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Title: Supermassive Black Holes as drivers of galaxy formation: from the Milky Way to the edge of the Universe

Abstract: Active Galactic Nuclei (AGN), powered by the infall of matter to a supermassive black hole, are currently observed throughout the observable Universe and well into the first Gyr after the Big Bang. Theoretical work has been developed showing how this process must exist at even earlier epochs, driving not only galaxy evolution but galaxy formation itself. However, the origin and ultra-fast growth of such supermassive black holes is still unknown, and requires the identification and study of some of the most distant and extreme objects ever detected. Five decades after the proposal that also the Milky Way hosts a supermassive black hole, and a little over two years after the first image of one, I will describe our current understanding of the interplay between galaxy and supermassive black hole at their earliest epochs. I will also detail our recent efforts in developing innovative selection methodologies, using upcoming observations at radio and X-ray wavelengths, to identify and study powerful AGN well within the Epoch of Reionization of the Universe, a necessary step to finally understanding the origin of these extreme objects.