

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

Activity Report 2019

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1. About TODOS

Doctoral Students at UiT – The Arctic University of Norway (TODOS) is an interest organization for PhD candidates & postdocs at UiT. We focus on two important aspects of being a successful PhD candidate & postdoc: a good academic working environment and a thriving social life. We accomplish this by organizing academic seminars and social gatherings throughout the year as well as joining committees and meetings with various contact persons in key positions around the whole university. Like this we hope to contribute to an improvement of your PhD & postdoc experience.

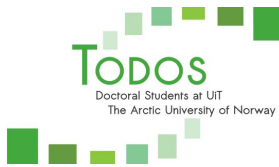
2. Letter from the Board Chair

Dear valued Ph.D. Candidates and Post-Doctoral Researchers, as well as Distinguished members of the UiT family from Tromsø, Narvik, Harstad, and Alta,

On behalf of the TODOS Board, it gives me great pleasure to present the Annual Report for the spring semester of 2019. It has been an honor to serve you and to represent your interests this past semester. We are proud of what TODOS has accomplished up to the present and are excited for the future as we move toward the autumn of 2019.

TODOS strives to be the eyes, ears, and voice of the scholars we represent. In every decision we make, we have committed ourselves to add greater value and satisfaction to the academic and social lives of our esteemed doctoral candidates and postdoctoral researchers. We thank you for your interest and participation in our academic and social events. The cooperation and support of our dear fellows on this journey are more important than anything else.

We need you to ensure our continued collective success and always welcome your valuable comments and ideas. Please feel free to share your feedback with us via email, Facebook, LinkedIn, and Twitter – or in person at one of our events! Feeling more proactive? Now is an excellent time to get involved!



Currently, we are seeking new members for the following positions on the TODOS board: Vice Board Chair, General Board Member, and Chair of Social Affairs. Create your legacy at UiT as a member of your TODOS board!

We would like to thank Aakash, Marte and Inger Therese, our TODOS Board fellows who will be stepping down at the end of the Spring 2019 semester. We greatly appreciate all of your hard work in 2018-2019. This is also an ideal opportunity to present our deepest gratitude to all UiT employees who have cooperated with us – thank you for your support and contributions.

We wish everyone a healthy, prosperous and happy research process!

Yours sincerely,

Emre Sari

TODOS Board Chair

3. The TODOS Board

Board-Chair – **Emre Sari**, School of Business and Economics (BFE)

Vice Board-Chair – **Aakash Sharma**, Department of Computer Science (NT)

Chair of Social Affairs – **Inger Therese Enoksen**, Department of Clinical Medicine (MH)

Chair of Academic Affairs – **Kara Kathleen Hodgson**, Centre for Peace Studies (HSL)

Accountant – **Ingvild Mageli**, School of Business and Economics (BFE)

Board Member – **Marte Jenssen**, The Norwegian College of Fishery Science (BFE)

4. The Activities of the TODOS Board 2019

Overview

TODOS board members are part of different councils and committees and participate in their meetings. The TODOS board also organizes their own board meetings to identify and represent the PhDs and postdocs' views and needs, in addition to meetings with various contacts throughout the university. TODOS is getting feedback from its members and can thus identify and work on several topics where we see room for improvement. Our network of contact persons throughout the university can be used to achieve the necessary changes. Additionally, TODOS is organizing events for PhD candidates at UiT of social and academic nature.

Meetings, committees and contacts throughout the university:

- TODOS is represented in ***Forskningsstrategisk utvalg*** (*Research strategic council*) which serve as a guiding meeting arena for UiT leadership, faculty leaders and employee groups. We participated in all 2019 meetings with 1 or 2 board members, representing the PhD candidates' perspective on issues relevant for us. All meetings and minutes are in Norwegian and is accessible [here](#).
- TODOS had a representative in the newly formed ***Polarkomitee*** (*the polar research committee*) from October 2018. This PhD candidate left the TODOS board at our last AGM, hence TODOS is no longer directly represented. The committee was established to improve the coordination and strategic development of the polar research environment at UiT. Their first meeting took place on the 30th of August 2018. The committee consists of 5-7 scientific associates or leaders of UiT and one PhD-candidate (former TODOS board member).
You can find more about the polar research committee [here](#).
- As the TODOS board is located at Tromsø campus, contact persons among the PhD candidates on the other campuses are needed to help include the TODOS members who are not located in Tromsø. The board has established contact with one representative from each campus (**Harstad, Narvik and Alta**). We are looking forward to a good cooperation.
- TODOS board members are in regular contact and organize meetings with representatives from the **library**, the **university administration**, **High North Academy** and the **representatives of temporary staff** at the university board. These meetings contribute a great deal in keeping each other updated and collaborate on topics concerning PhD candidates and Postdocs.
- TODOS has held regular board meetings throughout the year, 7 this semester to plan and coordinate activities, meetings and events.

4.2. Events organized for PhDs and postdocs at UiT.

January

TODOS Monthly Social Gatherings - In fall 2018, TODOS began organizing monthly social gatherings after feedback from our fellow PhDs that this was something they wanted. It is

now becoming a fixed predictable event that is happening every month. Both PhDs and Postdocs are invited. Every second month we meet up on a Friday after working hours at Bazinga on campus. The months in between we get together in the evening at Blårock downtown for their “blue Monday”. We eat, drink, chat and have a great time. The first gathering in 2019 took place in January on the University campus (Bazinga).

