

New views on the Galaxy and its satellites from the Gaia space mission

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In this colloquium I will focus on the dynamics and formation of the Milky Way and its satellites. I will describe some of the latest results obtained from the analysis of the spectacular 2nd data release of the Gaia mission, with particular emphasis on globular clusters and dwarf galaxies. I will also present some recent constraints on the dark matter distribution of the Milky Way, both near the Sun as well as at larger distances.