

## **4th Announcement**

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Final Announcement: Abstracts, logistics and arrival information

Black hole astrophysics: Tales of power and destruction  
Winchester, UK, July 18-22 2011

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Dear participant,

The workshop is nearly upon us, so this final announcement includes some important information for all attendees as well as those staying in the on-site accommodation. We look forward to seeing you in Winchester!

Regards,  
The LOC

Abstracts:

The abstract booklet will shortly be available for download from this page:

<http://www.black-hole.eu/bh2011/program-and-course-materials>

The booklet will be further updated later in the week, and all participants will receive a paper copy of the booklet in their workshop registration pack.

Posters:

Posters can be any size up to A0, in either portrait or landscape orientation. Posters will be displayed for the duration of the workshop on poster boards in a room just outside the main meeting room.

Note that all submitted abstracts that we were not able to include in the main programme as talks were allocated space for a poster and are included in the poster list (see <http://www.black-hole.eu/bh2011/program-and-course-materials> for the current list). If you decide that you do not wish to present a poster, please let us know before Friday 15 July if possible, and we will remove your title/abstract from the list.

### Venue and Registration:

The meeting will take place in the Stripe building of the King Alfred Campus of the University of Winchester. Maps of the campus and directions by car or from public transport hubs can be found here

<http://www.black-hole.eu/bh2011/venue-and-accomodation>

We will also place a listing and of pubs and restaurants on this page, which you may like to print out if you arrive in Winchester early (this listing will also be provided with the workshop pack).

Registration (where you will receive your workshop pack including badge and the final stamped receipt for registration fee and accommodation) will take place in the entrance foyer of the Stripe building, from 16:00-18:00 on Sunday 17th July and from 08:45-09:20 on Monday 18th July (the meeting begins at 09:20 on 18th July). If you arrive after either of these times, you can obtain your conference pack by asking an LOC member (we can be identified by our badges having blue cords).

Note that if you are staying in the on-site accommodation, you should check in before registering to obtain your workshop pack (see below for check-in information).

### Parking:

If you are driving to the workshop, parking is available on first come basis. A parking permit will need to be collected from the registration or key desk. Car Parks are located by entrance D and E. There are also a few unloading bays located outside the Queens Road accommodation, however you would still need to park in the main car parks after unloading.

### Internet access:

All participants will be provided with a username and password to access wireless internet at the workshop site. If you are staying in the on-site accommodation and wish to use the internet from your room, you should bring an ethernet cable, since we are informed that the wireless signal is not very good in the Queens Road accommodation.

### Drinks reception:

You will be very welcome to join us for a drinks reception from 18:00-20:00 on Sunday 17th July. The reception will be held in the Terrace bar (if the weather is good - see below!) or the Vault bar, both in the University Centre which is opposite the Stripe and attached to the University main Reception room (note that the campus map highlights the Reception room of the University not our own drinks reception, but the two are in the same building!).

The drinks reception will include a free bar (including a special local beer chosen by your LOC) and a light buffet will be provided. Note that the buffet will probably not serve as a replacement for dinner, but there will be time to go for dinner when the reception finishes.

### Lunches:

Buffet lunches will be provided on every weekday except Wednesday, in the Shakespeare dining room on the West Downs Campus - please be aware that this campus is approximately a 10 minute walk from the conference facilities.

### Social events:

The workshop dinner will be on the evening of Thursday 21st July, in a special and very historical location in Winchester! Further details TBA at the workshop. Wednesday afternoon is left completely free, there are plenty of things to see and do around Winchester (information will be provided with the conference pack) as well as nearby sites suitable for afternoon trips and London only one hour away by train.

### Weather in Winchester:

Although the weather in the south of England is generally better than in most of the UK, summer weather is notoriously changeable and unpredictable, and this

year is no exception. Although the forecast for next week is for fairly mild temperatures (18-20C), be prepared for temperatures ranging from 12C at night to up to 25C, and the possibility of significant rain and sun on the same day!

