

Tromsø Doctoral Students (TODOS) Activity Report 2017

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1. About TODOS

Tromsø Doctoral Students (TODOS) is an interest organization for PhD Candidates at the University of Tromsø – the Arctic University of Norway. We focus on two important aspects of being a successful PhD candidate: a good academic working environment and a thriving social life. We accomplish this by organizing academic seminars and social gatherings throughout the year.

2. Note from the Board Chair

Dear fellow PhD candidates and Postdocs

It was a pleasure to be part of this year's TODOS board. We had a great year organizing many social as well as academic events. We tried some new things like our cabin trip in April which gave the participants the nice chance to get to know each other closer while we were in the snowy mountains of Skibotn enjoying hiking, chatting and cooking together. On the academic side we tried to inform you about possibilities after your PhD is over and about services helping you achieving this goal.

One of our main goals this year was to include the campuses outside of Tromsø more closely as the PhDs there feel sometimes not noticed from Tromsø. This proved to be quite hard and some of our ideas have to be achieved next year like special PhD seminars at Alta, Harstad and Narvik. But we could improve the situation with the help of Renathe, our board member in Harstad by streaming some of our academic events and by organizing special ones there.

Another focus this year was to ensure more continuity in the work of TODOS. By proposing a biannual general assembly, each electing half the board, we hope to establish a more continuous experience transfer between older and fresh TODOS members so that knowledge isn't lost between board generations.

Leading and organizing a great team of people for a longer time was interesting and often demanding and it let me experience new aspects of myself. I am certain that these will help in the rest of my PhD and my future life and I am grateful for getting the chance to do so.

Last but not least I want to thank my board for the great work and the fun we had together; without you none of that would have been possible.

Best regards

Jørn Dietze

TODOS Board Chair 2017

3. The TODOS Board

Jørn Dietze, Department of Arctic and Marine Biology, BFE-fak

Eirik Myrvoll-Nilsen, Department of Mathematics and Statistics, NT-fak

Lorenzo Ragazzi, Department of Clinical Medicine, Helsefak

Babak Ghassim, The School of Business and Economics, BFE-fak

Priyanka Michael, The Norwegian College of Fishery Science, BFE-fak

Renathe Jakobsen, The School of Business and Economics (campus Harstad), BFE-fak

4. The Activities 2017

February:

Bowling Night - This social event was the first social event organized by the 2017 Board. The event had the purpose to get many PhD candidates together and give them the opportunity to mix and mingle and to get to know each other in a relaxed environment. The event was a great success and around 40 people attended.

April:

Cabin Trip to Skibotn field station - This one weekend social event was planned so that PhD students could meet and take a short trip together.

It has been a great opportunity to play games, hike, skiing, and cook together, have interesting conversations and of course get in touch with new people. All surrounded by Norwegian nature!

June:

Breakfast seminar - How can the library help you with your PhD?

The university library offers many services specifically aimed at helping researchers and PhD candidates with their work. They for example, shared their tricks for finding relevant literature which can be very useful to learn early in the PhD. They also offered assistance with choosing the right journal for your manuscript, writing grant applications or preparing trial lecture (prøveforelesning) for our future PhD defence.

September:

TODOS barbecue - To meet up after the summer holiday, and start the tough working season with an afternoon of fun, behind the BFE faculty.

November:

After lunch seminar on building research career. If you were starting your PhD today, how would you plan your career?

Advice on how to build a research career in today's communication and publishing landscape. Sarah de Rijcke spoke about our options as an academic researcher and our means to reach that goal. Sarah is associate professor and deputy director at the Centre for Science and Technology Studies, Leiden University.

This event including the Q&A session was streamed live in order to enable every PhD candidate to participate and ask questions via email.

December:

Julebord Tromsø (planned) - TODOS will organize and invite all PhDs to the annual Christmas Party (julebord). The party will be limited to 105 attendees.

Julebord Alta, Harstad and Narvik (planned) - TODOS will help organize and invite all PhDs at the campuses Alta, Harstad and Narvik to a Christmas party at each of these campuses.

Annual General Meeting (AGM) (planned) - The TODOS 2017 board invites all PhDs to our general meeting where we present our annual report and elect the next year's board. This is an opportunity to become part of the TODOS board, vote for the board, and discuss about topics and ideas to be addressed by TODOS.

Seminar in Research data management for PhD (planned)s: policies, responsibilities and possibilities

In addition, this year's AGM will be combined with an interesting and relevant seminar about the new rules regarding data management plans. Starting last September, all new projects are now required to have such a plan, so our great library professionals will join and give us a brief introduction to these rules.

Other activities:

- One member of the Board 2017, Eirik Myrvoll-Nilsen, was elected into the Board of the National Organization for PhD Students in Norway (SiN).
- TODOS presented itself as a welfare organization to the new PhD students at the two introductory meetings, to promote TODOS and get people engaged in TODOS activities. The meetings were held in May and October 2017.
- TODOS contacted the Career Center at UiT (Senter for karriere og arbeidsliv) regarding the Career Day 2017 (Arbeidslivsdagen 2017). We met them before the arrangement in order to discuss how we can make this event more attractive and relevant for PhDs.
- TODOS participated in the Eurodoc Conference held from 26th-27th April 2017 in Oslo. Eurodoc is the European Council of Doctoral Candidates, and we met several representatives from local and national PhD organizations from other European countries.

- Since career development was one of the main focus areas for TODOS 2017, we encouraged the Norwegian Association of Researchers (Forskerforbundet) to organize a workshop on this topic. The workshop, “Life after a PhD”, has been arranged by this association in collaboration with Vitae (global leader in supporting the professional development of researchers) in November 2017.
- Booklet distribution: TODOS tried to promote the distribution of the TODOS information booklets for new PhDs.
- TODOS has been actively using social media and email, as well as the info screens at UiT to promote all TODOS events and seminars.

5. The budget

Budget as it is in November 2017:

Budget 2017 – NOK 250,000.00
Transferred from 2016 – NOK 50,198.20
Total income – NOK 300,198.20
Pending bills from 2016 – NOK 3,663.38
Total Budget – NOK 296,534.82

Compensation for Board members – NOK 150,000.00
SiN membership and conference cost – NOK 2,000.00
Activities (social and academic events) – NOK 65,746.77
Total cost – NOK 217,746.77

Balance – NOK 78,788.05

TODOS receives 250,000.00 Kroner from UiT to host activities for PhD candidates at the University and the fund from the previous board is NOK 50,198.20. The Board compensation is set to NOK 150,000.00, which is lesser than previous year since the number of board member is six. The compensation goes toward work contract extension to compensate for time spent on TODOS activities. Each of the six board member gets NOK 25,000.00. Activity costs are money spent on academic events and social activities, meeting costs and representation at relevant conferences. This year, TODOS decided to integrate all PhD candidates including the people from the other three different campuses (Alta, Hasted and Narvik) at UiT. In order to fulfill this task, TODOS organized social event, Christmas party in the different campuses. In addition, we left NOK 78,788.05 from this year to the next board that they would continue the TODOS activities in the other campuses at UiT.