



Catarina Gamboa

Software Engineering PhD Student



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Portuguese



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<https://catarinagamboa.github.io/>

I am interested in both the Design of **Programming Languages** and **Usable Software Verification**. My current projects aim to enhance software reliability by integrating Software Verification with Human-Computer Interaction techniques, thereby creating tools that are valuable, practical, and usable by developers in their everyday work.

EDUCATION

2021–Now

Dual PhD in Software Engineering

CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY AND UNIVERSITY OF LISBON · Pittsburgh and Lisbon 

She is enrolled in the Dual PhD CMU-Portugal completing courses and research at both CMU and U. Lisbon. Currently, she is working on improving the usability of Liquid Types for Reliable Software, advised by Alcides Fonseca and Jonathan Aldrich.



2019–2022

Master Degree in Informatics Engineering - Software Engineering

FACULDADE DE CIÊNCIAS DA UNIVERSIDADE DE LISBOA · Lisbon 

GPA of 18/20. The courses included Software Design (18/20), Compiling Techniques (19/20), Software Reliability (18/20), and Software Verification and Validation (18/20). Final Dissertation on "LiquidJava: Extending Java with Refinements" advised by Alcides Fonseca and Chris Timperley.



2016–2019

Undergraduate Studies in Informatics Engineering

FACULDADE DE CIÊNCIAS DA UNIVERSIDADE DE LISBOA · Lisbon 

GPA of 17/20. The courses included Algorithms and Data Structures (18/20), Principles of Programming (20/20), Construction of Software Systems (18/20), and Information Systems Analysis and Design (18/20).



PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2023 - now

Teaching Assistant for API Design

CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY

Catarina is one of the Teaching Assistants of API Design working with Joshua Bloch.

2020–Now

Researcher at LASIGE and S3D

UNIVERSITY OF LISBON AND CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY

Catarina started doing research at LASIGE during her master thesis and is currently a researcher at both LASIGE and the Software and Societal Systems Department (S3D) at CMU.

2019–2020

Teaching Assistant in the Informatics Department (Monitor)

FACULDADE DE CIÊNCIAS DA UNIVERSIDADE DE LISBOA

Taught courses on Programming for more than 100 undergraduate students of Information Technology, Mathematics, Physics and others. The courses were Programming I (LTI), Programming II (LTI) and Programming II

Jul 2019

Summer Internship

RUNTIME REVOLUTION

She had a summer internship in a company of software development, developing a project using Ruby on Rails and React.

PUBLICATIONS

FULL PAPERS








May 2023

Usability-Oriented Design of Liquid Types for Java


Catarina Gamboa, Paulo Santos, Christopher S. Timperley, and Alcides Fonseca. 

2023 IEEE/ACM 45th International Conference on Software Engineering (ICSE), CORE A*.

SHORT PAPERS, POSTERS AND DEMOS

Oct 2023	Latte: Lightweight Aliasing Tracking for Java Conrad Zimmerman, Catarina Gamboa, Alcides Fonseca, Jonathan Aldrich  IWACO'23 and HATRA'23 - International workshop on Aliasing, Capabilities and Ownership, and International Workshop on Human Aspects of Types and Reasoning Assistants
Oct 2022	Poster - LiquidJava: Improving the Usability of Liquid Types for Reliable Software Catarina Gamboa, Alcides Fonseca, and Jonathan Aldrich  2022 CtLab Partners Conference, at Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh
Mar 2022	DEMO - Dive into LiquidJava - Extending Java with Liquid Types Catarina Gamboa, Paulo Santos, Christopher S. Timperley, and Alcides Fonseca.  Posters and Demonstrations track at <Programming> 2022 - International Conference on the Art, Science and Engineering of Programming
Jan 2022	Understandable and Useful Error Messages for Liquid Types Alcides Fonseca, Catarina Gamboa, João David, Guilherme Espada, Paulo Canelas  'WITS'22 - Workshop on the Implementation of Type Systems 2022, co-located with POPL'22
Oct 2021	User-driven design and evaluation of Liquid Types in Java Catarina Gamboa, Paulo Santos, Christopher S. Timperley, and Alcides Fonseca  HATRA'21 - Human Aspects of Types and Reasoning Assistants Workshop, co-located with SPLASH'21.
Sep 2021	LiquidJava: Adding Lightweight Verification to Java Catarina Gamboa, Paulo Santos, Christopher S. Timperley, and Alcides Fonseca  INForum 2021 - Informatics Symposium.
Nov 2020	Extending Java with Refinements Catarina Gamboa, Paulo Santos, Christopher S. Timperley, and Alcides Fonseca  PSSV'20 - Program Semantics, Specification and Verification: Theory and Applications, Student Paper