Emergency contact info:

If you run into an emergency, you can contact the LOC using the following numbers:

Pieter van Oers:

Pablo Cassatella:

Pablo and Pieter will be staying in the on-site accommodation so can also assist with any problems you may have there, but please only use these numbers in case of emergency or if there is a problem such as a severe delay to your arrival time at the workshop.

On-site University accommodation check-in info and related information:

Rooms are available for check in from 14.00hrs - 16.30hrs on Saturday 16th July and between 14.00hrs - 21.00hrs on Sunday 17th July from the main reception desk in the University Centre. If you are arriving on a different day or outside of these times, keys will be obtained from the security officer. To contact the security officer you will need to call the number on the door of the reception room from the nearby phone in the reception entrance foyer.

**IF YOU ARE STAYING IN THE ON\_SITE ACCOMMODATION AND ARE LIKELY TO ARRIVE OUTSIDE THE ABOVE TIMES, IT WOULD HELP US TO KNOW WHEN YOU EXPECT TO ARRIVE.**

Please let us know in advance when you expect to arrive by emailing your arrival times to [bhwinchester2011@black-hole.eu](mailto:bhwinchester2011@black-hole.eu) with ARRIVAL in the subject heading.

Keys should be returned to reception on departure - do not leave your key in your bedroom - lost or unreturned keys are charged at £25.00 per key.

We advise you to collect your room key first on arrival at the main reception and to check-into your bedroom before registering with the workshop in the Stripe Foyer.

All of the bedrooms are located in the Queens Road accommodation on Burma road (please see campus map at

<http://www.black-hole.eu/bh2011/venue-and-accomodation>).

All are single en-suite bedrooms and have an en-suite shower, toilet and wash basin. Bed linen and towels are provided a small sachet with shampoo and shower gel is available on arrival (this will not be replenished). Tea/coffee making facilities are available in the shared kitchen areas, where you will also find a cooker, fridge-freezer, microwave, iron, ironing board and seating area. The accommodation is basic in nature, therefore things such as hairdryers, alarm clocks and televisions are not provided. Cooking utensils are also not provided in the kitchens. There is lift access to all floors inside the accommodation blocks, however please be aware that there are stairs outside the building.

All of the accommodation is NO smoking.

Breakfast (08.15 - 09.15) will be available each day in the Shakespeare dining room on the West Downs Campus (the same location as the lunches) - please be aware that this campus is approximately a 10 minute walk from the conference facilities.

### **3rd Announcement**

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3rd Announcement: Final programme and payment for  
registration fees and accommodation

Black hole astrophysics: Tales of power and destruction  
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Dear participant,

We are pleased to announce that the final programme of talks for the workshop is now available online here:

<http://www.black-hole.eu/bh2011/program-and-course-materials>

Due to the large number of review talks in the programme, we were only able to offer a limited number of slots for contributed talks and so are not able to offer talks to everyone who applied. We have however allocated poster space to anyone who submitted an abstract but has not been given a talk slot.

Please let us know before the workshop if you do not wish to present a poster.

Note that posters can be up to A0 size format, either portrait or landscape orientation.

There will be no proceedings for the workshop, but after the workshop all talks and posters can be posted on the workshop website.

The registration desk, where you can sign in and pick up your conference pack, will be open from 16:00-18:00 on Sunday 17 July and from 8:30-9:20 on Monday 18 July. A drinks reception and buffet will be held from 18:00-20:00 on the Sunday evening.

Registration payment and accommodation booking and payment:

The registration fee must be paid before attending the workshop. It can be paid online via credit card, or via bank transfer (online payment is preferred), using the following webpage:

Note that you must fill in this form whether or not you are paying online or by bank transfer, or having your payments waived. Please follow the instructions on the payment form very carefully.

