Conference Program

The Legacy and Future of Large Surveys: The Milky Way in Context | Potsdam, 4-8 May 2026

Monday, 4 May

Morning session Chair: Else Starkenburg (Groningen, Netherlands)		
09:15 – 09:30	Ivan Minchev & Katja Poppenhäger *AIP, Germany*	Welcome and opening remarks
09:30 – 09:55	**Fred Watson** *Macquarie Univ., Australia*	Enabling RAVE and GALAH – How the AAO Cooked Up its High-Fibre Diet
09:55 – 10:20	**Hans-Walter Rix** *MPIA Heidelberg, Germany*	USIT: the Ultimate Spectroscopic Imaging Telescope
10:20 – 10:45	**David W. Hogg** *New York Univ., USA*	How do we operate extremely productive, global spectroscopic projects?
10:45 – 11:15	**COFFEE BREAK**	
11:15 – 11:40	**Amina Helmi** *Univ. of Groningen, Netherlands*	The Milky Way in its cosmological context
11:40 – 12:05	**Volker Springel** *MPA Garching, Germany*	Cosmological simulations of Milky Way look-alike galaxies
12:05 – 12:30	**Cecilia Scannapieco** *Univ. of Buenos Aires, Argentina*	Cosmological Simulations of the Formation of Milky Way–Mass Galaxies

12:30 – 14:00 LUNCH

Afternoon session Chair: Noam Libeskind (AIP, Germany)		
14:00 – 14:25	**Julio Navarro** *Univ. of Victoria, Canada*	Dark Matter Clues from the Milky Way Satellites
14:25 – 14:50	**Carlos Frenk** *Durham Univ. (ICC), UK*	Will LCDM survive to fight another day?
14:50 – 15:15	**Simon White** *MPA Garching, Germany*	Complementing Clues
15:15 – 15:45	**COFFEE BREAK**	
15:45 – 16:10	**Guinevere Kauffmann** *MPA Garching, Germany*	Integral field spectroscopic study of stellar and ionized gas properties around edge-on disc galaxies in the stellar mass range 9 < log M* < 11
16:10 – 16:35	**Lutz Wisotzki** *AIP, Germany*	The MUSE Lyman-alpha view of galaxy assembly in the young universe
16:35 – 17:00	**Jarle Brinchmann** *Leiden Univ., Netherlands*	MUSE-Faint: Dissecting the faintest galaxies with MUSE

Tuesday, 5 May

	Morning session 1: Chair: Ivan Minchev (AIP, Germany)	
09:30 – 09:55	**Günther Hasinger** *DZA, Germany*	Cosmic Multimessenger Signals and the German Center for Astrophysics
09:55 – 10:20	**James Binney** *Univ. of Oxford, UK*	Normal modes and stellar dynamics
10:20 – 10:45	**Arnaud Siebert** *Obs. de Strasbourg, France*	Galactic structure and dynamics with Gaia and WEAVE
10:45 – 11:15	**COFFEE BREAK**	
	Morning session 2: Chair: David W. Hogg (New York Univ., USA)	
11:15 – 11:40	**Alice Quillen** *Univ. of Rochester, USA*	Galactic Resonance out of equilibrium
11:40 – 12:05	**Léa Marques** *AIP, Germany*	The interaction and importance of bars and spirals in MW-like galaxies
12:05 – 12:30	**Georges Kordopatis** *Obs. de la Côte d'Azur, France*	Direct Evidence for Radial Migration from Large Spectroscopic Surveys

12:30 – 14:00 LUNCH

	Afternoon session 1: Chair: Amina Helmi (Groningen, Netherlands)	
14:00 – 14:25	**Elena D'Onghia** *Univ. of Wisconsin–Madison, USA*	Fossil Records of the Milky Way's Merger History in the Structure of its Disk
14:25 – 14:50	**Chervin Laporte** *Paris Obs., France*	Build-up and survival of the disc: from numerical models of galaxy formation to the Milky Way
14:50 – 15:15	**Ivan Minchev** *AIP, Germany*	Radial migration effect on estimates of disk galaxies SFH - the MW in context
15:15 – 15:45	**COFFEE BREAK**	
	Afternoon session 2: Chair: Georges Kordopatis (Obs. de la Côte d'Azur, France)	
15:45 – 16:10	**Olivier Bienaymé** *Obs. de Strasbourg, France*	RAVE and Gaia -- Stellar kinematics and integrals of motion
16:10 – 16:35	**Gabriele Cescutti** *Univ. of Trieste, Italy*	Galactic Archaeology with neutron capture elements
16:35 – 17:00	**Guillaume Guiglion** *ZAH Heidelberg, Germany*	From RAVE to Gaia and 4MOST: the power of machine-learning for Galactic Archaeology

