



Contribution ID: 18

Type: **not specified**

High redshift galaxies under the microscope with future adaptive optics facilities

Thursday, 4 November 2021 08:20 (20 minutes)

Gravitational lensing acting as cosmic telescopes is allowing us to access high redshift galaxies at unprecedented small physical scales (tens of parsec) and faint luminosity, opening to the possibility of revealing the still elusive formation of globular clusters in the early Universe. Young stellar massive clusters are also the main sources of ionizing radiation and stellar feedback, likely carving ionized tunnels in the host galaxy through which the Lyman continuum ($\lambda < 912\text{\AA}$) can escape into the intergalactic medium, making them also relevant for the reionization of the Universe. Current studies on lensed fields naturally anticipate what future extreme adaptive optics facilities (mounted on VLT and E-ELT) will do in blank fields, whilst the same facilities - like MAVIS - targeting lensed sources will allow us to definitely probe parsec scales up to the reionization epoch.

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Session Classification: The European Southern Observatory (ESO): chair S. Ryder