

Doctoral Students at UiT – The Arctic University of Norway (TODOS)

Activity Report 2018

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1. About TODOS

Doctoral Students at UiT – The Arctic University of Norway (TODOS) is an interest organization for PhD Candidates at the UiT. 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 seems time has passed too fast to already write down what we have been doing during the last 6 months. This time has basically just been a learning time for us newbies in the board and thus we have not been able to realize even close to half of our plans. However, luckily the year is not over yet so there is more to come!

During the last months, we tried to learn more about your views, needs and perceptions of important topics as a PhD. We tried to get you together during our informal gathering to chat with you and gather information on what is important for you. Difficulties and problems do not disappear from one day to the other and things might take some time; especially with all of us still working on our own PhD and cutting off some time on the edges to keep TODOS running; but if they are not addressed, they will never change. So take the chance and give us a hint what we could improve for YOU.

There is still a lot of open projects on our list, like including not only campus Tromsø but also the other campuses in our events – not an easy task but I hope we will be able to manage that better in the future. Additionally, finding the best balance between providing social events and fun for you as well as stretching the academic relevance of our events, so to say to please all the parties involved, can sometimes be a challenge. To be able to focus on what is important for you we are trying to get more of you involved with us, we would like to have contact with all the faculties and know more about your opinions to find relevant topics for all of you.

For me, the main driving force to join the TODOS board was to bring people together. For me it seems that many problems in life in general and in a PhD specifically can be solved that way. Together we are able to find solutions and support fellow PhDs, to learn from each other's experiences and thus know what to do ourselves to avoid critical situations. Someone else might already have the solution for a problem we have been carrying all along. Sometimes all it needs to solve it is to find and talk to that person.

Overall, I have enjoyed it very much to be part of the TODOS board and I am looking forward to the second half of our term. Sadly, we will have to say goodbye to our board members Jørn and Eirik who were part of last year's board and guided us into our TODOS time. Thank you very much for all of your help! For the second half of the year however, I am looking forward to those of you who will fill their positions and give a few new faces and ideas to our board.

I hope we can contribute to your PhD time being a little bit better than it would have been without us. Moreover, I hope to meet as many as possible of you soon on one of our events and chat with you!

Lena Lachner

TODOS Board Chair 2018

3. The TODOS Board

Board-Chair – **Lena Lachner**, The Norwegian Arctic and marine biology (BFE)

Vice Board-Chair – **Eirik Myrvoll-Nilsen**, Department of Mathematics and Statistics (NT)

Chair of Social Affairs – **Jørn Dietze**, The Norwegian Arctic and marine biology (BFE)

Chair of Academic Affairs – **Mikkel Christensen**, NorStruct (NT)

Accountant – **Dipesh Sigdel**, HHT (BFE)

Board Member – **Yannik Schneider**, Marbio (BFE)

4. The Activities 2018

January

Presentation for Veiledningskurs – Thanks to your responses and contributions in our survey about your experience with your supervision, TODOS was able to give a presentation during a course for supervisors at UiT and present the PhD candidates' view on what makes a good supervisor. This presentation will also become part of an online course that is meant to be made obligatory for all staff in supervision positions.

March

PhD gathering – The PhD gatherings were launched in March 2018 as an informal opportunity to get together and socialize for PhD-candidates and postdocs at UiT. Since professional networks become ever more important, these meetings are an opportunity to enrich a PhD-candidate's life and hopefully help new PhD candidates and postdocs to establish new connections. The gatherings are supposed to be an occasion to get in touch with your colleagues and contribute to a thriving social and professional environment. A survey about the preferences of the PhD candidates revealed that a bi-monthly meeting on campus is the most popular option. TODOS is planning to host those PhD gatherings regularly.

May

Academic activities 2018 – TODOS held the first lunch seminar this year featuring talks by Annette Bayer and Kenneth Ruud and preparing for a life-long career. The topics of their lectures were "How to make a Career Development Plan" (Annette Bayer) and "A PhD is not enough" (Kenneth Ruud). After the speeches the audience got the possibility to discuss with the speakers and ask questions about the topic.

Presentation for the Welcome event for new PhDs – TODOS contributed to the welcome event for new PhDs, presenting itself as a welfare organisation and promoting TODOS.

June

General meeting (planned) – The TODOS board invites all PhDs and Postdocs to our general meeting where the report about the last 6 months will be presented and an election will be held for 3 vacant positions in the board. Additionally this is an opportunity to discuss ideas and topics with the TODOS board and free bowling for the participants is provided to socialize.

Other activities:

- One of the board 2017/2018, Eirik Myrvoll-Nilsen, was elected into the board *Stipendiatorganisasjonen i Norge* (SiN). This is the national organization for PhD candidates, postdoctoral fellows and early career researchers and aims to be a contact point both for each local interest organization in Norway as well as from the European level (Eurodoc). SiN represents early career researchers' interest on a national level

when it comes to policy making. TODOS also helped facilitate a board meeting for SiN in Tromsø on March 10th.

- Booklet distribution: TODOS updated the information booklet for new PhDs and will promote its distribution.
- TODOS participated in the AGM of the Board of the National Organization for PhD Students in Norway (SiN) held from 24th-25th May in Oslo.
- 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 of June 2018:

Assigned budget 2018 – NOK 250,000.00

Transferred from 2017 – NOK 81,592.56

Total income – NOK 331,592.56

Total Budget – NOK 331,592.56

TODOS Board and SiN

- Compensation for Board members (Half year) – NOK 75,000.00
- SiN membership and conference cost – NOK 2,500.00

Activities

- Social Events – NOK 3,833
- Academic Events – NOK 4,276.20
- General Meeting (coupled with social event) – NOK 6,000
- Board Meeting – NOK 257
- Promotional Articles (USB sticks) – NOK 9,973

Total cost – NOK 101,839.20

Balance – NOK 229,753.36

TODOS received 250,000.00 Kroner from UiT to host activities for the PhD candidates at the university in addition to the fund transferred from the previous board of NOK 81,592.56. The compensation for the board members is NOK 75,000 for half year (NOK 150,000.00 annual). The compensation goes to work contract extension to compensate for time spent on TODOS activities. Each of the six board members gets NOK 25,000.00 per year. Activity costs are money spent on academic events and social activities, membership fees (paid by TODOS), meeting costs and representation at relevant conferences.