

galaxy-forming dark halos. Then, galaxies were assigned to individual dark halos based on the halo occupation distribution function, which is rather empirical. Finally, galaxies were assumed to have certain luminosities based on yet another empirically assumed mass-to-light distribution function. This same mass-to-light distribution function plays a critical role in allowing us to relate observations to the underlying actual structures. In other words, our conclusions based on observations can be hugely biased if we do not understand this function.

Mass and light are linked by the baryon fraction as well as the “laws” governing how high-mass stars form out of baryons. Star formation laws exist, but are not yet understood from first principles. Not even close! In fact, even just forming a luminous OB cluster is a highly non-trivial phenomenological problem. This is because the radiative feedback from the highest mass stars may destroy the parent molecular cloud as soon as they form. I therefore decided that my PhD thesis topic was to understand how OB stars

accrete, and what is the specific parent molecular cloud morphology that would permit the subsequent formation of lower mass stars.

My thesis supervisor was Paul Ho at ASIAA who was leading the SubMillimeter Array (SMA) project, which was the most powerful tool that could be used to spatially resolve detailed molecular cloud structures at that time. For the last three years of my PhD, I went on an exchange to the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics (CfA), to work with Qizhou Zhang. During these years, I had the opportunity to engage more with the SMA community and visited the National Radio Astronomy Observatory in Socorro for several months during the upgrade of the NRAO Karl G. Jansky Very Large Array (JVLA). I would specifically like to thank Melvyn Wright at Berkeley, who is still teaching me about radio interferometry (and writing in English).

After my PhD, I returned to ASIAA as a postdoctoral fellow, and that period also served to substitute for my military

service. My research area was significantly broadened during that time and I got my first masters students, Yuxin Lin and I-Hsiu Li — of whom I am extremely proud — to join my journey to investigate how amorphous low-density gas clouds evolve to become OB cluster-forming clouds, and to learn where and when dust grains grow in a protoplanetary disc. However, they were apparently too good as they ended up being recruited to join other researchers’ journeys, which I am also very glad about, of course.

These same years also coincided with the start of science operations for the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA). As ASIAA is a partner institution, I had the opportunity to experience ALMA operations first-hand. All of these experiences formed me and paved the way to my joining ESO as a postdoctoral fellow in Garching, as well as turning me into who I am now. I have also contributed to the report on the QUESO 2017 workshop (p. 46) in this issue of the ESO Messenger, which you might find of interest!

Personnel Movements

Arrivals (1 January–31 March 2018)

Europe

Bezawada, Nagaraja Naidu (UK)	Detector Engineer
Brandt, Daniel (DE)	IT Specialist Database Administrator
Dominguez-Faus, Lidia (ES)	Software Engineer
Gnatz, Amelie (DE)	Documentation Specialist
Hucke, Jannett (DE)	Internal Auditor
Jaillot, Caroline (FR)	Electronic Engineer
Pathak, Prashant (IN)	Fellow
Prole, Daniel (UK)	Student
Sanchis Melchor, Enrique (ES)	Student
Serra, Benoît (FR)	Fellow
Tax, Tomas (CZ)	Student
Vieser, Wolfgang (DE)	ESO Supernova Education Coordinator
Wallace, Mark (AU)	Control Engineer
Zanoni, Carlo (IT)	Opto-Mechanical Engineer

Chile

Bian, Fuyan (CN)	Operation Staff Astronomer
Courtney-Barrer, Benjamin (AU)	Telescope Instruments Operator
Figueira, Pedro (PT)	Operation Staff Astronomer
Leclercq, Julien (FR)	Mechanical Engineer
Parra, Ricardo (CL)	Optical Coating Engineer

Departures (1 January–31 March 2018)

Europe

Allaert, Eric (BE)	Senior Software Engineer
Ghiretti, Paolo (IT)	Civil Engineer
Gonzalez Fernandez, Ariadna Irene (ES)	Student
Zivkov, Viktor (DE)	Student

Chile

Cox, Pierre (FR)	Senior Scientist
Jaffe Ribbi, Yara Lorena (VE)	Fellow
Johnston, Evelyn (UK)	Fellow
Neumann, Justus (DE)	Student
Slusarenko, Nicolas (CL)	Software Engineer