

Opening Remarks



50 YEARS REACHING NEW HEIGHTS IN ASTRONOMY



Surveys

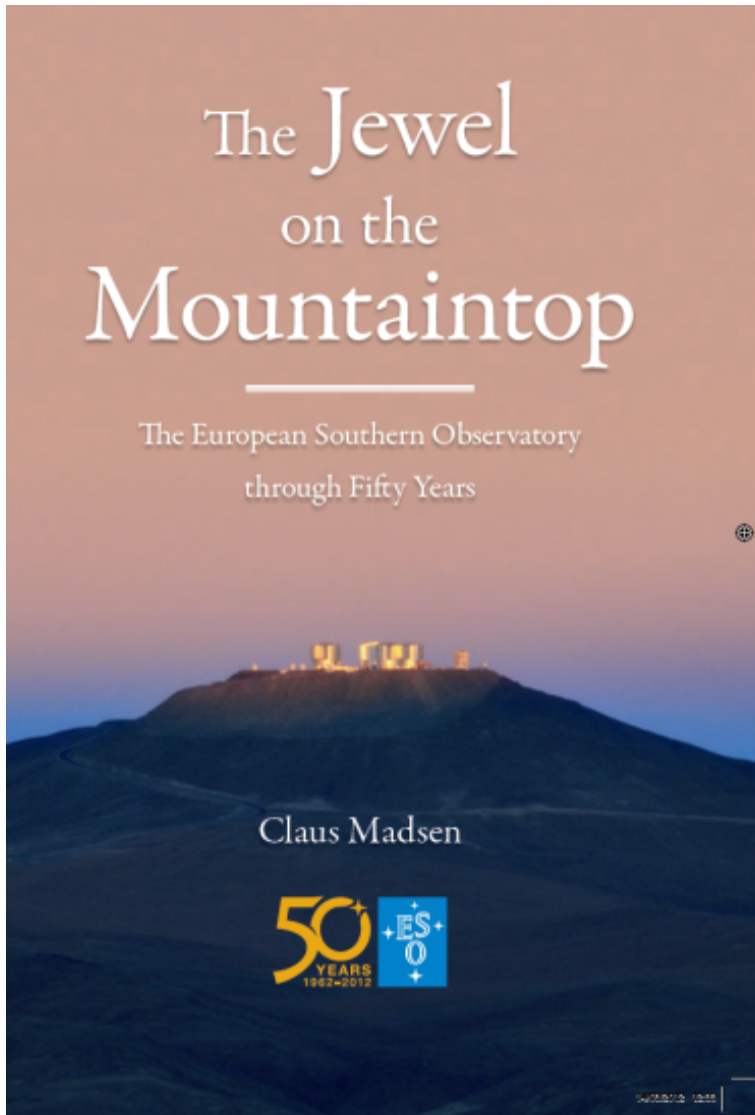
- Surveys are key part of astronomy
 - Make inventory of the Universe
 - Find rare objects, to be followed-up
 - Use large numbers to measure delicate signatures
- Much recent activity spurred by
 - Digital revolution
 - Improvements in image quality & spectroscopic coverage
 - Dedicated telescopes and instruments (e.g. SDSS)
- Organizational aspects
 - Increasingly done by large teams
 - With data becoming public soon or even immediately

This Conference

- Science with ongoing surveys
 - On the ground and from space
 - Imaging and spectroscopy
 - Covering nearly all areas of astrophysics
 - Including first results from ESO public surveys
 - Imaging with VISTA and VST
 - Spectroscopy with VLT and NTT
- Previews of planned future projects
- Well-timed in this 50th anniversary year of ESO
 - Lessons learned fit into ESO's long-term planning now that E-ELT construction is about to be started
 - Other regions are also considering options for the future



The First 50 Years



Science from Next Generation Surveys, 15 Oct 2012

