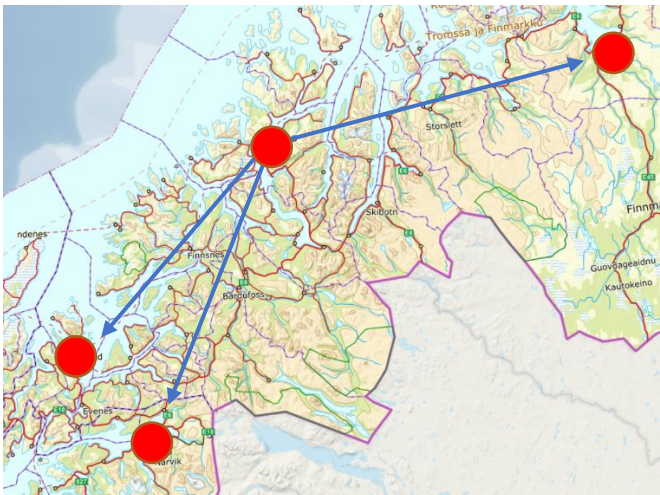
In February we organised a social gathering at Charlottenlund with grilling and sledging. After many sausages and marshmallows, there was fierce competition on the slopes about who could race down the fastest.

Union Fair

In April, we organised a Union Fair for a few hours around lunch time in Lyshallen (Tromsø), where many active unions at UiT put up stands to introduce themselves to passer-byes. While unionising is always a good idea (as a PhD, postdoc or generally), the number of organisations to choose from can be intimidating. With the fair, we tried to help our members make an informed choice. A list of unions at UiT can be found [here](#), and some of the largest ones have offices in Øvre Lyshuset.



Mini-writing retreats at Narvik, Harstad Tromsø and Alta



During the first half of May we organised single-day local writing retreats at the Narvik, Harstad, Tromsø and Alta campuses. TODOS board members travelled from Tromsø to the other campuses, and there we booked conference venues and lunch at local hotels. In Tromsø we stayed on campus but still ordered lunch. The mini-retreats were a success with good attendance, productive work and of course socialising.

Writing retreat to Malangen

Keeping up the tradition from last semester, we again organised a weekend writing retreat to Malangen resort 20-22 May. These retreats provide a great opportunity to get writing and other work done in a calm and focussed environment. At the same time, it's a unique opportunity to get to know fellow PhD candidates and postdocs from all disciplines. This time we had 24 participants.



Cabin Trip (upcoming)

In June we are organising a social weekend cabin trip to Straumshytta (Kvaløya). It will be an accessible way of spending a weekend in nature and kicking off the summer in great fashion, all while getting to know fellow PhDs and postdocs.



Advocacy and outreach

As always, apart from organising events we also keep busy with more “invisible” work. What follows is a summary of our advocacy and outreach work over the past semester:

- We have continued working with the representative for temporary staff on the University Board (Anders T. Hjertø Lind), discussing relevant topics before every University Board meeting.
- We are sending an official comment (innspill) on a set of proposed changes to the PhD regulations at UiT. Most of our comment revolves around clarifying funding and use of the “annum” in the PhD agreement.
- We have actively represented the interest of our member base in the university committee on research strategy (forskningsstrategisk utvalg). One of the highlights this semester has been discussions on the format of PhD defences.
- We have sent a representative to the university price committee.
- We have presented TODOS at the bi-annual welcoming meeting for newly employed foreigners.
- We are representing PhD candidates from UiT within EUGLOH, a European university collaboration in the start-up phase, and one of the board members is going to the EUGLOH summit in Paris in June in this capacity.
- We are continuing to work with SiN, our Norway-wide umbrella organisation, through their quarterly member organisation meetings.

Budget update

For 2022 we have a total budget of NOK 450 000, which is split as follows:

Operating costs (incl. board compensation)	162 000
Bi-annual meetings	30 000
Academic events	105 000
Social events	63 000
Inclusion of other campuses	90 000

Halfway through 2022, we are well on track budget-wise. We have used about half of the budget on all of the individual posts and on social event a bit less than half. We have also transferred the remainder of the budget from last year since not everything was used due to the pandemic. The transferred amount from last year's budget was ~132 000 kr which we can use where we are spending more than expected this year.

The only deviation is that we are spending more on writing retreats (under academic events) than planned. On the other hand, we are spending less on cabin trips (under social events) than planned; all in all this keeps the expenses balanced.

Looking forward to the autumn semester, we are seeing more activity at the campuses other than Tromsø. As we are establishing campus representatives, there are also some existing initiatives (such as forskerklubben at Narvik) which we may be able to support. In this case TODOS will likely use more than the budgeted amount. To cover shortages in the "inclusion of other campuses" post we can use the money transferred from last year's budget. If working more with all the campuses could lead to a sustained budget deficit, we will consider applying for more funds from the university for these purposes.

All in all, we both have a bigger budget than last year, and greater expenses stemming from other campus. Finding the right balance may take some time, but with transferred money from last year we are in good shape.

The Way Forward

We hope that everyone gets some well-deserved time off over the summer. After the summer BBQ and cabin trip, we will be back at it in the autumn semester! All the classics which you know and love will be back: regular social events, a cabin trip and the writing retreats. And we will always be trying out new events. The end of 2022 also brings the annual general meeting of SiN, our Norway-wide umbrella organisation – a highlight for national exchange between PhD candidates.

All in all, we are excited to support and champion the case of PhDs and postdocs at UiT as always.