

# Being a PhD

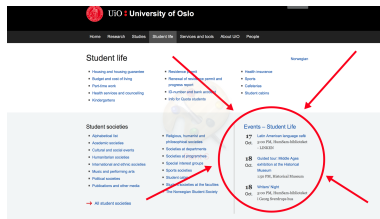
Ulrik Enstad and Vegard Antun

4. October

# Welcome to Norway

Stay active. Be social

- Attend the events for PhD's! (Free food!!!)
- Join lunch in your group!
- Look at university events
- Pay attention to your emails



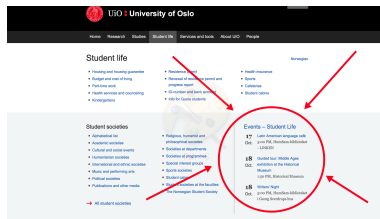
JORGE CHAM @THE STANFORD DAILY

title: "Mike Slackernery. Free food. It binds us." - originally published 2/9/1998

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# Welcome to Norway

## Stay active

- Sign up for the department football each Friday
- SiO gym  
[www.sio.no/trening](http://www.sio.no/trening)
- SiO student associations  
[www.sio.no/en/associations](http://www.sio.no/en/associations)
- DNT: [english.dnt.no](http://english.dnt.no)
- Travel not only for work!

(great places to meet Norwegians who are not also mathematicians)



# Welcome to Norway. Snakker du norsk?

Should you learn Norwegian or not?

Reasons to do so:

- Norwegians will appreciate it
- You can teach and students will feel more comfortable talking to you
- If you plan to stay in Norway or similar (Scandinavia). The quicker the better
- If you like to learn new things, it will be a "distraction" from work and/or a way to meet people

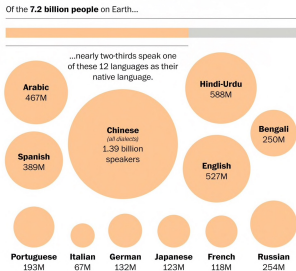


# Welcome to Norway. Snakker du norsk?

Should you learn Norwegian or not?

Reasons to not do so:

- It is a hard language! It will consume a lot of time
- The majority of Norwegians speak English well. If you plan to stay short term you might not want to prioritize learning Norwegian.
- It does not help you to communicate with a big percentage of the world's population



Sources: Ulrich Ammon, University of Düsseldorf, Population Reference Bureau  
Note: Totals for languages include bilingual speakers.



# Find your way around in Norway

## IKEA

- Everything for your house
- From medium to high quality
- Affordable
- Free Bus!

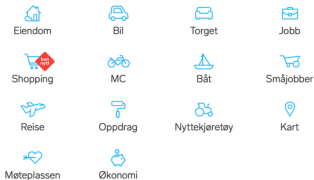


## Finn.no

- Everything
- Really... everything
- Great place to find housing (it pays off to make your own advert)



Søk etter elbil, elsykkel eller FINN-kode



# Find your way around in Oslo

## Grønland

- Diversity of products
- From almost all around the world

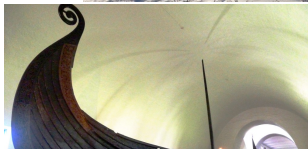
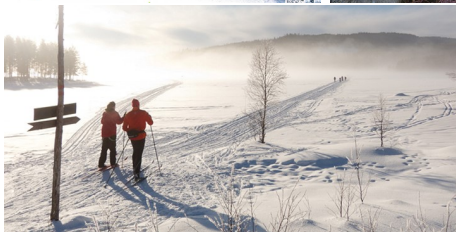
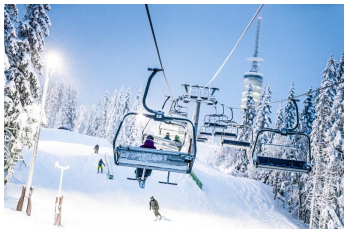


Visit Oslo web page  
[www.visitoslo.com/en/](http://www.visitoslo.com/en/)



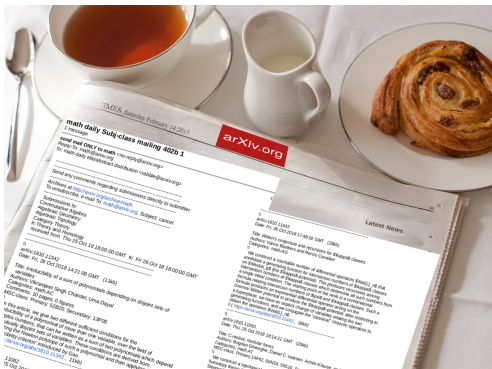


# Places you can get to with the public transport:



# PhD Work: Reading

- Get a broad overview of what others are doing
- In which journals are people publishing?
- Read the arXiv (sign up for the daily newsletter!!)
- Join mailing lists and newsletters for your field (ALGTOP-L, ScienceDaily, SciTechDaily. . .)
- Sympa mailing list tool at UIO.



