

The central kpc of disc galaxies is a busy place, where many structures overlap and evolve at a relatively fast pace. These central structures, such as bulges and bars, hold, however, key information on the formation and evolution of their host galaxies. And as most galaxies show non-axisymmetric structures such as bars, understanding their formation and impact on galaxy evolution is crucial. Fortunately, recently developed observational facilities have helped enormously in clarifying the sometimes confusing picture of the central kpc. In this talk, I will review how this picture has evolved recently to include nuclear discs and box/peanuts alongside classical bulges as the main central components in disc galaxies. I will also discuss the corresponding implications on our understanding of galaxy formation and evolution, including bar-driven processes and the hierarchical growth of galaxies.