A SYNOPTIC VIEW OF THE MAGELLANIC CLOUDS:
VMC, GAIA AND BEYOND

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STEP: dissecting the SMC with the VLT Survey Telescope

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We present the stellar catalog of g, r, i, H-alpha photometry from our survey STEP (SMC in Time: Evolution of a Prototype interacting late-type dwarf galaxy), a VST (the ESO VLT Survey Telescope) campaign of 53 deg2 dedicated to the study of the main body of the Small Magellanic Cloud and the Magellanic Bridge. Our photometry is able to resolve individual stars down to magnitudes well below the main-sequence turn-off of the oldest populations. We report some key results, including the detection of a prominent burst of star formation, which occurred in the SMC about 100-200 Myr ago, and the confirmation of a bimodal Red-Clump, evidence of a complex interaction history between the Clouds.