

THE COSMIC DAWN CENTER

NEWSLETTER

Date: February 2021

FUNDING

[Georgios Magdis receives Villum Young Investigator Plus grant to investigate the beginning of galaxies.](#)



He was previously awarded the *Villum Young Investigator* grant to investigate the history of our Universe approximately 10 billion years ago. With the *Villum Young Investigator Plus*, he will be able to look even further into the past, to the first few billion years of galaxy evolution, using data from the Atacama Large Millimeter Array (ALMA) and the James Webb Telescope. The grant period is 3 years and will support a PHD student and a postdoc.

Awarded to Thomas Greve: [Carlsberg Foundation Young Researcher Fellowships for the project: Protoclusters and Supermassive Black Holes.](#)

The project aims to shed new light on how galaxy clusters formed and evolved with cosmic time and how powerfully accreting supermassive black holes at the centres of the clusters affected the cluster evolution. It will do so by making use of new comprehensive surveys of distant galaxy clusters conducted at multiple wavelengths and state-of-the-art numerical simulations.



BETTER IT SUPPORT FOR RESEARCHERS

In December 2020, the Research Support section celebrated its first year anniversary. Since it was established, the section has helped many researchers solve their diverse research tasks at the University of Copenhagen. [Read the full article here.](#)



In particular, the section participated in migrating the UCPH-researchers' data from the old to the new version of the Supercomputer, [Computerome 2.0](#), which is administrated by UCPH and the Technical University of Denmark DTU. Although this task is ending, IT will continue to assist the actual users and potential users of Computerome 2.0. [More info on free access here.](#)

COVID-19 UPDATE

Campus remains closed

The Government has extended the restrictions that apply to UCPH and higher education in general. The University is closed until **6 April**. All travelling abroad is subject to approval by a faculty director prior to departure. Restrictions on teaching and exams apply until **1 April**. All restrictions concerning attending and moving about at UCPH apply until new guidelines are announced.

ESA SEEKS NEW ASTRONAUNTS

For the first time in over a decade, The European Space Agency (ESA) is seeking new astronauts. [This one-hour-long briefing with ESA experts and astronauts outlines the selection criteria and desirable traits for astronauts.](#) It also provides further detail around the Parastronaut Feasibility Project and astronaut reserve, as well as ESA's vision for the next 10 years of human and robotic exploration. [More on careers at ESA here](#)

LISTEN IN ON A ML DEBATE

How should ML penetrate the natural sciences? Do we need ML institutes? An [online debate](#) on the role of ML Institutes / DATA Science Centers in research and education will be held on **3 March at 18:00 CET**.


Online meetings on Zoom: <https://ucsc.zoom.us/j/99827600406?pwd=VkNZVk5NaTFpWXcrdXNlcWJKV2JuZz09>


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UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

Next month we will celebrate 6 birthdays at DAWN!

 Gabriel Brammer

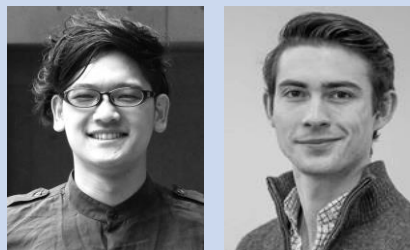
 Joonas Vuihoo

 Seiji Fujimoto

 John Weaver

 Charles Steinhardt

 Kate Whitaker



WELCOME AND FAREWELL

Welcome to Secretary **Helena Baungaard Sørensen**, who started at DAWN 1 February 2021!



She received her MSc in Global Marketing & Innovation Management from the University of

Southern Denmark and brings along a tool box full of administrative experience from positions at NGOs and The Danish Lung Association.

Welcome to DAWN Fellow **Francesca Rizzo** who joined 1 December 2020!

She received her PhD from the Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität in Munich under the supervision of Dr.