**WE KINDLY REQUEST THAT ALL PAYMENTS ARE MADE BY 19 JUNE, WITH AN ABSOLUTE**

### CUT-OFF DATE OF 30 JUNE

The registration fee will be 100 GBP for PhD/pre-PhD students and 150 GBP for more experienced attendees. EU-funding rules mean that members of institutions which are part of the sponsoring Black Hole Universe network must pay a higher cost of 250 GBP (you will receive a separate confirming email if you are a member of a participating institute). The registration fee includes lunches from Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday and the banquet which will likely be on Thursday evening. Up to one additional ticket may be bought for those who wish to bring a guest to the banquet (cost 60 GBP). There is also space on the form to note any dietary requirements which you have.

Participants who are having their registration fee waived will also receive a separate email containing a code to get the fee waiver upon registration.

The payment can also be used to book and pay for accommodation on-site in halls of residence at the University of Winchester. The rooms are good-quality (the buildings are new) single en-suite rooms, and breakfast is included, for a cost of 35 GBP per night. The rooms can be booked for up to 8 nights, from Saturday 16th July to Sunday 24th July. Participants who are having their accommodation costs waived will also receive a separate confirming email with a code to make use of this waiver.

### YOU SHOULD ENSURE THAT YOU COMPLETE YOUR ROOM BOOKING AT THE SAME TIME AS REGISTRATION FEE PAYMENT

For participants who do not wish to use the University of Winchester accommodation, we recommend the following website:

<http://www.visitwinchester.co.uk>

which gives listings of hotels and Bed & Breakfasts in the city. Due to the good value and full provision of rooms offered by on-site accommodation, we have not made a general-use block booking in any hotel, so please use the visitwinchester website or other websites to look for the best deals.

The visitwinchester website also gives a good overview of things to see and do in the city and surroundings.

### Travel to Winchester:

Winchester is only 1 hour by train from London, but for participants arriving from the main Heathrow airport it is easiest to take a coach which takes ~1 hour and can be booked in advance from:

<http://www.nationalexpress.com/coach/airport/heathrow.aspx>

Alternatively one can take the railair coach to Woking and then catch the train to Winchester. Train times can be found at:

<http://www.nationalrail.co.uk/>

From Gatwick airport, it is simplest to get the train to Clapham Junction and then change to Winchester (journey time ~2.5 hours), or one can take a National Express coach and change at Heathrow for a similar journey time.

Much closer to Winchester, Southampton airport is an international airport with direct flights from many destinations across Europe (mainly served by Flybe, <http://www.flybe.com>), and it only takes 10 minutes to reach Winchester by train. For a map of the destinations, check:

<http://www.southamptonairport.com/portal/page/Southampton%5EGeneral%5EFlight+information%5EDestination+map/>

For any further information and updates, please check the workshop website at:

<http://www.black-hole.eu/bh2011>

In early July a final announcement email will be sent with details about how to find and check into the accommodation, along with information on the banquet and social events.

Regards,  
The SOC

## **2nd Announcement**

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2nd Announcement: Invitation to Scientific Registration

Black hole astrophysics: Tales of power and destruction  
Winchester, UK, July 18-22 2011

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Dear participant,

By now you should have received an email inviting you to attend the workshop. We now would like to invite you to formally register your attendance at the workshop by completing the Scientific Registration form by the deadline of Wednesday May 11.

The form can be found here:

<http://www.black-hole.eu/index.php/schools-workshops-and-conferences/workshop-on-black-hole-astrophysics/application-and-registration/registration>

Besides a broad and exciting series of review talks on black hole astrophysics, we will have space in the program for 30-40 contributed talks on topics related to the main review sessions, and will be able to provide poster space for any participants who wish to show their work but are not able to give a talk. Therefore we request that any participant wishing to give a talk or poster tick the appropriate box in the form and submit a title and abstract. We will decide and announce the final program in mid-May.

Other information:

Outline program (contributed talks also to be included on each day):

Sunday 17 July: registration and a welcome reception will be held on Sunday late-afternoon/evening.

