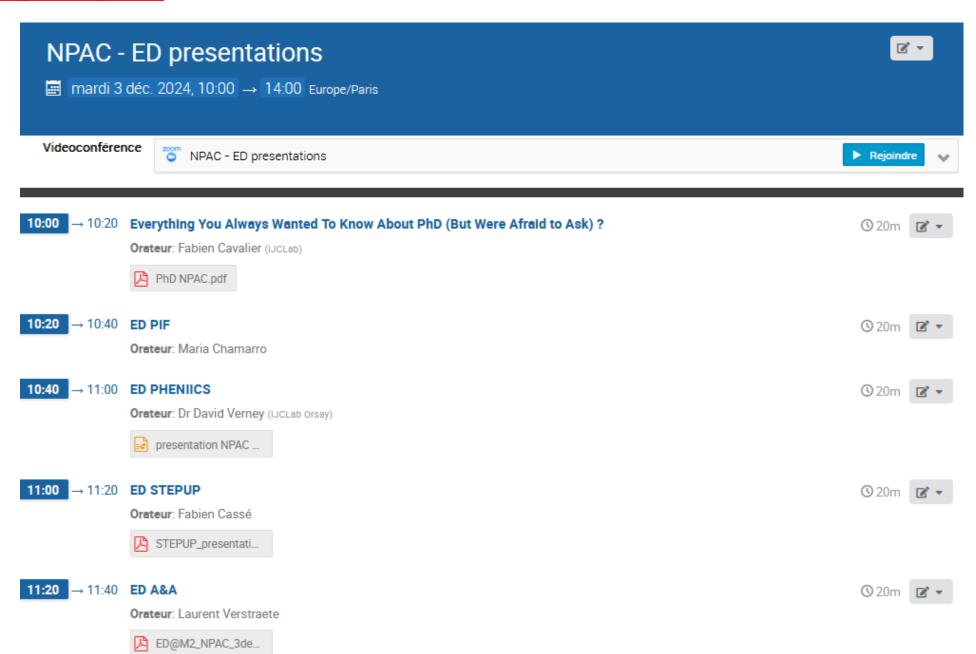


# Everything You Always Wanted To Know About PhD (But Were Afraid to Ask)

### **Morning Program**



## What is a Thesis?

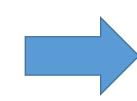
- It is:
  - An Academic Degree
  - A <u>Professional Experience</u> in research ⇒ In France, you will have a **work contract** for the **whole duration** of the thesis
- It rewards an **original** research **work** done during **three years**. This duration is the nominal one, longer thesis should be exceptional and well justified
- Your work will be guided by a **Supervisor** who belongs to a **laboratory** and most of the time to a **physics group**
- The outcomes are :
  - A written document which describes a part of or the full work done during the thesis
  - An oral defense (presentation ~1h+ questions ~1h) in front of a jury

#### **Doctoral School, you said Doctoral School?**

- It follows the progress of the thesis and the training of the students
- It distributes some grants (1 Grant costs ~130 k€)
- Each doctoral school has its own rules and calendar, in particular about grant distribution

PhD Supervisor belongs to a given Doctoral School You will apply (if needed),
be validated
and register
in this Doctoral School

- In Paris area, there are several Doctoral Schools in our fields:
  - Thematic: Astronomy & Astrophysics, PIF (Physics in Ile de France)
  - Local: PHENIICS (Paris-Saclay), STEP-UP (UPC), IPPDS (IPP) (Remark: SU has no local DS and is present for our fields in A&A and PIF)
- In Regions, there is one Doctoral School per site
- Formally, there is no link between M2s and Doctoral Schools
- ⇒ any M2 student can apply to any Doctoral School
- In practice, in some places, there are some biases towards "local" students. Be careful!



#### **How to find a thesis?**

- NPAC website : <a href="https://npac.ijclab.in2p3.fr/thesis-2425/">https://npac.ijclab.in2p3.fr/thesis-2425/</a>
- Doctoral Schools website (France): <a href="https://npac.ijclab.in2p3.fr/graduate-schools/">https://npac.ijclab.in2p3.fr/graduate-schools/</a> and others to be found
- Labs website
- Discuss with your professors and NPAC responsibles

#### **Some Advices**

- Meet in person your future supervisor and discuss about the subject, the funding, the team and the lab
- Ask your future supervisor if she/he has her/his HDR (Habilitation à Diriger des Recherches)
- Ask to discuss with current PhDs and postdocs (without your future supervisor)
- Stay open-minded and investigate several possibilities
- You should have a **plan B** (different fundings, another ED ...)
- Discuss with your professors and NPAC responsibles