Simona Vegetti and Prof. Simon White at the Max Planck Institute for Astrophysics in Garching. During her PhD, she developed a tool that allows the use of gravitational lensing for studying distant galaxies.

Welcome to Peter Daniel Johannsen. He will join DAWN as Student Helper starting 1 March 2021!



Farewell to Research Assistant and Student Helper Christian Kragh Jespersen. Tak!



UPCOMING EVENTS

IAU Early Career Astronomer (ECA) Online Discourse Series

This virtual series contains career discussions in academia and industry, multifaceted science highlights, and professional development trainings. All events tailored to early career astronomers. Participation is free. All you have to do is fill out the event registration form no later than **24 March** (UTC) in advance of the subsequent event: <https://forms.gle/sWoB7uxT2sWKEJQg8>

25 March: 16:00-17:00 UTC / 17:00-18:00 CET

"Satellite Mega-Constellations and Astronomy: the phantom menace, or a new hope?"

Dr. Olivier Hainaut (ESO)

29 April: 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM AEST


"Quantifying and Managing Uncertainty"


Dr Richard Scalzo (DARE, University of Sydney)


27 May 2021: 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM AEST


"Exploring the Universe Without Costing the Earth"

Dr Natasha Hurley-Walker (Curtin University)

 DG Annual Report Deadline **26 March**

 Easter Break: **1 – 5 April**

 DG Annual Meeting - **17 May**

 [Where the Earth Meets the Sky 27-28 May 2021](#)

Deadline abstract submission: **1 March**

 DAWN Summer Program 2021: SURF@DAWN
DAWN IRES Summer Program
Dates: TBD

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WHAT IS FASTELAVN AND HOW DID THE TRADITION START?

Danes don't mind admitting that some of the Danish traditions seem rather weird even to the modern Dane and to visitors. Take "Fastelavn" for example, with a tradition dating back to the 16th century, it is a mixture of Halloween and a carnival event that took place in the Northern European, historically Lutheran nations, of Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Iceland, the Faroe Islands and more recently in Greenland.

Fastelavn is celebrated in February and children dress up in costumes to take turns hitting a wooden barrel filled with candy and treats. It's similar to a piñata, although instead of sweets, a live black cat was traditionally inside of the barrel.

(But don't worry! Nowadays, the cat has been switched out for the sweets and the barrel is simply decorated with a painted version of a black cat).



By tradition, the Fastelavn game known as *slå katten af tønden* ("hit the barrel until the cat falls out") occurred following the church service of [Shrove Sunday](#) in parishes of the [Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark](#). The barrel ritual has been practiced for centuries and the same rules still apply today. The game continues until the entire barrel is broken. The one who knocks the bottom off the barrel (causing all of the candy to spill out) becomes the *kattedronning* ("queen of cats"); the one who knocks off the last piece of the barrel becomes the *kattekonge* ("king of cats").

The tradition was possibly introduced by Dutch immigrants who came to Copenhagen during the reign of [Christian II of Denmark](#) in the early 1500s. Historically, it was believed that beating the barrel and chasing the black cat symbolized demolishing evil and chasing it away. This was practiced up until the 1800s, with the last known event occurring in the 1880s. The cat was not killed, but allowed to escape when the barrel was broken. The practice was also popular in Holland and similar events were known to take place in Germany, called "*Katzenschlagen*".

Today, Fastelavn is mostly a fun tradition kept alive by young children at daycare institutions and primary schools. The best part of Fastelavn for adults is the *Fastelavnsboller*. (Parents used to get ritually flogged with a Shrovetide Rod or *fastelavnsris*, by their children as a wakeup call on the morning of Fastelavns Sunday!). Certainly more enjoyable than the flogging, *Fastelavnbollers* are sweet choux buns with thick cream in the middle and come in a variety of flavors typically with a bit of chocolate on top. They are delicious and you can buy them almost everywhere in bakeries and grocery stores. If you are interested in learning more about Fastelavn, its origin and its traditions, you can click [here](#).