Wednesday, 6 May

	Morning session 1: Chair: Gabriele Cescutti (Univ. of Trieste, Italy)	
09:30 – 09:55	**Else Starkenburg** *Univ. of Groningen, Netherlands*	New views on the metal-poor Milky Way halo
09:55 – 10:20	**Andrea Kunder** *Saint Martin's Univ., USA*	The Milky Way Bulge Extra-Tidal Star Survey (MWBest)
10:20 – 10:45	**Cristina Chiappini** *AIP, Germany*	Galactic Bulge: early chemical enrichment
10:45 – 11:15	**COFFEE BREAK**	
	Morning session 2: Chair: Chervin Laporte (Paris Obs., France)	
11:15 – 11:40	**Wolfgang Hillebrandt** *MPA Garching, Germany*	A New Cosmic Ruler: Measuring Hubble's Constant with Type IIP Supernovae
11:40 – 12:05	**Noam Libeskind** *AIP, Germany*	Cosmology and cosmography from peculiar velocities
12:05 – 12:30	**Stefan Gottlöber** *AIP, Germany*	Clues to the beginning

Conference Picture at 12:30

12:40 – 14:00 LUNCH

	Afternoon session Chair: Cristina Chiappini (AIP, Germany)	
14:00 – 14:25	**Franziska Piontek** *PIK Potsdam, Germany*	Modeling across scales: from galaxy formation to social costs of carbon
14:25 – 14:50	**Tilmann Piffl** *Excelitas Deutschland, Germany*	Almost full circle: from astrophysics to data science to optical engineering
14:50 – 15:15	**Iliya Nickelt** *BMZ, Germany*	Everything but the universe – AI as a cosmos of its own
15:15 – 15:45	**COFFEE BREAK**	
15:45 – 16:10	**Arman Khalatyan** *AIP, Germany*	Talk to the Data — Enabling Reproducibility in Modern Astronomy
16:10 – 16:35	**Discussion**	**DISCUSSION Leaders: Else Starkenburg (Groningen, Netherlands), Hans-Walter Rix (MPIA Heidelberg, Germany)**
16:35 – 17:00	**Matthias Steinmetz** *AIP, Germany*	Remarks

19:00 – 22:00 **CONFERENCE DINNER** Restaurant El Puerto, Lange Brücke 6, 14467 Potsdam

Thursday, 7 May

	Morning session 1: Chair: Jakob Walcher (AIP, Germany)	
09:30 – 09:55	**Jeremy Bailin** *Univ. of Alabama, USA*	CoSANG: Simulating a Sample of Stellar Halos
09:55 – 10:20	**Michael Rauch** *Carnegie Observatories, USA*	Accretion from the IGM
10:20 – 10:45	**Christoph Pfrommer** *AIP, Germany*	Feedback in galaxy formation
10:45 – 11:15	**COFFEE BREAK**	
	Morning session 2: Chair: Maria-Rosa Cioni (AIP, Germany)	
11:15 – 11:40	**Anthony Brown** *Leiden Univ., Netherlands*	Reflections on the Gaia mission
11:40 – 12:05	**Steven Majewski** *Univ. of Virginia, USA*	The Hidden Galaxy Explorer Program in After Sloan V
12:05 – 12:30	**Borja Anguiano** *CEFCA Teruel, Spain*	J-ATLAS: Javalambre Andromeda and Triangulum Legacy Astrophysical Survey

12:30 – 14:00 LUNCH

	Afternoon session 1 Chair: Anthony Brown (Leiden Univ., Netherlands)	
14:00 – 14:25	**Gerry Gilmore & Gudrun Tausch-Pebody** *IoA Cambridge, UK / IA-FORTH Crete, Greece*	Early light-bending tests of General Relativity: the good, the bad and the ugly
14:25 – 14:50	**Maria-Rosa Cioni** *AIP, Germany*	The Clouds, please to meet you
14:50 – 15:15	**Roelof de Jong** *AIP, Germany*	4MOST and future spectroscopic surveys
15:15 – 15:45	**COFFEE BREAK**	
	Afternoon session 2 Chair: Roelof de Jong (AIP, Germany)	
15:45 – 16:10	**Roland Bacon** *CRAL Lyon, France*	The Wide-Field Spectroscopic Telescope: A Transformative Facility for Galactic Spectroscopic Surveys
16:10 – 16:35	**Martin M. Roth** *AIP, Germany*	Crowded-field spectroscopy -towards Extragalactic Archaeology
16:35 – 17:00	**Marica Valentini** *AIP, Germany*	Sneak Peek into 4MOST-DR0: Spectroscopic Follow-up of Solar-like Oscillating Red Giants

Friday, 8 May

	Morning session Chair: Andrea Kunder (Saint Martin's Univ., USA)	
09:30 – 09:55	**Michael Kramer** *MPIfR Bonn, Germany*	MPIfR MeerKAT Galactic Plane survey
09:55 – 10:20	**Tomaž Zwitter** *Univ. of Ljubljana, Slovenia*	RAVEing a career
10:20 – 10:45	**Kseniia Sysoliatina** *AIP, Germany*	Modeling the Milky Way Disk: Constraints from the White Dwarf Population
10:45 – 11:15	**COFFEE BREAK**	
11:15 – 11:40	**Philipp Richter** *Univ. of Potsdam, Germany*	The gaseous halo of the Milky Way
11:40 – 12:05	**Martin Haehnelt** *Univ. of Cambridge, UK*	The Past, Present and Future of Damped Lyman Alpha absorption
12:05 – 12:30	**Discussion**	**Final discussion and concluding remarks Leaders: Elena D'Onghia (Wisconsin–Madison, USA), Julio Navarro (Victoria, Canada), Roelof de Jong (AIP, Germany)**

12:30 – 14:00 LUNCH and departure

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