

Announcement of the ESO workshop on

Star Formation across the Milky Way Galaxy

3–6 March 2008, ESO Chile Headquarters, Santiago de Chile

Star formation in the Milky Way is a ubiquitous phenomenon. It occurs on many different scales and in diverse environments ranging from isolated cores, to small groups and modest associations, up to massive clusters and super star clusters. Our knowledge about the onset, dominant modes and typical outcomes of star formation is, however, in general biased by the limited observational accessibility of star-formation sites at their various distances and locations within the Galaxy.

Current large-scale surveys like GLIMPSE, SCUBA, ATLASGAL and UKIDSS trace gas, dust, and young stellar populations across our Galaxy. They provide new insights into the Galactic distribution of star-forming regions and young clusters, and the spatial and environmental variation of the star-formation history, efficiency and the initial mass function down to sub-stellar masses. A revised picture of Galactic star formation is slowly emerging. This is required in order to understand the physics of young stellar objects, and star formation at large, which are key science topics for future projects like ALMA and E-ELT.

We therefore want to gather an up-to-date and comprehensive view of Galactic star formation by tracing ongoing and recent star formation across the Milky Way. The workshop aims to link communities that usually focus on specific scales and environments, and we will discuss star-formation activity spatially spanning from the Solar Neighbourhood, nearby star-forming regions and OB associations, to spiral arms, the Galactic disk, including the central bar and bulge, towards the Galactic Centre.

Our ultimate goal is to identify similarities, differences and the dominant modes of the star-formation process, and its typical outcomes, across the Milky Way, and beyond.

The workshop will be grouped around highlight talks that progressively cover the Galactic spatial scale, i.e. starting from local star formation towards increasing distance. The spatial coverage of the Milky Way will be complemented by topical sessions that will highlight overarching concepts and observations.

Invited Speakers include:

Fabrice Martins, Garching, Germany
Fred Adams, Michigan, USA
Giovanni Carraro, ESO/Chile
Joao Alves, Granada, Spain
John Bally, Colorado, USA
Nate Bastian, London, UK
Leo Blitz, Berkeley, USA
Bruce Elmegreen, Yorktown Heights, USA
Mark Gieles, ESO/Chile
Preben Grosbøl, ESO/Garching
Phil Lucas, Hertfordshire, UK
Piero Madau, Santa Cruz, USA, TBC
Tom Megeath, Toledo, USA
Jorge Melnick, ESO/Chile
Thierry Montmerle, Grenoble, France
Sergei Nayakshin, Leicester, UK
Livia Origlia, Bologna, Italy
Francesco Palla, Florence, Italy
Fred Schuller, Bonn, Germany
Andrea Stolte, Los Angeles, USA
Hans Zinnecker, AIP Potsdam, Germany

Please see the conference web-site for details, and registration information <http://www.sc.eso.org/santiago/science/MilkyWayStarFormation/>

Announcement of

A Practical Workshop on IFU Observations and Data Reduction

19–24 May 2008, Astrophysikalisches Institut Potsdam, Germany

The NEON consortium (Network of European Observatories in the North) announces a workshop on Integral Field Unit observations and data reduction, to be held at AIP-Potsdam, Germany, from Monday to Friday, 19–24 May 2008.

The aim of this workshop is to provide the opportunity for potential IFU users to obtain practical experience in observational techniques, data reduction and analysis. Various types of IFU set-ups will be represented (e.g., fibre instruments, lens arrays, slicers) and participants will have the opportunity to work in small groups on data from instruments of their choice, under the direction of experienced tutors.

The mornings will be devoted to general lectures on various technical aspects, as well as some scientific highlights from actual observations.

The afternoons are reserved for practical work. The presence of experts in the field will offer a unique opportunity to share experience obtained with various IFU instruments; however the school is not primarily intended to respond to specific questions on particular data.

The workshop is open to PhD students or postdocs, and also to more senior astronomers, who would like to gain first-hand experience with IFU data and techniques.

The workshop is sponsored by the European Community, Marie Curie actions, and by Opticon. For PhD students who are nationals of a member state or associated state of the EU, a contribution to their expenses will be provided. Other requests for cost reimbursement will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Owing to organisational constraints, the number of participants is limited to 30. The application deadline is 24 February 2008.

For details, see: <http://eas.iap.fr/ifu.html>