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

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Unraveling the Evolution of the Magellanic Clouds with SMASH and APOGEE

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The Large and Small Magellanic Clouds (MCs) are the largest satellite galaxies of our Milky Way. This interacting pair of galaxies - with their own system of satellite galaxies - is an excellent nearby laboratory for studying the evolution of dwarf galaxies using resolved stellar populations. I will review the recent progress that has been made in our understanding of the formation of the Clouds using both the SMASH (Survey of the MAgellanic Stellar History) photometric and APOGEE (Apache Point Observatory Galactic Evolution Experiment) spectroscopic surveys. The deep SMASH photometry has helped reveal both the inner and more extended stellar structures of the Clouds and how they have been disturbed by the recent close interactions of the LMC and SMC with each other. The APOGEE spectroscopic survey of thousands of RGB stars is mapping out chemical abundance patterns and unraveling the chemical evolution history of the MCs. I will end with some of the important outstanding questions and how future surveys like 4MOST and SDSS-V will help answer them.