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TODOS

Doctoral Students and Postdocs at
UiT The Arctic University of Norway

Report Spring 2021

Doctoral Students and Postdocs at UiT - The Arctic University of Norway (TODOS)

University of Tromsø, Administration Building, N-9037, Tromsø

Email: todos@uit.no

Web: todos.uit.no

Facebook: www.facebook.com/TodosUiT

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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 on university's boards, committees, and events. We accomplish this by organizing academic seminars and social gatherings throughout the year as well as joining committees, meetings, and events with various contact persons in key positions around the whole university. Through this, we hope to contribute to improving your PhD & postdoc experience.



Our TODOS board spring 2021

(from left to right)

Chair of academic affairs - Koen van Greevenbroek

Chair of social affairs - Miroslav Bobrik

Board chair - Steffi Schenzle

Chair of communications - Laura Schulte Werning

Accountant - Pietro Randine

Vice chair - Barbara Stein



Dear fellow PhD candidates and postdocs at UiT!

It has been another semester impacted by the Covid-19 pandemic. Another year of limited travels, limited social contacts and limited work options. Most of us have been affected by the pandemic - through lonely home offices, through worries about our families and friends, through delayed fieldworks and exchange stays abroad or simply through the increased stress levels most of us are experiencing. Our social lives were turned upside down to a digital world - also opening up more opportunities to connect with our international networks (privately and professionally) and to develop our digital capacities.

Also we in TODOS have been facing the consequences and limitations of the pandemic. Many meetings needed to be changed to be conducted digitally or needed to be cancelled/postponed. However, we have used the time of the pandemic to work in the background with internal work at UiT. I want to use this opportunity thank all of you, our members, who are trying their best to keep up with these constant changes of these times and are participating in our events.

I especially want to thank my TODOS board for their commitment during this stressful times, trying to make UiT a better place and provide solutions to the pandemic. I want to thank Laura and Miroslav who are stepping down this spring and Barbara who decided to run again for the elections - thank you for making sure we are seen and organising social events - especially in the light of the pandemic.

Norway is finally opening up more and more, the amount of vaccines is increasing and I can feel a lot of hope that we will soon be able to return to a "normal" life rather soon. Until then - please stay strong, stay safe and take care for yourselves and the people around you!

Steffi Schenzle
Board chair

Activities

Due to the pandemic, we were still rather limited in our possibilities for creating new events.

We were able to provide a few online events which will be presented here.

We decided to focus this time more on internal work and establishing a deeper cooperation with certain members of UiT.

Shut up and work!

This semester, we were able to continue our digital sessions of "Shut up and Work!". These sessions provide a platform for the participants to focus on their work and stay motivated.

In total, we were able to hold 20 sessions of Shut up and work! so far in 2021.

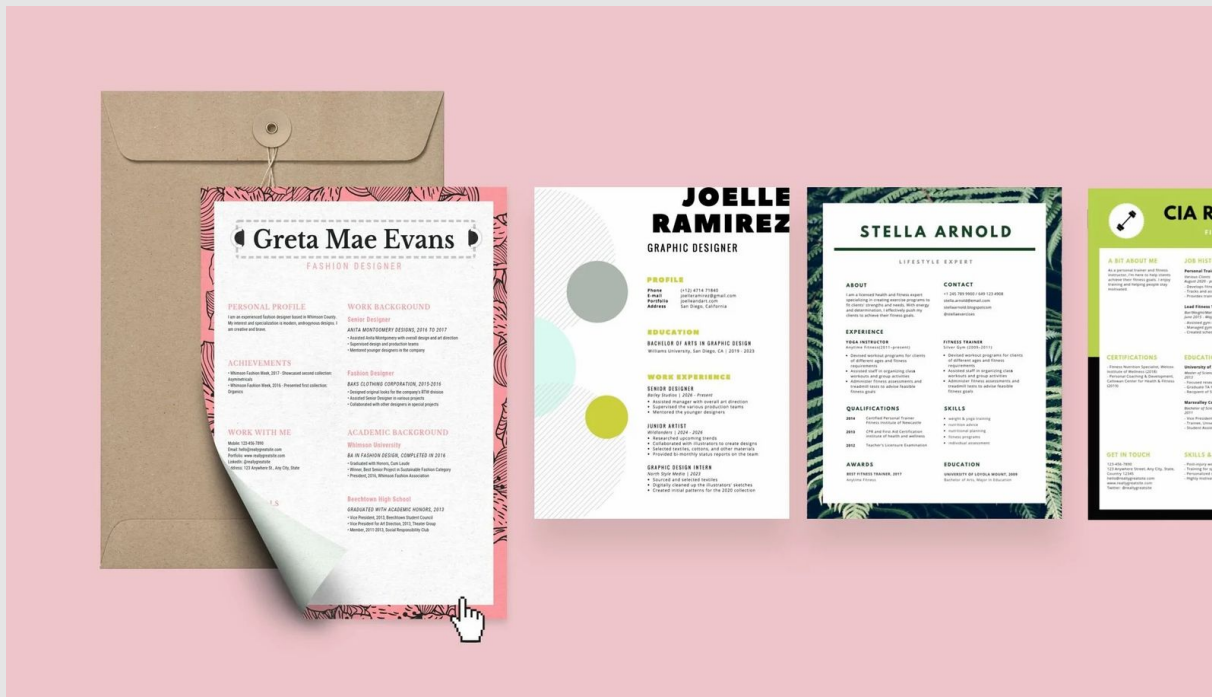
We are meeting on Mondays at Zoom from 8:45 to 12:00.

