



Newsletter, November-December 2019

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News

The Issue of the Unequal Pay Among PhD Candidates at NTNU

[In October](#), we shared some information about the debates on the latest round of negotiations affecting PhD candidates' salaries, which had led to some inequalities between new-hires and staff already in post. Earlier this month, the outcome of the NTNU negotiations was published on [Innsida](#). It shows that NTNU is trying to improve the current situation about the unequal payment of employees. We at DION think that the outcry from PhD candidates all over Norway has been heard and we are happy that the unions also put their part forward in this.

It should be noted that the new negotiations do not lead to senior candidates earning more money than the new candidates, despite their seniority. However, now at least, senior PhD candidates won't earn less than new-hires, as it had been the case after the national salary negotiations earlier this year.

At DION, we applaud the fact that the concerns of PhDs over pay inequalities have been taken into account in these local negotiations. We also appreciate that over time, these changes in salary scales for newly-hired PhDs will lead to better wages for the other categories of temporary scientific staff. However, we regret that the salaries of post-docs and temporary scientific staff currently employed at NTNU, as well as PhD candidates hired before 01.05.2018 have been left out of the current agreement. DION has also reached out to unions present at NTNU for a statement about the negotiations and how their members might be affected. DION has reached out to unions present at NTNU for a statement about the local negotiations and how their members might be affected. The official statements can be found at: <https://org.ntnu.no/dion/2019/10/phd-salaries-negotiations/>

This link will be regularly updated with new information and resources as they become available.

DION Grants – the Results are out!

We received 10 grant applications from Trondheim and Gjøvik for Fall 2019 round. We are glad to announce that for this round we approved five applications. Namely:

1.

Applicant: Irina Ciortan

Event: Enjoy Winter on Ice @ Gjøvik Fjellhallen

2.

Applicant: Adina Moraru

Event: How to get away with team building within a multidisciplinary environment

3.

Applicant: Deepak Palaksha

Event: Daily Desk Fit. Fitness routine that could be done sitting at individual desks

4.

Applicant: John Zobolas

Event: Juggling workshop for non-jugglers

5.

Applicant: Bart van Blokland

Event: Board and card games in Trondheim

In order to raise DION's presence and impact in Ålesund, we have opened additional *Ålesund Special* call for grants.

The applications are currently under review.

Further details can be found at the corresponding Facebook event:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/937274856652715/>

Take part in the Teaching Cultures Survey

NTNU is taking part in the Teaching Cultures Survey, a survey in which 13 universities across the world participated in early 2019 and a further group of universities are participating in October/November 2019. Like this wider group of universities, NTNU is looking to understand more about how the status of teaching and learning is viewed by the academic community. Following this 2019 survey, NTNU's aim is to repeat the survey in 2021 and 2023 with all participating universities to track any changes in staff views. It is hoped the survey will provide helpful information about how university teaching is regarded by staff over time.

All academic staff employed by each participating university – from PhD candidates to professors and board members – are invited to take part. Whatever your discipline or career stage, or how central teaching is to your current role, we would be grateful for your views. You can complete the survey regardless of whether you teach at all, are on parental leave, on sabbatical, or are employed part time or full time.

You can find more information about the survey in this leaflet: https://org.ntnu.no/dion/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/TCS-2019-Information-leaflet_NTNU_Reidar-Lyng.pdf

To take part, click on this link: https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/NTNU-TCS_19

Upcoming Events

Ice Skating - Enjoy winter on ice at Gjøvik Fjellhallen supported by DION Grants

When: Saturday, 23rd of November, 12:30 – 15:30

Where: Gjøvik Olympic Cavern Hall (Fjellhallen)



The cold season is already here. What's a better way to make the most of it other than enjoying the winter sports and games? Fortunately, the historic Olympic cavern in Gjøvik (Fjellhallen) offers such opportunities.

We invite you to an ice skating event, where we could enjoy ice skating and a nice company; admission and skate-rental fees will be covered for limited number of PhDs, postdocs, and other temporary scientific staff at NTNU. Family members of those are also welcome.

As the places are limited, please, kindly **register ASAP** at: <https://forms.gle/tjDKWZqzP7NYCMx8>
Otherwise, admission might not be guaranteed. The spots are reserved on a first-come first-served basis.

Please note that although organizers will cover admission and equipment-related fees, neither DION, nor organizers are liable for any damages and injuries. ASSESS YOUR SKILLS RESPONSIBLY AND SKATE AT YOUR OWN RISK!

