



THIRD CIRCULAR

The **Cologne-Bonn Symposium on the habitats of massive stars across cosmic time** will be held at the Main building/Hauptgebäude (Gebäude 100) of the University of Cologne, Germany. It is organized by the Collaborative Research Centre 1601 (SFB 1601).

The conference webpage can be found at
<https://sfb1601.astro.uni-koeln.de/symposium2026/>

Invited Speakers

Giuliana Cosentino
 Robin Garrod
 Jacqueline Hodge
 Ralf Klessen
 Janice Lee
 Anna McLeod
 Peter Schilke
 Kei Tanaka

Scientific Committee

Frank Bigiel
 Pierre Cox
 Arshia Jacob
 René Oudmaijer
 Elena Redaelli
 Anna Rosen
 Marta Sewilo
 Stefanie Walch-Gassner

Local Organising Committee

Emma Bordier
 Francesca Borg
 Isabelle Breloy
 Petra Fackendahl
 Constantina Fotopoulou-Rathjen
 Ying-Chi Hu
 Volker Ossenkopf-Okada
 Tatiana Rodriguez
 Daniel Seifried
 Robert Simon
 Sven Thorwirth
 Stefanie Walch-Gassner

General information

Venue

The symposium will take place in the Main building/Hauptgebäude (Gebäude 100) of the University of Cologne, Germany (Albertus-Magnus-Platz). Please note that the daily programme kicks off at 09:00 in the morning.

Registration desk

The registration desk will open at 08:00 on Monday morning. As we expect a high number of arrivals at this time, we kindly ask for your patience. If the desk is very busy when you arrive, feel free to head into the sessions and pick up your name tag during one of the coffee breaks on the first day. Finally, in an effort to reduce waste, remember to return your name tag to the registration desk before you depart.

Your name tag

If you participate in the conference dinner, you will find vouchers for 2 drinks in the inside. When unfolding your nametag, you will also find information about the conference events.

Please ensure you wear your name tag when visiting the Mensa (campus cafeteria) during the symposium, as it will serve as your official guest identification, granting you access to the guest price.

Contact Person

If you need immediate assistance during the symposium, or if you witness or experience any violation of the Code of Conduct, please do not hesitate to reach out. Look for someone wearing a **Contact Person** tag or speak directly with our main coordinator, **Stefanie Walch-Gassner**. You can also contact us at the registration desk or any time via email at loc-msf2026@ph1.uni-koeln.de.

Directions

The conference venue as well as the conference dinner place are easily accessible by public transport. We suggest obtaining a public transport mobile app, such as the “Kölner Verkehrsbetriebe” (KVB-App), the Deutsche Bahn (DB) app, or “citymapper” for directions within the city.

- **Public transport:** The venue University Main Building can best be reached by tram no.9 (stop “Universität”) and the bus lines 130 and 142. Alternatively, the regional trains RB48, RB26 or RE5 stop at “Köln Süd” (note that this station has no elevator), which is slightly farther away.
- **Parking:** There is no parking in close vicinity to the conference venue. We recommend checking into parking opportunities close to your accommodation and use public transport to get to the venue.
- **Travel from/to CGN airport:** To get from Cologne-Bonn Airport to Cologne central station (Köln Hbf), use the regional train lines RE6/RB27/RB26 or S19 which departs in regular intervals of 20 min during daytime.
- You can explore Zülpicher Straße and its surroundings on this interactive map which features the venue, public transport stops, and local restaurants and cafes.

Scientific programme & contributions

Scientific Programme

The conference focuses on the habitats of massive stars across cosmic time. The schedule incorporates time for discussions to foster collaboration and explore future prospects as a community. Because our schedule is quite tight, we kindly ask all speakers to strictly adhere to their allocated times. We also request that audience members keep their questions short and concise. Coffee breaks and dedicated discussion slots will provide the perfect opportunity to explore deeper questions and continue the scientific dialogue.

Talk formats are scheduled as follows:

- **Invited talks:** 25 minutes + 5 minutes for questions.
- **Contributed talks:** 12 minutes + 3 minutes for questions.
- **Poster presentations:** 1-minute flash talk to introduce the topic.