This semester we were able to add short sessions about "writing advices" in the beginning of each session.

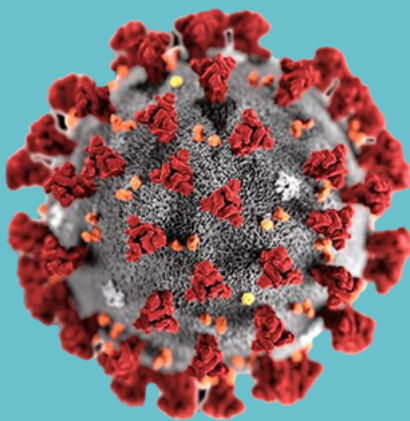
TODOS changed the name from "Shut up and write!" to "Shut up and work!" to be more inclusive for our members who are currently not writing but working on other parts of their projects. In the beginning of each session, we start with setting our goals for this day and continue with three working period of 50 minutes each, followed by a 10 minutes break.



CV Workshop



On the 21.01.2021, TODOS organized a CV workshop in collaboration with the High North Academy. Around 15 of our members attended. It included a three hour online workshop programme, including presentations and a review of the CV.



ISK seminar on impact of Covid-19

The department of language and culture (ISK) invited TODOS to hold a workshop about the impact of Covid-19 on the 29.04.2021.

12 PhD candidates and 1 postdoc attended the seminar.

The most important lesson learned here is the need of a platform for PhD candidates and postdocs to meet and getting the opportunity to discuss the issues which are making our lives harder in the current situation.

Internal work

Board meetings

Our TODOS board meets regularly to discuss current issues, plan events and explore what else we could do to make your PhD and postdoc lives better! This semester we were meeting digitally for in total 7 board meetings. One important topic this semester was the inclusion of the other campuses of UiT, especially Harstad, Alta and Narvik.

Committees/Workgroups

TODOS is currently represented in several committees:

- Forskningsstrategisk utvalg (Research strategic council): It is a committee with representatives from each faculty, discussing research strategy, meaning the most important questions are about funding and priorities.
- ARA workgroup (Arctic Resilience Accelerator): A workgroup that is developing a research school for research in the Arctic
- UiT's Prize Committee

Meetings with UiT

We continued the regularly meetings with the staff representative for the temporarily staff at the university board and the administration section for research and education quality. This semester, these meetings were focusing mainly on the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on us and our members. A second pillar has been to collaborate on a annual PhD survey at UiT and negotiate the budget.

Quarterly meetings with SiN

TODOS is a member of SiN (Stipendiatororganisasjonene i Norge), the national organization for PhD candidates, postdocs and early career researchers.

Meeting for new internationals employees

We were finally able to continue the collaboration with with International Cooperation Office and presented TODOS at their two introductory meetings in January and April.

Budget

TODOS receives a set amount of 250,000 NOK to host activities for PhDs and Postdocs and cover the operational costs. This money is used for the board member compensation, for different activities and events and to cover the fixed bills.

- Our membership in SiN (Stipendiatororganisasjonene i Norge) requires a fixed membership fee of **2,000 NOK** every year.
- **150,000 NOK** per year are allocated for the compensation of board members. This is equal to a value of 25,000 NOK per year and board member, and the compensation goes either to a contract extension of two weeks, 100 hours of teaching duties or to the annum (project money).

Available budget 2021

For 2021, TODOS received the 250,000 NOK plus an extra of 134,244 NOK from the budget of 2020. This semester TODOS did not have any costs for events as they were all fully digital and cabin trips/writing retreats not possible.

Taking out the board member compensations and the fixed bill for SiN, we have left **232,244 NOK** for activities throughout 2021.



Way forward

We are looking forward to a new semester with hopefully re-opened possibilities to organize more events and return to physical meetings: shut up and work! sessions, a cabin trip, a writing retreat and the julebord in December

One of our ambitions is to advocate TODOS more among our campuses outside of Tromsø, especially in Harstad, Narvik and Alte, and to our Norwegian members.

We will continue the internal work, discussions and negotiations we started this semester with our partners at UiT, SiN and inside the committees.