[www.ams.org/publications/notices/whatis/noticesarchive](http://www.ams.org/publications/notices/whatis/noticesarchive)

## WHAT IS . . . an Infinite Swindle?

Valentin Poénaru

The infinite comes with magic and power.

Here is a nice geometric example of what an infinite process can do. Start with a closed surface  $S$  and a simple closed curve that is homotopically nontrivial,  $C \subset S$ . Let  $f$  be a hyperbolic diffeomorphism of  $S$ . Bill Thurston has shown that, when the infinite sequence of iterates of  $f$  is applied to  $C$ , i.e., when one goes to  $fC, f^2C, f^3C, \dots$ , then, as  $n$  gets larger and larger, the strands of  $f^n C$  gather more and more into parallel sheaves, and in the limit there appears a foliation  $\mathcal{F}$  with a transverse Lebesgue type measure.

In a situation like the one just described, the final pattern reveals itself more and more as  $n$



Figure 1.



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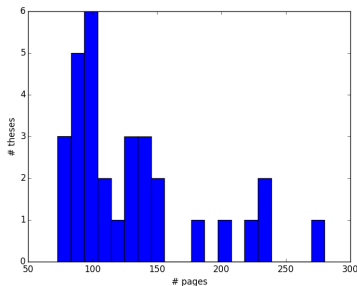


Figure 1.



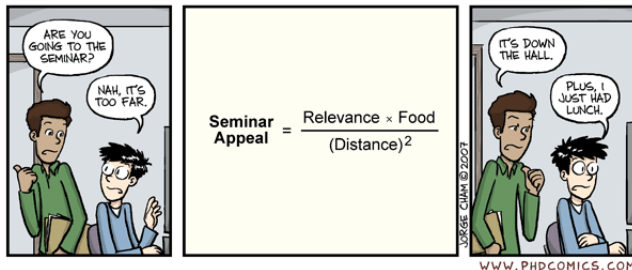
- Start writing early, in  $\text{\LaTeX}$ , write everything (your future self should also understand it)
- Use notebooks to take notes and keep track of all your ideas, calculations, etc...
- Thesis: Monograph or collection of articles (most common?)
- Find out whether you want to continue in academia or not

Length of math dissertations at UiO since 2010:



# PhD Work: Meetings and seminars

- Organize and attend (student) seminars
- Excellent practice for giving (conference) talks
- Keeps you connected to the research group
- Attend the group seminars (not only of your group)

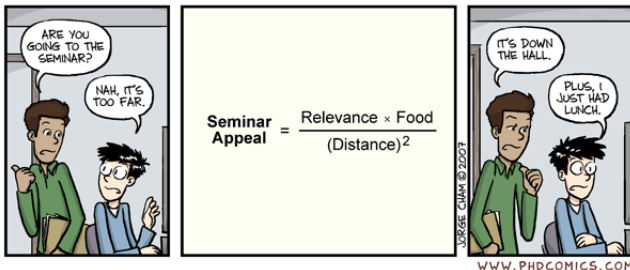


title: "Seminar Appeal" - originally published 11/21/2007

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Try to avoid this!!! ↘



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# PhD Work: Supervision

- Meet frequently with your supervisor(s)
- Keep track of the direction of your research
- Don't be afraid to ask or say I don't know
- Keep in mind: Useful to you
- Your advisor wants you to succeed!
- Listen to your advisor, don't listen to your advisor:



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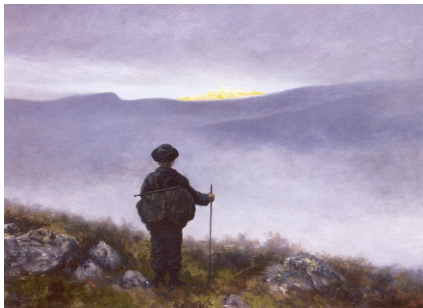
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- Listen to your advisor, don't listen to your advisor:  
The goal of a PhD is to become an independent researcher





