

Habitats of massive stars across cosmic time



Save the date: 17-21 Aug 2026.

Cologne-Bonn Symposium 2026 - Habitats of Massive Stars Across Cosmic Time

Dear colleagues,

We are delighted to announce the **Cologne-Bonn Symposium: Habitats of massive stars across cosmic time**, which will take place **17-21 August 2026** at the **University of Cologne**, continuing the series of the former Zermatt-Cologne-Bonn-Chile Symposia.

Scientific program: The program will cover the habitats of massive stars in our Galaxy and at high redshift, discussing the physics and chemistry of star formation and stellar feedback.

Massive stars shape the evolution of galaxies through their intense radiation, feedback and ultimate deaths, yet their habitats and impact vary widely across cosmic time. Understanding the life cycle of baryonic matter, the chemical enrichment of the Universe and the regulation of star formation requires two major steps: first, **bridging the large dynamic range in scale** from sub-parsec dense clumps where stars are born up to hundreds of kiloparsecs in the circumgalactic medium that is affected by their feedback, and second, **comparing environments** that range from quiescent, nearby spiral galaxies to turbulent, high-redshift starbusts. **This symposium aims to unite experts in observations, theory, simulations, laboratory astrophysics and instrumentation to identify the key physical and chemical processes governing the formation and impact of massive stars in their diverse cosmic habitats.** The main questions to be addressed will focus on how universal the massive star formation process is across these diverse environments, how efficient stellar feedback is in dispersing different media, and whether the processes and structures observed locally are universal across the Universe.

The list of invited speakers will be announced by the end of this year. The program will be complemented by **contributed talks** as well as **poster sessions**.

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Registration will open early 2026. The registration fee includes participation, a welcome reception, an excursion on Wednesday afternoon and the conference dinner with a scientific event on Thursday evening. Early bird registration ends **15 May 2026**. Please note that payment will only be accepted by credit card through our online interface. A list of recommended hotels near the venue can be found on the conference website. We strongly advise early booking as Cologne is a popular tourist destination.

Abstract submission deadline for contributed talks and posters: **30 May 2026**.

More details and updates can be found on our website:
<https://sfb1601.astro.uni-koeln.de/symposium2026/>

For further questions contact the LOC: loc-msf2026@ph1.uni-koeln.de

We warmly invite you to join us in Cologne for what promises to be a stimulating and collaborative meeting on the frontiers of massive star research!

With best regards,
The Local and Scientific Organizing Committee