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The HST view of extragalactic 3C radio sources: from the central supermassive black holes to galaxy clusters

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We have been using the Hubble Space Telescope for over 2 decades to study the 3C(R) sample of extragalactic radio sources and their environment. We discovered new optical jets, nuclear dusty disks, point-like nuclear sources in low-power radio galaxies that allowed to directly test the FRI-BL Lac unification model. We revealed unexpected complex UV morphologies at low- z , indicative of ongoing star formation and recent galaxy mergers. We found evidence for spectacular ongoing mergers at $z > 1$ that may shed light on the ultimate origin of radio-loud AGN activity. In this talk I will review some of the most important results we obtained thanks to HST observations, and I will briefly discuss future possible follow-up research with JWST.

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