

A SYNOPTIC VIEW OF THE MAGELLANIC CLOUDS:  
VMC, GAIA AND BEYOND

ESO-HQ, GARCHING BEI MÜNCHEN, GERMANY  
September 9-13, 2019

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## Massive stars in the Magellanic Clouds

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The stellar populations of distant star-forming galaxies are typically metal deficient compared to stars in the solar neighbourhood. The Clouds give us an excellent laboratory in which to study the effects of metallicity on the physics and evolution of the massive stars which dominate the integrated light from more distant systems. The 8-10m class telescopes have been transformative in our understanding of massive stars in the Clouds, most notably via the large surveys with VLT-FLAMES. I will review recent insights into the properties of the high-mass populations of the Clouds, together with directions for future research in more distant galaxies with the ELT and LUVOIR.