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Title: Causing a stir : radiative and mechanical feedback in starburst galaxies

Issue Date: 2014-09-18

Propositions associated with the thesis

Causing a Stir:
radiative and mechanical feedback in starburst galaxies

1. In NGC 253, near-infrared H₂ ro-vibrational transitions and sub-mm CO rotational transitions are probing very different regions of molecular clouds, although they tell a similar story. (*Chapter 2 and 3*)
2. Without the addition of at least ¹³CO and one dense gas tracer (HCN/HNC/HCO⁺), it is impossible to gain any quantitative molecular information from ¹²CO. (*Chapter 3 and 4*)
3. The near infrared transitions of [FeII] are a robust probe of the supernova rate in normal star-forming galaxies. (*Chapter 5*)
4. Mechanical heating is a powerful and necessary mechanism for exciting molecular gas in starbursts and (ultra) luminous infrared galaxies. (*Chapter 3, 4, and 6*)
5. Job applications should be gender neutral to prevent unconscious gender bias in the workplace.
6. Nearby galaxies are the 'goldilocks' of observational astronomy.
7. A dangerous trap is to cite a famous paper, without verifying its contents.
8. The job market in astronomy favors the persistent over the best suited.
9. It should be mandatory and free to learn the language of the country of residence.
10. The critical mindset honed during a PhD transforms students into judgmental members of society.
11. Extreme physical exercise leads to expanded mental ability.
12. The liters of beer consumed at Sterrewacht borrels is inversely proportional to the mean temperature per month.

Marissa Rosenberg, Leiden, August 2014