

Stipendiatororganisasjonene i Norge's Newsletter's Newsletter

April, 2022

At long last and after an unfortunately long delay, the board of SiN is very pleased to summarize the first months of our board term in this newsletter.

Internationalization Statement

Addressing what has been a very important topic in Norwegian media of late, SiN has released its position statement on internationalization of academia and research. The statement is written with all researchers in mind, not just internationals. SiN's position, which should come as no surprise, is that internationalization on the whole is a positive for Norway and Norwegian research and academia in particular.

We emphasize that internationalization is not just non-Norwegians coming to Norway to study or work in academia, but that internationalization is a process which also includes Norwegian researchers choosing to work, study, or take research stays abroad. In sending researchers abroad, as well as welcoming them to Norwegian institutions, Norway can expect a strengthening of its research links with other countries, production of more internationally competitive research, and benefits to research areas which are specifically important to Norway. The position statement will, for the first time, be published in Norwegian and English.

SiN of course also recognizes that while position statements help clarify where SiN and its members stand on important issues, more can and should be done. Going forward, SiN will take feedback from our members and engage with the media to make known our views and to emphasize what we believe could be done to strengthen internationalization in Norwegian research and academic institutions.

#PleaseDontStealMyResearch

Following the lead of our Danish sister-organization, PAND, SiN has engaged in the public debate about research theft in academia.

Following the publication of an article in University of Copenhagen's [University Post](#), SiN was contacted by journalists from Khrono asking our opinion of the campaign and what it represented. In the days that followed, we were contacted by many researchers, in all stages of their careers from PhDs to Emeritus Professors, sharing with us their personal stories of research theft. This painted an extremely troubling picture of a culture of research theft which transcends any individual department, university, or indeed country.

We heard about issues ranging from established researchers demanding to be made co-authors on works they had never touched, to researchers having their names completely taken off their work and seeing it published under other's names. While many of us in the board of SiN had heard of such acts occurring, none of us could have imagined how wide-spread the issue was.

Going forward, SiN intends to remain engaged in public discussion surrounding this topic. We intend to carry out a totally anonymous survey among our member institutions to determine how widespread this issue might be in Norway. While it remains too early to

speculate as to the results of the survey, if the problem is as widespread as it appears it might be, SiN will do whatever we can to ensure that the problem is officially recognized and addressed.

Our president has already given interviews to Khrono about this topic:

INTERVIEW

and we intend to remain engaged until a satisfying conclusion is reached.

If you would like to contribute your own story of research theft, please feel free to email the board (mail@stipendiat.no) or directly emailing our president (leder@stipendiat.no). Rest assured that all communications with SiN will remain strictly confidential.

Mental Health Survey

Our long-awaited follow-up survey on mental health during the Covid-19 pandemic was disseminated among our member organizations over the past few weeks. The survey is now closed, and we expect the results to be available in the coming weeks. Expect them to be mentioned in our second newsletter this year.

PhD Day

SiN continues to plan for a PhD Day event linked with Forskningsdagene later this year in September-October. Further details will be announced as we know them.

Second Quarterly Meeting

SiN will hold our second quarterly meeting for leaders of local organizations on Tuesday, the 31st of May. The meeting is open to all leaders of our member organizations. We ask that if your organization is electing a new board you inform us as soon as possible so that we can invite the relevant participants.