

Title:

The role of galaxy mergers on galaxy evolution and the baryon cycle

Abstract:

Galaxy mergers are predicted to play a critical role in the life cycle of galaxies. In keeping with the observational motivations for this meeting, I will review our current empirical picture of the galaxy merger process that has been informed through recent large surveys. The combination of traditional survey methods with contemporary innovations such as massive panchromatic databases, 3-dimensional spectral mapping and sophisticated statistical methods have provided an unprecedented assessment of the role of galaxy mergers on morphologies, star formation, the interstellar medium and AGN triggering. Finally, I will speculate on some important contributions that could be made with future instrumentation, such as JWST and Euclid.