# PhD Work: Conferences & Research schools

- Travel a lot!
- Find conferences to go to: Advisor, websites and mailing lists, people you met at previous conferences
- Apply for funding (there is usually enough for anything relevant)
- Apply for a Eurocard (do it today)
- Make friends, find collaborators, become independent, broaden your perspectives, learn what other people are interested in



# PhD Work: Duties/Chores/(more positive term)

- The teaching load is light (and it should be, don't overdo it)
- Can be really fun, from one to several hundred students
  - You are the expert, feel confident!
- Correcting exams
- 30 Credits + Ethics course:
  - Regular courses, invent your own course, summer schools

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# Being a UiO-PhD: Tips & Tricks

- Do you need to find something on UiO's web page (tutorials, HR-portal stuff....)?
  - Solution: Navigate using Google! Search UiO "something" and you will find it!
  - If you do not find it, contact your office mate, the administration or IT.
- Do you have a practical problem (squeaky chair, broken light bulb, anything which would make your work easier)?
- Contact the administration, IT, caretakers, they'll sort it in a day (usually).
- Something wrong with the building contact Eiendomsavdelingen

# Being a PhD

- Easy to find problems you can not solve!
- Some days are great: Work a lot. Some days are not: Work less. (You (almost) decide your working hours, take advantage of this!)
- As a PhD you have much freedom.



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## ACADEMIA



WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM



# Being a PhD is hard

## Stressed? Frustrated?

- It happens to everyone
- Don't work too hard
- Rest and other activities are important
- A PhD is only 3-4 years of a very long life (higher education increases your life expectancy)



title: "Sleep blink" - originally published 11/20/1997

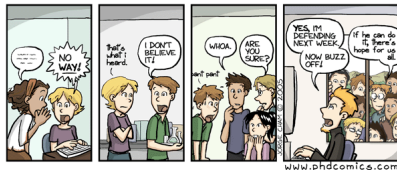
# Self-defense

How to defend yourself?

Attend other students defences

You will probably feel:

- that you can handle it
- that you are not at that level
- that you will not be able to do as much work



My thesis is written in

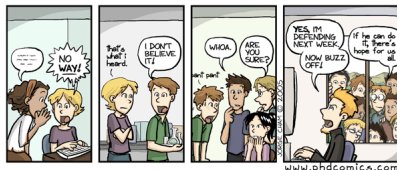


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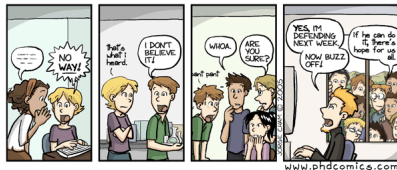
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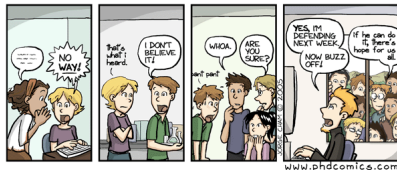
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- that you are not at that level ...yet! **remember you are just starting**
- that you will not be able to do as much work **Every research is different, but you WILL make some progress on your field**



My thesis is written in



- Questions are welcome :)

## How Well Do You Know Your Advisor? Take the quiz!

1. Where did your advisor go for undergrad? (1 pt.)
2. Where is your advisor's home town? (1 pt.)
3. Who was your advisor's advisor (your grandadvisor)? (1 pt.)

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title: "How well do you know your Advisor?" - originally published 4/23/2007

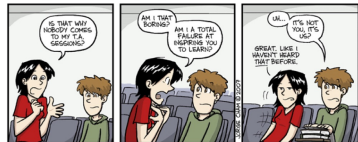
4. How many siblings does he/she have, and what are their professions? (1 pt.)
5. What is your advisor's middle name? (1 pt.)

### Your Score: \_\_\_\_\_

- 4-5 - You know WAY too much about your Advisor.
- 2-3 - You Google-stalked him, didn't you?
- 0-1 - You have a normal relationship with your Advisor.

Piled Higher and Deeper by Jorge Cham

www.phdcomics.com



title: "Appreciator" - originally published 10/10/2007

WWW.PHDCOMICS.COM



title: "Draft approved" - originally published 1/12/2007

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