Monday		Tuesday		Wednesday		Thursday		Friday	
08:00 – 09:00	Registration								
09:00 – 09:10	Opening remarks	09:00 – 10:30	S3: <i>Massive star formation and feedback in diverse environments</i>	09:00 – 10:30	S5: <i>Resolving the birthplaces of massive stars</i>	09:00 – 10:45	S7: <i>Large-scale surveys of the star formation landscape</i>	09:00 – 10:30	S8: <i>Stellar feedback and the evolution of the ISM</i>
09:10 – 10:40	S1: <i>The ISM and star formation across cosmic time</i>								
10:40 – 11:10	Coffee Break	10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break	10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break	10:45 – 11:15	Coffee Break	10:30 – 11:00	Coffee Break
11:10 – 11:55	S1: <i>The ISM and star formation across cosmic time</i>	11:00 – 12:00	S3: <i>Massive star formation and feedback in diverse environments</i>	11:00 – 12:00	S5: <i>Resolving the birthplaces of massive stars</i>	11:15 – 13:05	S7: <i>Large-scale surveys of the star formation landscape</i>	11:00 – 12:30	S8: <i>Stellar feedback and the evolution of the ISM</i>
11:55 – 12:30	Poster Flash Presentations: <i>PI</i>	12:00 – 12:30	Poster Flash Presentations: <i>PII</i>	12:00 – 12:30	Poster Flash Presentations: <i>PIII</i>				
12:30 – 14:00	Lunch Break	12:30 – 14:00	Lunch Break Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Lunch	12:30 – 14:00	Lunch Break Early Career Researchers Lunch	13:05 – 15:00	Lunch Break	12:30 – 14:00	Lunch Break
14:00 – 15:30	S2: <i>Modelling the ISM</i>	14:00 – 15:45	S4: <i>The chemistry of massive star formation</i>	14:00 – 15:15	S6: <i>Observing the stellar Feedback</i>			14:00 – 15:30	S9: <i>Magnetic fields and non-thermal processes in SFRs</i>
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee Break	15:45 – 16:15	Coffee Break	15:15 – 15:30	Poster Flash Presentations: <i>PIV</i>	15:00 – 17:30	Excursion / Free Afternoon	15:30 – 15:45	Closing Remarks
16:00 – 17:00	S2: <i>Modelling the ISM</i>	16:15 – 17:45	S4: <i>The chemistry of massive star formation</i>	15:30 – 16:30	Poster Session & Coffee Break			15:45 – 16:15	Coffee Break
17:00 – 18:00	Poster Session			16:30 – 17:30	S6: <i>Observing the stellar Feedback</i>				
18:00 – 19:00	Welcome Reception	18:30	Social Run			18:30	Conference Dinner		
				19:00 – 21:00	Public Talks				

A detailed program is available for download on our website.

Online access

For participants joining us virtually, all sessions will be broadcasted live via Zoom and the accompanying questions and discussions will be organized and stored through a Slack channel. The links to connect to Zoom and the Slack channel can be found in the email accompanying this circular.

To ensure a smooth hybrid experience, please stay muted while others are presenting. You may ask questions

by typing them into the chat, or use the raise hand feature and the session chair will call you to ask your question out loud. We greatly appreciate your cooperation.

Posters

Posters should be printed in standard **A0 portrait** format. Dedicated frames will be set up in the hall and everyone is welcome to hang their posters starting Monday morning. You will be assigned a poster number at the registration desk; please hang your poster in the corresponding space to make it easier for other participants to locate it.

In addition, we offer a 1 min poster flash talk for each poster. For this, please prepare a presentation with 1 slide in 16:9 format.

Upload your talk and poster flash presentation

It is mandatory that you upload your presentation before 20:00 (CEST) the day preceding your session.

Only .pptx and .pdf format will be accepted.

Please name your file as:

- Poster pitch: Postersession-Posternumber-lastname.pptx/pdf
- Talk: T-Sessionnumber-lastname.pptx/pdf

Please use the upload link provided in the email accompanying this circular.

Conference activities & Social programme

Monday welcome reception

Right after Monday's poster session, we invite you to join us for a welcome reception at 18:00 in the hall of the main building. With drinks and light snacks provided, it will be the perfect opportunity to catch up with colleagues and continue your scientific discussions.

Coffee breaks and lunches

Coffee breaks will take place just outside of the Aula.

Lunch is not organized by the conference, but there are many options around the University campus. The lunch breaks are 1.5 hours long.

The Kölner Studentenwerk runs several canteens in which attendees can benefit from "guest" rates by showing their name tag, while students from any German university are eligible for a lower student price (details available here). Note that only cashless payments are accepted.

- The closest bistro to the venue is the Uni E-Raum, located just one floor below the Aula.
- For a larger variety of warm dishes, including vegan and vegetarian options, we recommend the main Mensa, a 5-minute walk away from the symposium venue (Zülpicher Straße 70). Food is served between 11:30 and 14:30. You can check their daily menus here.
- Alternatively, the nearby Zülpicher Straße offers a wide variety of restaurants.
- Supermarkets like Aldi, Penny, and Rewe also have some fast-food options and can be found within walking distance (10-15 minutes) from the symposium venue.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) lunch

We warmly invite you to join our EDI Lunch, on **Tuesday, August 18 at 12:30**. Over a shared lunch provided

by the organizers, participants will have the opportunity to meet colleagues, exchange experiences, and discuss how we can foster a more inclusive, accessible, and supportive astrophysics community.

Small-group discussions will cover topics such as inclusion in large collaborations, support for early-career researchers, accessibility and neurodiversity, mobility and caregiving, work-life balance, and respectful research cultures. Everyone is welcome, from students to senior researchers, and no prior expertise or preparation is required.

If you wish to attend, please register in advance on our website under the "Events" tab. The registration will close one week before the event, that is, Tuesday August 11. Due to room restrictions, the capacity of the event is unfortunately limited to 40 participants and priority will be given to registered participants. If the room capacity is reached and there are still people who want to participate, we encourage you to still have lunch together and network at a Mensa or restaurant nearby.

