

Dear fellow PhD candidates and Postdocs,

“Ho ho ho, Merry Christmas everyone!”

The immortal words of Santa Claus are usually a source of warmth, comfort, and nostalgia for many people during the upcoming public holiday season. However, perhaps for the first time ever in history, the thought of Santa Claus’ breath in your face might lead your mind along the lines of “Why is this freak not wearing a mask?!” or “Oh God, bad case of COVID-breath!!!” instead. The COVID-19 pandemic affects us all and has changed the World in a number of ways. Or maybe Santa Claus was just never your cup of covid - you do you of course. In any case, one thing is sure to remain constant in this new World; **UiODoc’s unrelenting dedication to you, the temporary staff of UiO.**

In this “End-of-the-year” version of the UiODoc newsletter, we will bring to your attention the results of the SiN survey on COVID-19 related contract extensions for PhDs/postdocs, present UiODoc’s Christmas quiz as well as tease future upcoming events and seminars from UiODoc and other organizers alike. Let us get to it!

The SiN National PhD/postdoc COVID-19 contract extension survey

On the 1st of December 2020, the Association of Doctoral Organizations in Norway (SiN) released the results of their national survey on COVID-19 related contract extensions for PhDs and postdocs in the form of a [report](#), with a [press release](#) (Norwegian/English) to follow. A condensed summary follows, but it is highly recommended to read the full report.

In short, the large majority of a total of 790 respondents (84 %) reply that they are experiencing delays in their projects due to the pandemic, and most would need a contract extension to account for the time delay. Depending on the institution, information on how to apply for an extension was more or less available, but in most cases having to apply added extra stress as opposed to decreasing it. Also, applying for a short extension (<1 month) was more likely to be granted than applying for a long extension (>2 months).

In general, **the report draws a picture of major differences in handling of COVID-19 related extensions between Norwegian Universities**, with potential grave consequences for the research and careers of those not granted adequate extensions. The report prompted a **meeting with the Minister of Higher Education and Research** on December 1st, of which the outcome is yet to be officially released.

UiODoc Christmas Quiz!

And now for something more lighthearted. UiODoc would like to invite all of you to a **Christmas Quiz on Zoom this Thursday, December 17th from 12:30-02:00 PM**. When signing up, you can choose whether you would like to be assigned to a team or whether you are signing up together with others. The participants on the winning team will win a gift card of 250,- NOK each, so it is not just pride and fame on the line this time around! Join us in this rounding of the long, hard year that is 2020 with a couple hours of unadulterated fun and games!

Read more and sign up on the event site [here](#).

UiODoc January Event: Corona panel discussion

In the second half of January, UiODoc is organising a panel discussion attempting to shed some light on **the past, present, and future effects of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic on young researchers in Norway**. The topic will be illuminated from the perspective of temporary employees, University leadership, and the unions to make sure the voices of all parties are heard.

More details will follow on this event in **early January**, so keep yourself updated on UiODoc's [event](#) and [Facebook](#) sites as well as the January newsletter.

PhD and PostDoc Breakfast Club (PPBC)

The PPBC is on break in December but will return stronger than ever in the second half of January - most likely still hosted on Zoom. Hopefully we can return to physical events come spring.

Seminar series - COVID-19: research in the wake of the pandemic

In collaboration with the Norwegian Cancer Society and the Trond Mohn Foundation, the Norwegian research council is arranging a **seminar series starting December 2020 and running through August 2022** called COVID-19: research in the wake of the pandemic. The seminars focus on research results from COVID-19 related projects funded by the main collaborators. As such, each seminar has a different theme of COVID-19 related problems, with investigators from the projects presenting their research. **The first seminar “[Public Health Response and Social Countermeasures](#)”** takes place tomorrow, December 17th. Unfortunately signups have now closed, but stay tuned for the next event in March!

Keep an eye on [UiO's event page](#) for future seminars and read more on the seminar series on the [Trond Mohn Foundation](#) website.

Finally, everyone at UiODoc would like to wish you all a great vacation season - whether that means going to your home country, staying in Oslo or spending time at an extravagant resort somewhere else in Norway. Stay safe, meditate, regain your energy, and see you all in the new year that is 2021, **ready to take on COVID-20!**

UiODoc Christmas Quiz

Date: December 17th.

Time: 12:30-02:00 PM.

Place: Zoom (details provided in registration).

See event details and register [here](#).

No PPBC in December - returning in the second half of January!

For all future PPBC arrangements please visit:

uiodoc.no/events/PBC/ or facebook.com/uiodoc/

Other upcoming events:

- **Karriere hjemmefra: LinkedIn-webinar | 12 tips til en god profil (Norwegian)**
Arranged by Karrieresenteret
December 16th 2020, 12:00-01:00 PM @ Zoom
See event and Zoom details [here](#).
- **ISMO social event: Christmas edition**
Arranged by ISMO, UiO
December 16th 2020, 01:00-03:00 PM @ Zoom
See event details and sign up [here](#).
- **Shut up & write - digital meetup!**
Arranged by The Academic Writing Centre
December 18th 2020, 10:00 AM - 02:00 PM @ Zoom
See event and Zoom details [here](#).

>>Spread the word!<<

UiODoc:

For the **latest news** regarding our activities, please check-out our **website**:

<https://foreninger.uio.no/uiodoc/>.

Or our **facebook** page:

<https://www.facebook.com/uiodoc>.

Information from MatNat faculty (open to all PhD candidates and PostDocs):

PhD/Postdoc events: www.mn.uio.no/phdevents

PhD/Postdoc message board: <https://www.mn.uio.no/english/research/phd/messages/>

Kind Regards,

Michael Goul Larsen, *Secretary*
on behalf of UiODoc

To manage your subscription to our newsletter:
<https://sympa.uio.no/uiodoc.no/info/newsletter>