

I focused on the inner regions of proto-planetary discs using near-infrared interferometry. I focused on understanding the physical properties at sub-au scales using the hydrogen Brackett-gamma line and the molecular CO ro-vibrational emission at 2.3 microns using the Very Large Telescope Interferometer with the Astronomical Multi-BEam CombineR (AMBER) and GRAVITY in the *K* band. Being part of the GRAVITY GTO consortium, I had the unique experience of spending many nights at Paranal Observatory and be trained in how to conduct observations with GRAVITY. I will never forget gathering with the staff and other visitor astronomers to watch the sunset and wait for the green light to appear.

Needless to say, the night sky in the Atacama Desert is one of the most beautiful I have ever seen. During my time at the observatory, I could appreciate how much manpower and organisation is needed for an observatory to run smoothly and deliver the data to the astronomical community, which made me realise that I wanted to be part of it.

After defending my PhD at the end of 2019, I moved to ESO in Garching to start a position funded by the DFG (German Research Foundation) grant “Planet Formation Witnesses and Probes: Transition Disks” led by Leonardo Testi. I am currently working on understanding the dust properties of the discs around young

protostars using the Atacama Large Millimeter/submillimeter Array (ALMA). I am extremely grateful to be part of ESO. It is a very vibrant place, where interactions can be established with many different universities and institutes, as well as researchers visiting from all over the world. By being there I have learned a lot about operations and the observatory; knowledge that I wouldn’t have had if I had gone somewhere else. In my free time, I take every opportunity to relax by hiking in the mountains around Munich, visiting the lakes, and exploring the city and its culture. I also enjoy baking, practicing Taekwondo and doing yoga.

Personnel Movements

Arrivals (1 April 2020–30 June 2021)

Europe	
Scherbarth, Malte (DE)	Mechanical Technician
Popesso, Paola (IT)	User Support Astronomer
Lammen, Yannick (DE)	Mechanical Engineer
Hofmann, Anja (DE)	ELT DMS Deputy Project Manager
Seal, Madeleine (FR)	Council Secretary/Administrative Assistant
Chile	
Racz, Gregory (CA)	Head of Logistics
Caro, Patricio Alejandro (CL)	Electronics Engineer
Ortega, Marcos (VE)	Maintenance Engineer
Fluxa, Pedro (CL)	Data and Quality Control Specialist
Molina, Faviola (VE)	Data and Quality Control Specialist
Fuentealba, Christian (CL)	Facilities Technical Assistant

Departures (1 April 2020–30 June 2021)

Europe	
Downing, Mark Desmond (AU)	Electronic Engineer
Mancino, Sara (IT)	Student
Bittner, Adrian (DE)	Student IMPRS
Chile	
Gilliotte, Alain (FR)	ERP Support Specialist
De Luca, Giuseppe (VE)	Hospitality Operations Supervisor