What are the OPC Categories?

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What are the OPC Categories?

The Observing Programmes Committee (OPC) is the body in charge of reviewing, evaluating on scientific merit, and ranking the proposals submitted in response to a call for the use of ESO observing facilities of the La Silla Paranal Observatory and thereby advise the Director General on the distribution of observing time, taking account of ESO's scientific policy. The OPC is assisted in its task by Expert Panels covering specific scientific areas, called Categories. The OPC Categories are listed below. When submitting a proposal, the Principal Investigator and Co-investigators are requested to choose the appropriate OPC category for their proposal.

More information can be found here.

As of P110, Distributed Peer Review (DPR) has been introduced at ESO to decrease the load on the OPC and Panels.

A - COSMOLOGY AND THE INTERGALACTIC MEDIUM

A1	Galaxies in their environment (e.g. galaxies in groups and clusters, merging galaxies, galaxy interactions, ram-pressure stripping of galaxies in groups and clusters)
A2	Global properties of galaxy groups, clusters and proto-structures including the intracluster medium
A3	Dark matter and gravitational lensing
A4	Intergalactic medium, circumgalactic medium and intervening absorption systems (e.g. Lyman alpha clouds, damped Lyman alpha systems and associated galaxies)
A5	Discovery surveys and the statistical study of galaxy properties (e.g. spectroscopic and redshift surveys, identifications, large scale structure, galaxy luminosity function and mass function, surveys for active galactic nuclei)
A6	Reionization and cosmic dawn (probes of reionization, galaxies in the epoch of reionization)
A7	Cosmological parameters (e.g. distance scale, dark energy, fundamental physics).

B - GALAXIES

B1	The Milky way and local group galaxies
B2	Resolved and unresolved stellar populations in galaxies beyond the Local Group (e.g. stellar metallicity, star formation histories)
B3	Galaxy structure, dynamics and kinematics (e.g. bulges, disks, morphology, in/outflows, dark matter inside galaxies, stellar orbits)
B4	Dwarf galaxies, stellar clusters in galaxies and satellite galaxies

B5	Galactic centre, galaxy nuclei and supermassive black holes
B6	Physics of Active Galactic Nuclei
B7	Interstellar medium and star formation in galaxies (e.g., in/outflows, starburst galaxies, gas-phase metallicity, dust in galaxies)

C - INTERSTELLAR MEDIUM, STAR FORMATION and PLANETARY SYSTEMS

C1	Gas and dust, giant molecular clouds, cool and hot gas, diffuse and translucent clouds
C2	Chemical processes in the interstellar medium
C3	Star forming regions, globules, protostars, HII regions
C4	Pre-main-sequence stars (massive PMS stars, Herbig Ae/Be stars and T Tauri stars)
C5	Outflows, stellar jets, HH objects
C6	Main-sequence stars with circumstellar matter, early evolution
C7	Young binaries, brown dwarfs, exosolar planet searches
C8	Solar system (planets, comets, small bodies)

D - STELLAR EVOLUTION

D1	Main-sequence stars
D2	Post-main-sequence stars, giants, supergiants, AGB stars, post-AGB stars
D3	Pulsating stars and stellar activity
D4	Mass loss and winds
D5	Supernovae, pulsars
D6	Planetary nebulae, nova remnants and supernova remnants
D7	Pre-white dwarfs and white dwarfs, neutron stars
D8	Evolved binaries, black-hole candidates, novae, X-ray binaries, CVs
D9	Gamma-ray and X-ray bursters
D10	OB associations, open and globular clusters, extragalactic star clusters
D11	Individual stars in external galaxies, resolved stellar populations
D12	Distance Scale - stars

- Tags
- categories
- OPC
- Phase 1