

Multi-Object Spectroscopy in the Next Decade: Big Questions, Large Surveys and Wide Fields

Santa Cruz de La Palma, Canary Islands, 2-6 March 2015

Third Announcement

This is the third announcement of an international astronomy conference *Multi-Object Spectroscopy in the Next Decade: Big Questions, Large Surveys and Wide Fields*, to be held on the island of La Palma, Canary Islands from 2nd to 6th March 2015. Please distribute the announcement to your colleagues.

Surveys of the sky across the electromagnetic spectrum from ground- and space-based observatories are central to progress in astronomy. Ongoing and planned surveys in the coming decade are motivated by some of the most compelling questions confronting astronomers, for example: Why is the expansion of the universe accelerating? What is the nature and distribution of dark matter? How do galaxies form and evolve? What is the fossil record of the assembly of the Milky Way?

Several next-generation survey spectrographs are already under development around the world. This conference will bring together a diverse cross-section of the international astronomical community to discuss the underlying science aspirations of the impending massive spectroscopic surveys, explore strategies for optimising their scientific impact, summarise lessons learned from previous large-scale surveys, and share the technical challenges of developing and operating the sophisticated instruments which will make these studies feasible.

The deadline for submission of abstracts is 15th December, and registration will close on 30th January; visit the conference website <http://www.ing.iac.es/conferences/mos/> for further details, and the current list of registered attendees. We look forward to welcoming you to La Palma, and to your participation in the conference.

Science Programme

The broad theme of the conference is massive spectroscopic surveys in the contexts of

- Galactic archaeology
- Star formation and evolution
- Galaxy evolution
- Cosmology

Three sessions will be devoted to each science sub-theme; the big questions, current surveys and instruments, and future surveys and instruments. Each session will open with a keynote overview presentation of the sub-theme, and we welcome abstracts for contributed oral and poster presentations in your area(s) of interest.

Keynote Speakers

- Rebecca Bernstein – Carnegie Observatories
- Matt Bershady – University of Wisconsin
- Adam Bolton – University of Utah
- Matthew Colless – Australian National University
- Scott Croom – University of Sydney
- Chris Evans – UK Astronomy Technology Centre
- Sofia Feltzing – Lund Observatory
- Carlos Frenk – University of Durham
- Gerry Gilmore – University of Cambridge
- Artemio Herrero Davó – Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias
- Alex de Koter – University of Amsterdam
- Paco Prada – Instituto de Astrofísica de Andalucía
- Risa Wechsler – Stanford University
- Rosie Wyse – Johns Hopkins University

Scientific Organising Committee

Joss Bland-Hawthorn – University of Sydney
Adam Bolton – University of Utah
Michele Cirasuolo – Royal Observatory Edinburgh
Francesca Figueras – University of Barcelona
Amina Helmi – University of Groningen
Gary Hill – University of Texas
Alex de Koter – University of Amsterdam
Alfonso López Aguerra – Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias
Bob Nichol – University of Portsmouth
Bianca Poggianti – University of Padova
Huub Röttgering – Leiden University
Ian Skillen – Isaac Newton Group (co-chair)
Scott Trager – University of Groningen (co-chair)
Risa Wechsler – Stanford University
Rosie Wyse – Johns Hopkins University

Key Dates

15 th December 2014	Abstract submission deadline
16 th January 2015	Full programme and abstracts published
30 th January 2015	Registration and payment deadline
1 st March 2015	Welcome reception and in-person registration
2 nd March 2015	Conference begins
5 th March 2015	Conference dinner
30 th April 2015	Submission deadline for manuscripts

Contact Details

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28th November 2014