Monday 18 July: Accretion flows and the inner regions

- A. King (Accretion theory overview)
- C. Fragile (MHD)
- J. Malzac (Corona + spectral states)
- S. Davis (Disc spectra)

J. Wilms (Iron lines)

Tuesday 19 July: Inner regions + jets/VHE

- R. Goosmann (Polarisation)
- D. Meier (Jet launching)
- S. Markoff (Jet-accretion connection)
- A. Celotti (AGN jets)
- D. Giannios (VHE emission)

Wednesday 20 July: Variability

- T. Belloni (XRB variability)
  - I. McHardy (AGN variability)
  - S. Vaughan (X-ray spectral variability)
- Then free afternoon (trip/activity TBA)

Thursday 21 July: Winds & Feedback

- S. Sim (Winds theory)
  - M. Diaz Trigo (XRB winds & warm absorbers)
  - E. Costantini (AGN winds & warm absorbers)
  - M. Wise (Feedback in clusters)
- Conference dinner TBA

Friday 22 July: The wider picture

- R. Soria (ULXs)
- J. Greene (SMBH demographics)
- E. Gallo (Low-luminosity AGN)
- N. Brandt (AGN evolution)

Registration payment:

The final registration payment step will be via online payment or bank transfer and will take place in late May and early June, once the final conference program is confirmed (in case some participants need to confirm that they are able to give a talk before receiving funding to attend).

Payment will include the registration fee (100 GBP for students, 150 GBP for other participants) plus any accommodation cost if the on-site accommodation option is chosen (see below). Note that the registration fee will include lunches for all days except Wednesday, as well as the cost of the conference dinner.

Venue & Accommodation:

The workshop will take place at the University of Winchester King Alfred Campus, here:

<http://maps.google.co.uk/maps/ms?client=firefox-a&hl=en&ie=UTF8&msa=0&msid=202058001685510096169.0004a135ceb4723876629&ll=51.063488,-1.320591&spn=0.020012,0.031071&t=h&z=15>

where there will be cheap on-site accommodation in the University halls of residence (en-suite single rooms including breakfast), costing around 30 GBP/night. We have reserved sufficient rooms to accommodate all participants if required, and these rooms can be booked and paid for at the final registration payment stage. However, for participants who wish to arrange their own accommodation, we recommend the following website:

<http://www.visitwinchester.co.uk>

which gives listings of hotels and Bed & Breakfasts in the city. We will arrange a block reservation of rooms for one of these hotels (price ~85 GBP incl. breakfast) so check back at the website in early May if you want to use this option.

The visitwinchester website also gives a good overview of things to see and do in the city and surroundings.

Visa/Invitation letter:

If you are not an EU/EEA citizen, you may require a visa to come to the UK. For general information on visas to the UK, please check the UK Border Agency website at <http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/> or contact your local UK embassy. To find your nearest UK embassy, please check <http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/travel-and-living-abroad/find-an-embassy/>

If you need an invitation letter to obtain a visa or to enable you to attend the meeting, please contact us at [bhwinchester2011@black-hole.eu](mailto:bhwinchester2011@black-hole.eu) using the word "VISA" as the email subject. Please ensure to include a full address in the email which can be included in the invitation letter, and to which the letter can be sent.

Travel to Winchester:

Winchester is only 1 hour by train from London, but for participants arriving from the main Heathrow airport it is easiest to take a coach which takes ~1 hour and can be booked in advance from:

<http://www.nationalexpress.com/coach/airport/heathrow.aspx>

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<http://www.southamptonairport.com/portal/page/Southampton%5EGeneral%5EFlight+information%5EDestination+map/>

For any further information and updates, please check the workshop website at:

<http://www.black-hole.eu/bh2011>

or contact us at:

[bhwinchester2011@black-hole.eu](mailto:bhwinchester2011@black-hole.eu)

Regards,  
The SOC

**1st Announcement**

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1st Announcement:  
Black hole astrophysics: Tales of power and destruction  
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o Scientific rationale:

