

# Chana Weil-Kennedy

Postdoctoral Researcher in Computer Science  [chana.weilkennedy@imdea.org](mailto:chana.weilkennedy@imdea.org)  <https://chana-wk.github.io/>

---

## Work

2023 – present **Postdoctoral Researcher**, *IMDEA Software Institute*, Madrid, Spain  
Member of Pierre Ganty's team.

I am continuing my work on parameterized verification of distributed systems, for systems communicating by broadcasts, registers and more. I also study the language inclusion problem, focusing on the wqo-approach developed by Pierre's group.

2018 – 2023 **PhD Student**, *Technical University of Munich*, Germany

Doctoral candidate under the supervision of Prof. Javier Esparza at the Chair for Foundations of Software Reliability and Theoretical Computer Science (Lehrstuhl VII). Officially employed as a Wissenschaftliche Mitarbeiterin (Scientific Staff).

I worked on parameterized verification of distributed protocols and concurrent systems, often modelled by Petri nets. Given a property and a system with an infinite state space, I examined the problem of checking whether the property holds for *any* input of the system. In particular, I studied the correctness problem for population protocols (introduced by Angluin et al.) and the reachability problem for certain classes of Petri nets with an observation component.

---

## Education

2016 – 2018 **Master's Degree in Computer Science**, *École Normale Supérieure Paris-Saclay* (ex-ENS Cachan), France

MPRI (Master Parisien de Recherche en Informatique, or Parisian Master of Research in Computer Science)

2015 – 2016 **Master 1 in Mathematics**, *Université Paris-Sud*, France

Master in Fundamental Mathematics (Jacques Hadamard Program) + Magistère de mathématiques

2014 – 2015 **Bachelor of Mathematics**, *Université Paris-Sud*, France

Bachelor in Fundamental Mathematics (Jacques Hadamard Program) + Magistère de mathématiques

2012 – 2014 **Classes Préparatoires (CPGE) MPSI/MP**, *Lycée Lakanal*, Sceaux

Undergraduate course to prepare nationwide competitive exams in sciences

2012 **Scientific Baccalauréat (French high school diploma)**, *Lycée Magendie*, Bordeaux

Scientific Baccalauréat, with speciality in Mathematics

---

## Internships and Projects

March 2018 to July 2018 **Internship**, supervised by *Pierre Ganty*, IMDEA Software Institute (Madrid)

This internship was centered on population protocols, a distributed protocol model in which identical mobile agents interact and compute a function by consensus. We studied the problem of verifying whether a given protocol correctly computes a function given any input. The results were published at CONCUR 2018.

May 2017 to August 2017 **Internship**, supervised by *Thomas Wies*, NYU (New York City)

This internship was centered on program verification and separation logic. We worked on a way of improving Thomas Wies's tool GRASShopper to make it more efficient. GRASShopper takes as input a program, explicits its memory specifications using separation logic and first-order logics, and then automatically checks them using SMT-solvers.

2016 **Project**, supervised by *Nicolas Ratazzi*, LRI (Université Paris-Sud)

Around Roth's theorem.

- June 2015 **Internship**, supervised by Nicolas Schabanel, LIAFA (now IRIF, CNRS-Paris 7)  
Around the proof of the PCP (Probabilistically Checkable Proof) theorem.
- 2015 **Project**, supervised by Florent Jouve, LRI (Université Paris-Sud)  
Around expander graphs.

---

## Publications

- *A Uniform Framework for Language Inclusion Problems*, with Kyveli Doveri and Pierre Ganty, in *Taming the Infinities of Concurrency: Essays Dedicated to Javier Esparza on the Occasion of His 60th Birthday*, LNCS volume 14660, 2024.
- *Observation Petri Nets*, doctoral thesis, 2023.
- *Parameterized Analysis of Reconfigurable Broadcast Networks*, with A. R. Balasubramanian and Lucie Guillou at the FossaCS 2022 conference.
- *Reconfigurable Broadcast Networks and Asynchronous Shared-Memory Systems are Equivalent*, with A. R. Balasubramanian at the GandALF 2021 conference.
- *The Complexity of Verifying Population Protocols*, with Javier Esparza and Michael Raskin, in the journal *Distributed Computing*.
- *Efficient Restrictions of Immediate Observation Petri Nets*, with Michael Raskin at the Reachability Problems 2020 conference.
- *Flatness and Complexity of Immediate Observation Petri Nets*, with Javier Esparza and Michael Raskin at the CONCUR 2020 conference.
- *Parameterized Analysis of Immediate Observation Petri Nets*, with Javier Esparza and Michael Raskin at the Petri Nets 2019 conference, **Best Paper Award**.
- *Verification of Immediate Observation Population Protocols*, with Javier Esparza, Pierre Ganty and Rupak Majumdar at the CONCUR 2018 conference.

---

## Professional Activities

- Reviewing I have reviewed papers for the conferences CONCUR, CAV, ICALP, FSTTCS, FoSSaCS, LICS, Petri Nets, and ICTAC, and the journals *Fundamenta Informaticae*, *STVR* and *Science of Computer Programming*.
- Talks I have given talks at Highlights (2019, 2020, 2021, 2022), at Infinity 2020 (satellite workshop of ICALP/LICS 2020), at different seminars, as well as at each conference in which my papers were accepted.
- Teaching I have been a tutor for the Master's courses "Automata and Formal Languages", "Petri Nets" and "Fundamental Algorithms" several years in a row at the Technical University of Munich. This included devising new tutorial exercises, giving the tutorial classes, creating exams, supervising and grading exams. I also completed the Didactics for Informatics course offered by the TUM.
- Student Supervision I have supervised three Bachelor theses on extending the teaching tool "Automata Tutor" to Petri nets, by Arpad Botos, Felix Rinderer and Lilo Walter at the TUM. I have co-supervised a Master thesis on parameterized analysis of broadcast networks by Lucie Guillou of ENS Rennes.

---

## Computer Skills

Python, OCaml, LaTeX, Z3, why3. Basic website building.

---

## Awards

- Best Paper Award for "Parameterized Analysis of Immediate Observation Petri Nets" at the Petri Nets 2019 conference.
- "Prix de la vocation scientifique et technique des filles" (Scientific and Technological Vocational Award for Girls) given in 2012 by the Aquitaine region in France.

---

## Languages

Bilingual French, English (French and U.S. citizen)  
Good level German, Spanish

---

## Other

- Summer schools I attended the Autoboz 2020, 2022 and 2023 workshops, the summer school on Verification Technology, Systems and Applications 2021 (Belgium), the Marktoberdorf Summer School 2019 (Germany), and the All Girls/All Math summer camp 2011 at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (USA).
- Volunteering I helped out in a rural school in Alpartir (Spain) for one month in February 2023, with english and math classes.
- Other jobs Math and English tutor, Camp counsellor