Early Career Researchers (ECR) Lunch

We invite early career researchers to attend our ECR Lunch, which will take place on **Wednesday, August 19 at 12:30**. We will have an informal Q&A panel format event and lunch will be provided by the organizers. We will have four invited panellists from different career paths in astrophysics - academia, industry, and the German Aerospace Center (DLR). Attendees will have the opportunity to ask the panellists questions about their current positions, their previous experience, the process of job hunting in Germany, and the opportunities available to them during and after pursuing academic careers in astrophysics research.

More information about our panellists as well as the registration form for the event are available on our website under the "Events" tab. The registration will close one week before the event, that is, Wednesday August 12. Due to room restrictions, the capacity of the event is unfortunately limited to 30 participants and priority will be given to registered participants. If the room capacity is reached and there are still people who want to participate, we encourage you to still have lunch together and network at a Mensa or restaurant nearby.

Social run

Pack your running shoes! We will organize an informal, easy-paced social run on Tuesday evening. We will meet at **18:30** in front of the registration desk. Your luggage can be stored securely.

Waltraut Seitter Award Talk by Thomas Salomon

We are pleased to welcome Thomas Salomon, laureate of the 2026 Waltraut Seitter Prize, for a special 20 minutes lecture. He will present his research on high-resolution leak-out spectroscopy of protonated acetonitrile (CH_3CNH^+), highlighting the role of laboratory spectroscopy in unveiling the molecular complexity of astrophysical environments.

Public Talks

Join us for a special evening of public astronomy talks on **Wednesday, August 19 at 19:00** in the University Main Building. Three engaging talks by outstanding local speakers will explore fascinating topics in modern astrophysics, with one talk in English and two in German. Whether you are a conference participant or simply curious about the Universe, everyone is warmly welcome. More information on the flyer at the end of this document.

Public Observatory

A visit to the Public Observatory Cologne, which hosts a 60 cm refractor "Cologne Large Telescope" (CLT) installed in 2012, will be offered right after the public talk. The space is limited to 20 people, sign up for this special tour at the registration desk.

Excursion

Discover Cologne's rich history on a guided walking tour through the city's historic centre on **Thursday, August 20, from 15:00–17:30**. Explore the city's Roman origins, medieval heritage, and modern development, with a special focus on the iconic Cologne Cathedral (UNESCO World Heritage Site) and the stories that have

shaped the city over the centuries.

Note that participation is only possible if you signed up for it during registration. The tour will take place in small groups, with members of the LOC accompanying participants to the meeting point and throughout the excursion. For more information about the tour, please visit the following webpage: Cologne Tourism .

Meeting point and time: 15:00 at “Kreuzblume”, in front of the main entrance of Cologne Cathedral (Dom). The QR code on your badge will lead you there.

Conference dinner

Participants who registered for the conference dinner are welcome on **Thursday, August 20, starting at 18:30**, at Herbrand’s (see map), dinner is served at 19:00. Located in a former industrial building in the hip neighbourhood of Ehrenfeld. Herbrand’s is a restaurant, club, and beer garden that perfectly combines a traditional Kölsch atmosphere with modern urban style.

The evening will feature a delicious ”summer buffet” and music! Furthermore, as a special scientific highlight, **Jürgen Stutzki** will deliver a talk detailing the fascinating history and ongoing developments of the CCAT project.

Final information

If you have any further questions regarding logistics, travel, or the scientific programme, please do not hesitate to reach out to the Local Organizing Committee (LOC) at: **loc-msf2026@ph1.uni-koeln.de**.

This symposium is supported and organized by the Collaborative Research Centre 1601 (SFB 1601), funded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG).

We look forward to welcoming you! We wish you all a fruitful conference, inspiring scientific discussions, and a beautiful week connecting with colleagues here in Cologne.



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PUBLIC TALKS

Scientists explain astronomy

as part of the Cologne-Bonn Symposium: Habitats of massive stars across cosmic time



19 August 2026



19:00-21:00



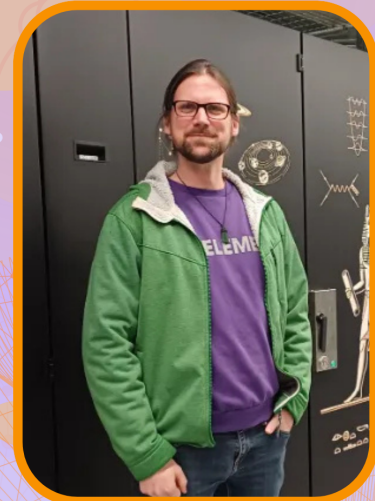
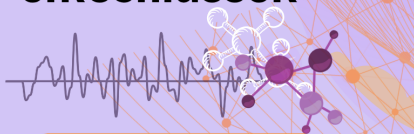
Simon Dannhauer

**Astronomie in
luftiger Höhe**



Eline Plaar

**Spektrale
Fingerabdrücke: Wie
Laborarbeit das
Universum
entschlüsselt**



Dr. Tim-Eric Rathjen

**The Universe
inside a computer**



FREE ENTRANCE -



Aula I, Hauptgebäude

Albertus-Magnus-Platz I, 50931 Köln



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