

# Particle Astrophysics Town Hall

Matteo Agostini, Djuna Croon, Laura Nuttall, Blake Sherwin  
and Juri Smirnov






May 19th 2026

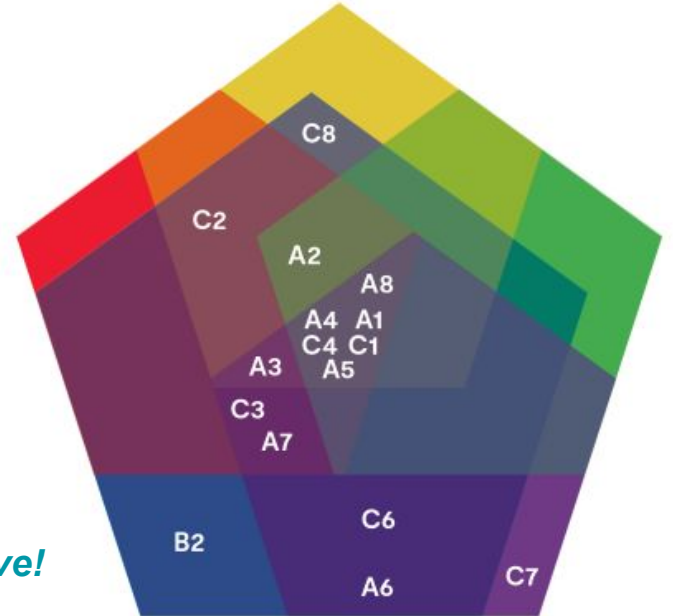
# PAAP

- Matteo Agostini (UCL)  
**Neutrino Astronomy**
- Djuna Croon (Durham)  
**Theory**
- Laura Nuttall (Chair, Portsmouth)  
**Gravitational Waves**
- Blake Sherwin (Cambridge)  
**Cosmic Microwave Background**
- Juri Smirnov (Liverpool)  
**Dark Matter Searches**



*Still looking for a gamma ray astronomy representative!*

Gravitational waves   
Very High Energy Gamma   
Neutrino   
Direct Dark Matter   
Cosmic Microwave Background 



## Science Board Representatives

Francesca Di Lodovico (KCL), Anne Green (Nottingham), Patrick Sutton (Cardiff)

# PPAN Prioritisation

From [Keith Grainge's talk](#) at Joint IOP APP and HEPP in April

- Unprecedented financial challenge, worse than the 2008 cuts
- Significant damage already to grant lines and further cuts are required
  - Proformas sent to 48 'projects' funded by STFC in PPAN area
  - Balance projects against grant lines; 'talent' & international subscriptions ring fenced
- SB PPAN preparing multiple scenarios
  - flat-cash, 10%, 20%, 30% cuts
  - Narrative detailing impacts to accompany each scenario
- Need to balance scientific return, risk profile and strategic support
- Final recommendations to EB June to be owned by SB PPAN (by 11th June)

# PPAN Prioritisation: advisory panel representative roles

- SB-PPAN [invited AP chairs and deputies](#) to help inform scenario formation and contribute to impact assessment
- [Terms of engagement](#) agreed: APs are **not** co-authors of SB-PPAN recommendations or of prioritisation decisions taken by STFC/UKRI, and do **not** endorse rankings or allocations. Instead, AP role is to:
  - Assess consequences across the PPAN programme
  - Identify risks, particularly irreversible loss of capability
  - Highlight gaps where impacts are not sufficiently understood
- From PAAP, Laura, Matteo, and Djuna have attended SB-PPAN meetings
- Process is strictly confidential, outcomes (advisory report) will be public

# PPAN Prioritisation: recent PAAP actions

- Met with representatives of both proforma and non-proforma projects, including:
  - Simons Observatory
  - GW Operations
  - Next-generation GW
  - XLZD
  - Boulby Infrastructure
  - Boulby Development
  - CTAO
- Gathered information centred on:
  - Immediate and long term consequences funding discontinuation
  - Bridging funding: level needed to be useful, bridge towards what
  - Capacity loss / alternative projects which support the science area

# Potential EPSRC integration

SB-PPAN requests input on PPAN moving into the EPSRC portfolio

*Please fill out our survey:* <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/e/gMYHkUHURk>

This forms part of a coordinated set across PPAN areas. **We ask that you complete the form only once for the PPAN area closest to your research.**

Update from the particle physics action group  
from Sarah Williams

# Town hall: Q&A on PPAN prioritisation

- Please feel free to share questions, suggestions and concerns about
  - SB-PPAN Prioritisation
  - Action group update
  - Potential EPSRC integration
- PAAP will address questions as far as confidentiality agreement allows
- Please join Discord to reach us easily: <https://discord.gg/u7HGfmosp>

# Back-up: proforma'd projects

ATLAS experiment M&OA	IPPP	ELT instrumentation	Simons Observatory Ops
ATLAS upgrade	HL-LHC	e-MERLIN/JIVE/spectrum	Widefield Astro CASU
LHCb experiment M&OA	XLZD	GAIA CU9	Widefield Astro WFAU
LHCb upgrade	PPD NL	GOTO Ops	HARPS3 Ops
CMS experiment M&OA	Boulby	HIPERCAM / ULTRACAM	NRT
CMS upgrade	AGATA	JCMT support	ING Staff & Ops
HyperK common fund	ALICE	Liverpool Telescope	ATC
T2K common fund	EIC	LOFAR	Next Gen Grav Waves
DUNE	FAIR	LSST Vera Rubin	LIGO Ops
LBNF/DUNE target	ALMA Regional Centre	NGTS	DiRAC
LBNF/DUNE PIP II	BISON	ukSKA Regional Centre	IRIS
GridPP	CUBES	SKA Constuction	QTFP