am part of the VISTA Science Verification Team. I am also co-organising a weekly meeting, the Informal Discussion, which has allowed me to interact with many visiting astronomers and learn about multiple aspects of the science being pursued at ESO and/or using ESO telescopes.

The future of astronomy is very promising, with ALMA coming online soon and the development of ESO's E-ELT. I am very fortunate to be able to pursue my childhood dream and hope to continue on this journey. One of my specific goals is to use these upcoming cutting-edge facilities, combining a multi-wavelength approach with stunning angular resolution!

Paula Stella Teixeira

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Announcement of the ESO Workshop

## Spiral Structure in the Milky Way: Confronting Observations and Theory

7–10 November 2010, Bahía Inglesa, Copiapó, Chile

Our knowledge of spiral arms in the Milky Way and the kinematics in the Solar Neighbourhood has increased significantly over the last few decades. Despite these advances, there is still no consensus on basic parameters of the spiral structure in our Galaxy, such as the number of major spiral arms and their location, the pattern speed(s) and amplitude, and the relation of the arms to the central bar. Major new facilities (e.g., ALMA, GAIA, LSST, VISTA and VST) will provide a wealth of data on the spatial and kinematic distributions of material in the Galaxy. Thus, it seems appropriate to perform a census of the current data for confrontation with theory and models of spiral structure, and thereby map out a path towards a consolidated view of the spiral pattern in the Milky Way.

The workshop will bring together observers and theoreticians, and thereby facilitate an in-depth discussion of the spiral structure in the Milky Way.

The main topics will be:
– Tracers of spiral arms in the Milky Way at any wavelength
– Kinematic indicators of the spiral pattern in our Galaxy
– Models and theory related to the Milky Way spiral structure
– Estimates of parameters for the spiral pattern in our Galaxy

Scientific Organising Committee:
Yuri Beletski (ESO), Leonardo Bronfman (Universidad de Chile), Giovanni Carraro (ESO), Ortwin Gehrard (Max-Planck-Institut für extraterrestrische Physik), Preben Grosbøl (ESO), Vladimir Korchagin (South Russia Federal University), Jorge May (Universidad de Chile), Naomi McClure-Griffiths (Australia Telescope National Facility), Lars-Åke Nyman (ALMA), Delphine Russeil (Observatoire de Marseille).

The workshop is planned for 3.5 days with four sessions for each of the full days. The first three sessions will contain long reviews (40 + 5 m) and some contributed talks (15 + 5 m). The last session of each afternoon will be devoted to discussions plus short summaries of selected posters. We aim for around 50 participants with a maximum of 70 as allowed by local facilities. Proposals for both contributed talks and posters are invited. Students are particularly encouraged to apply.

Further details are available at http://www.eso.org/sci/meetings/MW2010/.

The deadline for registration is 6 June 2010.