Academic event - “Seminar: Everything You Need to Know About Plan S, Elsevier, and the Transition Towards Open Science”

Summary: On the 9th of January, TODOS, together with the University Library arranged a seminar about Plan S, Elsevier, and the transition towards open science. The aim of the meeting was to discuss how to manoeuvre as a young researcher in a landscape that appears to be in a state of rapid transition towards open science. The seminar was fully booked, but could also be followed on our live stream. This can still be watched on our YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jLH6OqkGHbM>

February

TODOS Monthly Social Gathering - As anticipated our second gathering this year took place at Blårock on a Monday evening. There were also PhDs from UiT's other campuses joining in on the event.

March

Movie Evening - New this year, TODOS has started to organize movie evenings at the university cinema. Our first screening took place in March. The movie to be shown was kept a secret until it played. All seats were filled and since this was our “premiere” we also served popcorn, chips and sodas to all participants. The movie was: “Im Juli” (2000). It was a success!

TODOS Monthly Social Gathering - The third social gathering happened on a Friday at Bazinga after working hours.

Academic event - “No Deal with Publisher Elsevier – Q&A with the UiT Library”

Summary: On March 28, 14 people total gathered to ask the Library staff any and all questions they had regarding the ongoing negotiations with Elsevier, what potential consequences a lack of deal would have, and ways to navigate around any possible consequences to be able to get our work done.

April

TODOS Monthly Social Gathering - For our fourth social gathering we went downtown again to Blårock.

Academic events:

- On April 11, the TODOS Chair, Emre Sari, participated in a panel discussion about open access, hosted by the Library staff.
- There was a soft launch of “4 Questions,” a new web series which involves a short 4-question interview with a different PhD candidate and postdoctoral researcher each month. The Academic Affairs Chair felt there was a need for TODOS to foster

greater engagement with our fellow scholars and to highlight the valuable contributions that our high-quality PhDs and postdocs provide for UiT. April's highlighted PhD candidate was Guanqing Wang from the School of Business and Economics at the Alta campus: http://todos.uit.no/?page_id=1464

May

TODOS Monthly Social Gathering - Our fifth social gathering took place at Bazinga.

Movie Evening - A second screening found place in May. Due to feedback from our audience at the last movie evening, we decided to also keep the movie a secret. This time people brought their own snack and drink, in addition we had some leftovers from last screening. The movie was: "The Gods must be crazy". 12 people participated. A survey is sent out to decide how often the TODOS Movie evening will be organized in the future.

Academic event - the full launch of the "4 Questions" web series! May's PhD of the Month was Saliha Eren and Postdoc of the Month was Velina Ninkova:

http://todos.uit.no/?page_id=1509

June

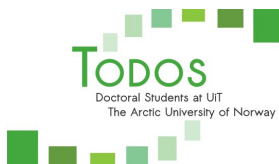
TODOS Monthly Social Gathering (planned) - The sixth and last social gathering this semester will take place at Blårock on a monday evening (as you probably knew by now).

Informal BBQ in Bukta (planned) - TODOS will also invite PhDs and postdocs to gather in Bukta for an informal family friendly gathering (if the weather allows it). Then you bring whatever you like (food, BBQ equipment, bathing suit, sunscreen, music, football, volleyball, your kids/family etc.).

General Board 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 and pool for the participants is provided to socialize.

Other activities:

- TODOS is a member of SiN (*Stipendiatororganisasjonen i Norge*), the national organization for PhD candidates, postdoctoral fellows and early career researchers, which 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. Former TODOS board members Eirik Myrvoll-Nilsen (TODOS board: 2017/2018) and Dipesh Sigdel (TODOS board: 2018), are holding the position of board chair and treasurer for SiN. TODOS board members will participate and stand for election at the SiN AGM in Stavanger 23-24th of May this year as well.
- Booklet distribution: TODOS have updated the information booklet for new PhDs and postdocs this winter and will promote its distribution at the different faculties, on the



web and in paper format.

- 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

Due to unforeseen challenges with access to account, in regards to adm2020, we have not been able to spend the allotted amount accordingly.

Budget as of June 2019:

Assigned budget 2019 – NOK 250,000.00

Transferred from 2018 – NOK 92,206.09

Total income – NOK 342,206.09

Total Budget – NOK 342,206.09

TODOS Board and SiN

- Compensation for Board members (Half year, spring) – NOK 37,500.00
- Compensation for Board members (Half year, fall) – NOK 37,500.00
- Compensation for Board members (Full year) – NOK 75,000.00
- SiN membership and conference cost – NOK 2,000.00

Expenses spring 2019

- Compensation for Board members (Half year, spring) – NOK 37,500.00
- Half compensation for Board members (Full year) – NOK 37,500.00
- SiN membership – 2000.00

Cost – 77,000.00

Activities

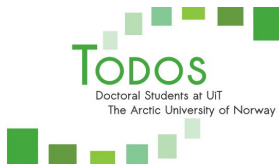
- Social Events – NOK 623,90
- Academic Events – NOK 0,00
- General Meeting (coupled with social event) – NOK 7,500
- Board Meeting – NOK 925
- Promotional Articles – NOK 0

Cost – NOK 9,048.90

Total cost – NOK 86,049.90

Balance – NOK 256,457.19

TODOS received 250,000.00 Kroner from UiT to host activities for PhD candidates & Postdocs at the university in addition to the funds transferred from the previous board of NOK 92,206.09. The compensation for the board members is NOK 75,000.00 for three members over two semesters, and 75,000 for three members one calendar year (NOK 150,000.00 annual). The compensation goes to work contract extension to compensate for time spent



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on TODOS activities. Each of the six board members gets NOK 12,500.00 per semester. Activity costs are money spent on academic events and social activities, membership fees (paid by TODOS), meeting costs and representation at relevant conferences.