

# Gran Telescopio Canarias: Open Doors

Nieves Castro-Rodríguez<sup>1,2,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Gran Telescopio Canarias S.A., Cuesta de San José s/n, 38712 Breña Baja, La Palma, Spain

<sup>2</sup> Instituto de Astrofísica de Canarias, C/ Vía Láctea s/n, 38200 San Cristobal de La Laguna, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain.

<sup>3</sup> Universidad de La Laguna, San Cristobal de La Laguna, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, Spain.

## Abstract

Gran Telescopio Canarias (GTC) or GRANTECAN, located in La Palma island (Canary Islands, Spain), is currently the largest optical/infrared telescope in the world. As part of society, we have the vitally important task of returning part of our knowledge and involving the population in new discoveries. This will translate into possible new scientific vocations in the future, although above all, opening the mind to logical thinking, so useful in any facet of life. Every year, at GTC we carry out a series of outreach activities with the aim that the knowledge acquired does not remain within the four walls of the telescope or in scientific publications. These activities are aimed at students of primary, secondary, high school or university education; to the general public of the island of La Palma or visitors from any part of the planet who want to know what is done at GTC; night connections with other institutions to learn first-hand how the largest telescope in the world is operated and do science; activities with amateur astronomers and astrophotographers; exhibitions; talks; and reports and documentaries, among other activities.

Children and young people are our priority when it comes to transmitting scientific knowledge among the population of the island of La Palma and the rest of the Canary Islands. We continue working so that in the coming years visiting GTC is also a more immersive experience. Through the innovative Connected Facility, a digital twin of GTC, visitors will be able to better understand the operation of a telescope, its elements and interact with it. Our robotic assistant GARA will ensure that visitors do not miss a single detail. About 12,000 people pass through GTC each year.

My poster in zenodo.org can be found here