The event is supported by **DION Grants!**

Corresponding Facebook Event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2560822134139752/>

Photo by Terry Matthews on Unsplash (<https://unsplash.com/photos/2odHGnjAD10>)

Bowling and Pizza in Gjøvik

When: Sunday, 24th of November, 15:00 –19:00

Where: Bowling 1 Gjøvik, Trondhjemsvegen 83, 2825 Gjøvik



Although it's already freezing outside, DION wants to keep its members active. After trying ice skating in Fjellhallen on Saturday, we invite DION members and their families to demonstrate their bowling skills too. We will have an opportunity to enjoy the social atmosphere with our colleagues and spend an entertaining evening. Bowling will be followed with yummy pizza to compensate burnt calories and to chat on upcoming Christmas plans. :))

Please note that the event is free for the FIRST 25 REGISTREES ONLY.

Hurry up and register for the event here: <https://forms.gle/TGps7M6q8tQVN5w39>

Latecomers and unregistered participants are welcome to join at their own expense!

The lanes are booked from **15:00 sharp**. Be on time!

Follow our this event for further updates.

Corresponding Facebook Event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/636166736914210/>

Photo by Tim Mossholder on Unsplash (https://unsplash.com/photos/u_kg0bcA4qk)

PhD/Postdoc Lunch (and other temporary scientific staff)

When: Tuesday, 26th of November, 12:00 – 13:00

Where: Realfagbygget, R4 – Trondheim



Come join us during your lunch break! We would like to invite PhDs, Post Docs and other temporary scientific staff to join us during their lunch break. Bring your own lunch, we will get something for afterwards :)

This is a great opportunity to talk to people who are in the same situation as you in a relaxed atmosphere. It is a safe space to vent off about any topic that bothers you and simply exchange with other people who are in the same boat as you are.

Hope to see you there!

Corresponding Facebook Event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2379261342337004/>

A Night at the Movies

When: Friday, 29th of November, 19:30 – 23:00

Where: Cinemateket Trondheim



As the darkness descends and the winter sets in, our monthly Night at the Movies takes you back in time to see the 1992 Bram Stoker's Dracula by Francis Ford Coppola.

We will meet at 19:45 at the Cinemateket bar for a glass of fresh blood (or whatever your favorite poison is) then move to the movie theatre at 20:45.

Tickets cost NOK90 each (NOK 60 if you're already a Cinemateket member).

Please purchase your ticket on the Cinemateket website (link below)

About the movie:

By Francis Ford Coppola, with Gary Oldman, Anthony Hopkins, Winona Ryder, Sadie Frost, Keanu Reeves, Tom Waits

Plot: Young barrister Jonathan Harker is assigned to a strange client in Transylvania... what could possibly go wrong?!

A classic with an all-star cast, closely based on Bram Stoker's original novel.

Trailer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CiWsfO5HjEo>

Review: <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt0103874/>

Tickets available at: <http://www.cinemateket-trondheim.no/2019-host/bram-stokers-dracula/>

Corresponding Facebook Event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/588606208565390/>

Minigolf (Family event) with DION

When: Sunday, 1st of December, 15:00 – 18:00

Where: Trondheim Camping, Olav Tryggvasons Gate 5, Trondheim



Minigolf Lanes at Trondheim Camping (Image Credits: <https://www.campingen.no/en/trondheim>)

It is time for a fun family friendly event! DION invites you, along with your partner and kids, for a minigolf evening at Trondheim Camping. The venue sports 12 different lanes, and a bar if you want to have some drinks. **The event is FREE FOR THE FIRST 50 REGISTREES**

Registration: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScKfBjJK_tzoKYV3HYhRa-3E5XihE0uNA9W-JVf8FbDUzQ!sg/viewform?usp=sf_link

Hope to see you there!

Corresponding Facebook Event: To be added, follow our page for updates!

Improv Workshop/Crash Course with Gibberish

When: Friday, 6th of December, 18:00 – 21:00

Where: TBA (Trondheim)



Have you ever thought you would make for a good Improv artist? Or you wanted to join in for the sheer fun of it? Well, here is the good news: DION is inviting Trondheim's most active and popular Improv group, Gibberish, for a workshop just for the PhDs, Postdocs, and other scientific employees.

(Improv, or improvisational theatre, is an art form where most or all of the performance is created spontaneously, without any prepared scripts or plan)

So buckle up, and join us for a fun evening! **The event is free (sponsored by DION), and there will be snacks provided!** Seriously, there's no reason for missing out on this!

Hope to see you there!

Corresponding Facebook Event: To be added, follow our page for updates!

Movie Night (December)

When (Tentative): Thursday/Friday, 12th/13th of December

Where: TBA

Continuing our series of monthly movie nights, we will have another movie screening in December. The details will soon be announced on our page.

Corresponding Facebook Event: To be added, follow our page for updates!

Julebord with DION

When (Tentative): Monday, 16th of December, 18:00 – 21:00

Where: TBA

More details to be announced soon! 😊

Corresponding Facebook Event: To be added, follow our page for updates!

Past Events

Pride Week

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Stonewall, one of the most important milestones in the movement for LGBTQ rights, and the motivation for the first Pride Parade!

