

**UNIS**

# MINUTES

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| <b>MEETING:</b> PhD forum   | <b>No / Year:</b> 2/2019   |
| <b>Weekday:</b> Wednesday <b>Date:</b> 25.09.19.  | <b>Participants:</b> Fasil Tesema, Katie Herlingshaw, Kjersti Kalhagen, Sarah Strand, Tatiana Drotikova, Magdalena Wutkowska, Cheshtaa Chitkara, Eli Anne Ersdal, Heather Bell, Robynne Nowicki, Siiri Wickström, Maja Karoline Hatlebakk, Ana Paula Souza, Anne Bjørndal. |
| <b>Start:</b> 13:00 <b>End:</b> 14:45   |  |
| <b>Place:</b> Kapp Lee  |  |
| <b>Leader:</b> Anne Bjørndal  |  |
| <b>Minutes:</b> Anne Bjørndal   | <b>Copy for information:</b> Ruben Eidesen, Ane Hammervoll Bjørsvik, Håkon Kristensen, Elise Strømseng, Marry Kristin Waal Sandstå, Harald Ellingsen, head of departments.   |
| <b>Reference:</b> <a href="https://www.unis.no/phd-resources/#forum">https://www.unis.no/phd-resources/#forum</a> |  |

## Minutes from meeting 02.05.19.

The minutes from the PhD forum on 02.05.19 were approved.

## News from the study administration:

Two planned PhD dissertations in autumn 2019:

- Maja Karoline Hatlebakk (AB) - November
- Erkka Petteri Heino (AGF) – December

Three new PhD candidates since our last meeting:

- Robynne Nowicki (AB)
- Cheshtaa Chitkara (AB)
- Heather Bell (AG)

Remember the application deadline for UNIS spring 2020 courses: 15 October.

We are hoping to arrange the mandatory PhD course in research ethics and philosophy of science in cooperation with NMBU in spring 2020. The course will be included in the UNIS budget for 2020, and a request has been sent to NMBU for further cooperation. Among the PhD forum participants, 5 were interested in joining the course. More information will follow in due time.

## News from the mainland universities:

- UiT (NT-faculty)
  - New application form and template for project descriptions (for new PhDs).

## Ana Paula Souza: Stress Management and Well-Being

- Ana's presentation is uploaded on the PhD web pages under lectures / resources here: <https://www.unis.no/phd-resources/#forum>

## Discussions

- Letter requesting financial support for a self-driven PhD group

The PhD candidates sent a letter to the UNIS director to ask for some financial support for a self-driven PhD group in May. A copy of the letter was also sent to ECom and RCom. The letter has not yet been answered. Katie brought this case up in ECom in their last meeting. ECom was positive to the initiative, but also suggested to look for funding through e.g. the UNIS welfare committee or through the unions.

- Self-driven PhD group

Suggested activities: Social meeting place; beer; cabin trip, maybe linked to a writing club...

As a start, the PhD candidates will meet for **PhD-lunch in the cantina every Friday at 12:00**. Heather will make a WhatsApp-group, and Katie will make a facebook-group.

- Norwegian course

More pressure should be put on UNIS to arrange Norwegian course for non-Norwegian staff. There is a Norwegian course arranged in Longyearbyen this autumn. Katie will find out more about this, and send information to Anne for further distribution to the PhD candidates.

## Any other business

- Tatiana was awarded 2<sup>nd</sup> place best student platform presentation about pattern and distribution profile of PAHs from Longyearbyen power plant at the International Symposium on Polycyclic Aromatic Compounds (ISPAC) in Örebro, Sweden 9.-12. September. Good work!
- Next meeting will be some time before Christmas 2019.