

**Tommy Wiklind** (ESO JAO, faculty/staff)

**Presentation Requested:** oral

**Category:** Assembly of Galaxies / Mass & Structure Evolution

**Question:** Other

### **When Galaxies Stop Forming Stars**

The average morphology of the most massive galaxies change drastically with cosmic time. At  $z > 1.5$ , the most massive galaxies are characterized by an exponential light distribution, while galaxies at lower redshift are spheroidal with a de Vaucouleur light profile. This morphological transformation is accompanied by a drastic change in star formation activity. The mechanism(s) responsible for these two transformations are unknown, although several leading theories exist. ALMA will play a pivotal role in determining which of these mechanism is at work.