DION celebrated inclusion and diversity with its participation in two events: on September 12th, DION organized a Queer Movie Night. Two days later, on September 14th, DION together with NTNU LGBTQ+ marched in annual Trondheim Pride Parade.



Picture 1: DION and NTNU LGBTQ+ traditionally marched in Trondheim Pride Parade.

DION's Choir

DION formed a new choir this semester. On September 16th, and October 7th, we hosted two open rehearsals, which were followed by weekly rehearsals. Even though most of the attendees were new to choir, it managed to be a fun-filled and productive event! Songs covered ranged from Rock, to Broadway classics. The endeavor was quite fruitful, giving the amateurs a chance to learn how to hone their vocal skills, and the experts some more practice. We have decided to revive this event again in the next semester, with hopefully more attendance to constitute a choir.



Picture 2. Mattia Veroni, board member of DION and conductor of the Choir, plays the notes for the choir members to follow.

Happy Hour and Shuffleboard

DION continues regular Happy Hour and Shuffleboard events both in Trondheim and Gjøvik. The regular attendance and free shuffleboard ensure great social atmosphere on all Happy Hour events. On 26th of September, the event was hosted in Gjøvik, followed by two events on 27th of September, and 4th of November in Trondheim.



Picture 3: In Gjøvik, a fuzzleball table is usually also at our disposal.



Picture 4. Attendees at the event in Trondheim getting competitive at the shuffle board

Board and Card Games in Gjøvik (with pizza)

The event took place on 4th of October and was open to families of DION members. The event was a big success with recent years' record high attendance. Around 30 people enjoyed pizza and spent an entertaining evening play various board and card games.



Picture 5: DION board member Davit Gigilashvili and other DION members playing Exploding Kittens in the background.

DION Meeting with NTNU Faculties to Discuss Onboarding

On Wednesday the 17th of October, DION met with representatives of different faculties to talk about “onboarding” in the different faculties. “Onboarding” is the process of welcoming and integrating new employees at NTNU in their different departments. So, onboarding applies to anything that happens between signing the contract and then being able to “start to research properly” – after one has settled in fully. DION conducted a survey about this process and presented the analysis to the different representatives. The goal was to have a discussion about the different measures used by the different faculties. The results of the survey clearly show a difference between the different faculties. Some faculties are very good at distributing useful information even before a new employee has physically arrived at NTNU. Other faculties do almost not manage to support the new employees. Some employees needed more than 24 weeks before they were able to focus on the work they were supposed to do and not be stuck with different bureaucratic processes. The results from the DION survey will be published soon.

More information regarding the meeting can be found at:

<https://org.ntnu.no/dion/2019/10/dion-meeting-with-ntnu-faculties-to-discuss-onboarding/>

A Night at the Movies

On October 18th, DION hosted the inaugural event of *A night at the movies* series at Cinemateket. In spirit of Halloween, DION members watched *The Dead Don't Die* by Jim Jarmusch – a horror and a comedy.

A dozen brave movie buffs took part in this first Night at the Movie – Trondheim edition. We aim to organize these on a monthly basis. Keep an eye on our social media channels for dates and programs.



Free Clothes - Winter Flea Market Gjøvik

The winter has come and it's time to start unpacking last season's winter clothes again.

DION and International Office at NTNU Gjøvik have organized a flea market, where DION members could have a chat and grab some free warm clothes for a long and freezing Norwegian winter.



Picture 6: Free winter clothes awaiting for new owners

From Mental Health to Open Science - SiN Presents

On November 16th, SiN (Stipendiatororganisasjonene i Norge) – an umbrella organization for doctoral interest organizations in Norway organized a series of short talks in Trondheim. The dedicated working groups presented associations' future objectives and strategies. SiN has different working groups that focus on the areas of career inside/outside_academia, equality Issues on PhD programs in Norway, mental health and open science. They are often invited to speak to university leaders or ministers and represent PhDs, post-docs and other temporary scientific employees on the highest national level.

If any of these topics is a topic you burn for, consider becoming a board member of SiN (elections in May 2020).

If you have any further questions, feel free to contact them at mail@stipendiat.no or directly contact your local representatives at NTNU Enrico Riccardi (president) or Lisa Tietze (also DION board member). You can also check them out on the web.

Website: <https://stipendiat.no/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/stipendiat>

DION Board Meetings

Next DION Board Meeting

When: Tuesday, 17th of December, 15:00 – 18:00

Where: To be announced

DION's board meetings are open to all PhD Candidates and Post-docs. More information on agenda will be made available on *Innsida* and our website the week before the meeting.

Do you have something to add to the agenda? **Send the DION board an e-mail: post@dion.ntnu.no**



Email: post@dion.ntnu.no

Web: <http://org.ntnu.no/dion>

Innsida: DION

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