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Nuggets at the heart of nearby galaxies - -NGC2865

In this talk, I will show recent results from the deep optical imaging and spectroscopic study of the spectacular nearby galaxy NGC2865.
NGC2865 is well-known for its system of relatively bright stellar shells in the galaxy's outskirts believed to be remnants of a recent merger event. I will, however, unveil a remarkable but hidden stellar feature at the centre of this galaxy which is directly related to this merger event.
I will show how the combined data from HST imaging, SALT/RSS and VLT/MUSE spectral data help us to unambiguously constrain the nature of the merger event that produced these spectacular stellar features as well as the nature of the disrupted progenitor. I will also discuss the implications of our results, i.e., the decoupled kinematics of the central 'nugget' in NGC 2865 and its stellar population properties (age, metallicity, star-formation histories), in the context of expectations from
recent cosmological simulations.

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