

Second Announcement:

ESO Conference: The Galactic Bulge at the Crossroads

Dear Colleagues,

We are pleased to bring you the latest news from our ESO Conference, “The Galactic Bulge at the Crossroads”, to be held at the Gran Hotel, Pucon, Chile on December 9-14, 2018:

<http://www.eso.org/gbx2018>

Please continue reading below.

Deadlines

We have moved the abstract submission deadline to August 10. The other dates remain unchanged, and they are the following:

Abstract submission: August 10, 2018

Programme release: September 1, 2018

Regular registration and payment: November 1, 2018

Late registration and payment: December 1, 2018

Financial support

Thanks to a successful funding campaign, we are able to offer some financial support for students and early researchers who will present a contribution to the conference. Please use the “General comments” section of the registration form, to ask for such support.

Outreach

We are planning a number of activities to involve the general public and raise awareness of the conference topic, and of astrophysics in general. Among these, public talks will be organized, followed by star parties, which will offer the public the opportunity to explore the sky with our telescopes.

If you have experience in giving public talks, please let us know! Preference will be given to Spanish language, but we can also provide simultaneous translation.

Conference poster

Printed versions of the conference poster have been sent to most astronomical institutes around the world. If your institute has not received the poster, please let us know, and we will send it.

Rationale

The Galactic bulge is a primary component of the Milky Way, comprising ~ 25% of its stellar mass. All major Galactic stellar populations intersect there, reaching their highest densities, thus making it truly a crossroads. Current theory suggests that the bulge is the most

ancient component of the Galaxy. Therefore, exploring the bulge is fundamental to understanding Galactic formation, structure and evolution.

Indeed, thanks to the advent of multiplexed spectrographs, and to the availability of resolved, wide-field NIR photometry, our knowledge of the structural, chemical and kinematical properties of the Galactic bulge has improved dramatically in the last few years.

Since 2013, when the last large international conference on the bulge was organized, progress has been truly impressive. New massively multiplexed spectroscopic surveys (Gaia-ESO Survey, APOGEE South, MOONS), new deeper NIR photometric surveys (e.g., VVVX, the extension of the VVV Survey) as well as Gaia have recently begun or will begin imminently. Concomitantly, ever more detailed studies of galaxies at high-redshift promise to catch bulges at the time of their formation.

At the same time, the interpretation of the accumulated data from this complex region is not straightforward, and many fundamental questions still remain to be answered. E.g. What is the age of the oldest stars? How was the metal-poor spheroid formed? What is the 3D shape of the bulge? What is the connection and interplay between the bulge and bar? How many bulge globular clusters are left to be found? What is the relationship of the central supermassive black hole with the bulge?

In this context, a conference on the Galactic bulge is now very timely, thanks to the host of exciting new results that are expected in 2018. To present and discuss them, and to begin building a consensus on their interpretation, we will gather the international astronomical community in December this year.

Conference Venue

The conference will be held in Pucon, which is a spectacular tourist town in the lovely south of Chile, surrounded by active volcanoes, beautiful lakes, national parks, etc. Pucon is a small, friendly, cozy town but boasts all of the infrastructure required to host a major international conference, as well as many attractive outdoor activities.

Conference Website

<http://www.eso.org/gbx2018>

Conference Fees

The registration fee is 250 Euros (or 150 Euros for students) including participation in the conference, the coffee breaks, and the conference dinner.

The registration fee is payable through the ESO shop via credit card, at the following link: <http://www.eso.org/sci/meetings/2018/gbx2018/payments.html>

Scientific Organizing Committee

Ivo Saviane (ESO, chair)	Doug Geisler (Concepcion)
Manuela Zoccali (PUC, co-chair)	Dante Minniti (UNAB)
Bruno Dias (ESO, co-chair)	Sergio Ortolani (Padova)
Lia Athanassoula (LAM)	Alvio Renzini (OAPD)
Beatriz Barbuy (Sao Paulo)	

Contact Information

gbx2018@eso.org

Proceedings

Proceedings will be published on the Zenodo platform (<https://zenodo.org>).

Invited speakers

INTRODUCTION

Alvio Renzini

REVIEW TALKS

Cristina Chiappini

Thorsten Naab

Natascha Forster-Schreiber

R. Michael Rich

Oscar Gonzalez

Juntai Shen

Andrea Kunder

Elena Valenti

INVITED TALKS – General

Beatriz Barbuy

David Nataf

Thomas Bensby

Alejandra Recio-Blanco

Roger Cohen

Alvaro Rojas-Arriagada

Victor Debattista

Ricardo Schiavon

Bruno Dias

Igor Soszynski

Noriyuki Matsunaga

Manuela Zoccali

Dante Minniti

INVITED TALKS – The Future

Livia Origlia

Heino Falcke

Michele Cirasuolo

CONFERENCE SUMMARY

Ivo Saviane