

**Travel Report on
COINS Ph.D Student Seminar & NISK
Longyearbyen (Svalbard)
September 2018**

This report reflects on two events, COINS PhD Seminar which was followed by NISK (Norwegian Information Security Conference), that took place in Longyearbyen, Norway, during 18th to 20th September 2018.

I thank COINS for the travel support, that gave me this opportunity to experience and learn from the distinguished speakers and network with remarkable participants.

The event was organized in a town of a very charming island, Spitsbergen. It was nice to again meet many familiar faces from previous COINS events. Most of us arrived a day before the Seminar, and it was more of networking with participants on day 1.

The talks or presentations in the seminar was organized into 3 categories: i) lessons learned from Ph.D, ii) ongoing research, and iii) life after Ph.D. It was indeed very interesting to see all these perspectives. Three presentations from the first category were given by participants who recently finished their doctoral studies : Chris Carr, Andrii Shalaginov, and Bo Sun. They shared their advice and things they have learned in their PhD journey. Then 6 presentations, including mine, mainly focussed on the related aspects of security and privacy were scheduled where we all presented our research topics: i) Adam Szekeres presented on predicting human decision making from a security perspective in IoT, ii) Ali Khodabasksh discussed a biometric approach for fake face detection, iii) Jan William Johnsen talked about identification of individuals in organized criminal groups and underground marketplaces, iv) Mazaher Kianpour talked about quantification of cyber risk for economic gains, then v) Muhammad Mudassar Yamin described importance of autonomous teams in operation-based cyber security exercises, and at last vi) i presented on programming language support for GDPR compliance. 20-25 minutes were allotted for formal presentation as well as questions/discussions. Besides the allotted time there were plenty of opportunities for informal discussions during coffee breaks, lunch, sightseeing and dinner. This gave us an opportunity to present our research work and receive feedback from fellow participants as well as academic panel, and also for some research collaborations. At last there were two more interesting talks on Life after Ph.D, by Berglind Samaradottir (on how to find job after Ph.D) and Bikash Agrawal (on his journey from Ph.D. to StartUp). These talks were

somehow more interesting in a sense that it helped to bring back the focus on the big pictures. After finishing the seminar, a short sightseeing tour was arranged by the organizing team. Had some spectacular views of the city, fjords, and glaciers. Next two days, were for NISK. Started with attending the keynote lecture by Elise K. Lindeberg, in Longyearbyen Kulturhus, followed by paper presentations. I was particularly interested in talks on security analysis, and it was also interesting to hear talks from other sessions on biometrics as well as security protocols.

Overall the sessions and formal as well as informal interactions was beneficial for the research work, especially for networking and feedback and perspective on the presentation. All others also gave definite perspective.

I again thank COINS for the travel support, that helped me to attend this event and learn from such talented speakers and incredible participants.

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