"Black hole astrophysics: tales of power and destruction" is a workshop aimed at bringing together the state of the art in theory and data-interpretation for astrophysical black holes through a wide-ranging series of review and contributed talks. The workshop is organised under the auspices of the EU-funded Initial Training Network "Black Hole Universe" (<http://www.black-hole.eu/>) and follows on from a highly successful series of summer schools focusing on multiwavelength data analysis techniques. This time, our aim is to provide an overview of the latest understanding of all aspects of black astrophysics, primarily for the benefit of younger researchers (graduate student and postdoc) and others who are starting out in this exciting and rapidly developing field. In line with the theme of our network, we will cover all types of accreting astrophysical black holes, from X-ray binary systems through ULXs to AGN, with a particular emphasis on making connections across the mass and luminosity scales based on the common physics between them.

o Speakers:

A selection of confirmed review talk topics and speakers so far include:

Accretion theory - A. King  
MHD simulations of accretion - C. Fragile  
Accretion disc spectra - S. Davis  
X-ray polarisation studies of black holes - R. Goosmann  
Comptonisation and coronal emission processes - J. Malzac  
Jet production in accreting black holes - D. Meier  
AGN jets - A. Celotti  
The jet/accretion connection - S. Markoff  
AGN warm absorbers and outflows - E. Costantini  
Black hole X-ray binary variability - T. Belloni  
AGN variability - I. McHardy  
SMBH and AGN demographics - J. Greene

AGN feedback in clusters - M. Wise

We will be adding to this list over the next couple of weeks.

o Participation:

Besides providing an opportunity to learn about the current status of theory and data interpretation in black hole research and interact with leading researchers in the field, the meeting will include contributed talks from the participants that will be linked to the subjects of each review session. To allow for productive interactions and a collegial atmosphere, the workshop participation will be limited to ~70 in addition to the invited reviewers. Therefore, we invite those interested in attending to pre-register at our website.

o Financial support, fees and accommodation:

Thanks to our EU funding we are able to offer financial assistance to a limited number of participants to help with accommodation and/or travel. The conference fee will be set at a fairly low level (~100 GBP, TBC) and besides the usual hotel accommodation, cheaper accommodation (~40 GBP/night) will also be available in en-suite rooms in University halls of residence close to the conference venue. Requests for support can be made via the pre-registration form. We want to stress that participants will be chosen only on the basis of a close match to the workshop in terms of experience/topic of interest, or any other relevant circumstances that can be listed in the pre-registration form (e.g. interest in moving into a new field of research). We will not look at requests for support until after the participant shortlist has been made, so they will not count against the request in the selection process, although we cannot guarantee that we all requests for financial support for participants can be satisfied.

o Location:

The workshop will be held in the beautiful and ancient city of Winchester in the south of England, just an hour away from London by train. Winchester was the capital of the ancient kingdom of Wessex and the first capital city of England after its eventual unification under the Anglo-Saxon kings (including the most famous, Alfred the Great). Today it is a beautiful Cathedral city with great restaurants, cafes and pubs and fabulous surrounding countryside.

o Important dates:

9 March - 1st announcement and pre-registration opens

Week beginning 4 April - Pre-registered participants informed as to whether they can attend

8 May - Final registration and abstract submission deadline

Week beginning 16 May - final programme announced

18-22 July - Workshop takes place

o Committees:

SOC:

P. Uttley (chair), J. Wilms, S. Markoff, P. Cassatella, S. Corbel,  
J. Rodriguez, T. Belloni, R. Wijnands, M. van der Klis, T. Maccarone,  
I. McHardy, E. Kalemci, L. Burderi, T. Di Salvo

LOC (University of Southampton):

P. Uttley (chair), P. Cassatella, A. Kapinska, P. van Oers, I. McHardy,  
T. Maccarone

o Further information

Website: <http://www.black-hole.eu/bh2011>

Please check the website for the pre-registration form  
and updated lists of review topics and speakers, plus information  
about the conference venue, travel etc.

For further enquiries, please contact:

[bhwinchester2011@black-hole.eu](mailto:bhwinchester2011@black-hole.eu)