COMMISSION H1
THE LOCAL UNIVERSE
(L’UNIVERS LOCAL)

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The IAU Commission H1 “The Local Universe” presently unites 343 members. Our Commission focuses on studies of the Milky Way and nearby galaxies, where we can resolve galaxies into stars. Extensive observational and theoretical research is going on in order to understand galaxy formation history and evolution.

We expect the revolutionary scientific discoveries from the Webb Space Telescope, launched on December 25, 2021 by the NASA and its partners, ESA (European Space Agency) and the Canadian Space Agency. Thousands of engineers and hundreds of scientists worked to make Webb a reality, along with over 300 universities, organizations, and companies from 29 U.S. states and 14 countries.

Exciting new scientific results are coming from the ESA Gaia and other space telescopes and from the ground-based surveys like Gaia-ESO Public Survey, VVVX Public Survey, VMC Public Survey, GALAH, SDSS, RAVE, LAMOST and many others. Current and forthcoming facilities as well as theoretical studies will yield a deeper understanding of our local Universe.

Commission H1 The Local Universe Seminars

We are pleased to report that our commission has launched a new online seminar series. The seminars are primarily for IAU commission H1 members, but are open to everyone who has interest in the Local Universe.

In the past two years, whereas many conferences were canceled due to COVID-19, rich experiences of online meetings opened new possibilities to promote exchanging scientific achievements and ideas between members of our commission who have many common interests.

The organizing committee decided to start a seminar series that are held via Zoom approximately once per month and cover both hot topics and long-term work.
The seminars are recorded and listed for asynchronous viewing on the newly created IAU Commission H1 “The Local Universe” Seminars YouTube Channel:  [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyH2KzKFVPmABOIJfgBtJ5g](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCyH2KzKFVPmABOIJfgBtJ5g)

Since January 13, 2022, the seminar presentations have been viewed more than 540 times in the two-month period.

IAU highlights our seminars at:  [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCc3I9q-N0NA05vIYeNMmtTw](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCc3I9q-N0NA05vIYeNMmtTw)

Potential speakers of the seminars can fill the online application form:  [https://bit.ly/3AtmGP3](https://bit.ly/3AtmGP3) or send their proposals to Commission H1 Secretary via email.

Past Seminar talks:

4) February 3, 2022, Highlight talk by Grazina Tautvaišienė (Vilnius University, Lithuania) “Gaia-ESO Survey: Detailed elemental abundances in red giants of the peculiar globular cluster NGC 1851”.
5) March 2, 2022, Keynote talk by Ricardo Schiavon (Liverpool John Moores University) “The inner halo of the Milky Way”.

Conferences and other meetings

The Commission Web Page contains a list of conferences, workshops, summer schools, and other meetings related to the thematic of Commission H1. Due to the still continuing pandemic situation the number of meetings is smaller than during previous years, we listed 19 meetings for 2021 and 24 meetings in 2022 by now.

Appeal to the scientific community

In spite of all the great recent progress in the study of the local Universe, we cannot stand aside of the totally unacceptable and unjustified military invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation, in complete disregard for internationally recognized borders, in flagrant violation of international law, and in damaging scientific work and collaboration. We urge all scientists, including those in the Russian Federation, to do their best in stopping the war and call everyone to help our colleagues who suffer from the consequences of the military actions.