TALKS

Dec 2022	Guest Talk at Secure Coding CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY Invited by Hanan Hibshi to give a talk about LiquidJava in the course Secure Coding, 14735, Fall 2022.
Jul 2022	Science Communication and the Media LASIGE, Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade de Lisboa  Presentation about the importance of Science Communication to broad audiences using media resources. Short version presented at the 1st LASIGE FORUM and a full-version presented in Talks@LASIGE.

ONGOING PROJECTS

July 2023 - now	Understanding the usability barriers in Liquid Types Liquid Types improve software reliability by finding bugs at compile-time as it has been shown in many papers. However, they are yet to be widely used. Therefore, this project aims to investigate what are the usability issues and improvements that can make liquid types more widely used by applying exploratory qualitative techniques (e.g., contextual inquiries, interviews, usability studies).
July 2023 - now	LiquidJava - Formalization of Liquid Types in Java After designing LiquidJava with a focus on usability, this project aims to formalize the language and the interesting properties of integrating liquid types in Java. The first step was accomplished by adding a lightweight aliasing tracking technique in Java (Latte) that will be leveraged to reason about strong updates where liquid types are present.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEES

2023	SPLASH'23 - Student Volunteer Co-Chair (<i>website</i>) CASCAIS, PORTUGAL Catarina is part of the organizing committee to organize the volunteering team for the conference that will happen in Lisbon in October 2023.
2023	PLDI'23 - Artifact Evaluation Committee (<i>website</i>)

OUTREACH, LEADERSHIP AND TEAMWORK

May 2023	Student Volunteer at ICSE 2023 MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA Participated as a student volunteer in the organization of the conference that counted with 1500 participants.
2021-2023	Student Volunteer at POPL 2021, 2022 and 2023 Participated as a student volunteer in three consecutive years helping in the organization of the event in online, hybrid and in-person versions.
2021-2022	Co-organization of events at LASIGE Joined the organizer committee for the LASIGE Welcome Day 2021 and 2022, organized team building activities such as paintball and movie nights for all members of the research unit, joined the PhD student commission to help improve the wellbeing and connection among PhD students.
2019-2022	Board Member of the non-profit cultural organization Associação Alegres Olhares Elected board member of the non-profit cultural association Alegres Olhares in the last two elections for the corporate entities. The association organizes and co-organizes cultural projects using creativity to take the traditional projects to our present day.
2010-now	Participation in Music and Theater Groups Plays concert flute in the Band of the Philarmonic Society of Olhalvo and belongs to the folk music group Noses com Vozes. She also participated in multiple theater groups such as the Academic Theater of the University of Lisbon (TUT) and the SCS Musical group at CMU.

AWARDS

Apr 2022	Huawei Scholarship Was awarded with one of the 50 scholarships given in the scope of Huawei's program Seeds For The Future 2.0, in collaboration with .PT, to empower students in the STEM areas.
Sep 2021	Award for Best Student Poster Got the award for best poster for the work on "LiquidJava: Adding Lightweight Verification to Java" in the conference INFORUM - Informatics Symposium 2021.
2021	MaxData Award - Informatics Excellence Received the academic excellence award for the best student on the first year of the MSc on Informatics Engineering.
2018-2020	Diploma of Academic Merit Received academic excellence awards for the three years of the Bachelor degree.

OTHER EDUCATION

Apr 2022	Science and the Media - bringing scientists, journalists and society cE3c, Faculdade de Ciencias da Universidade de Lisboa 
	2nd Grade on Concert Flute Had transverse flute classes since the age of 6 and in 2014 got the 2nd grade of transverse flute by the Torres Vedras Conservatory.
	6th Grade on Classical Dance Had classes of classical dance from 2006 to 2015 and achieved the 3rd Level of the "Certificate in Graded Examination in Dance" by Royal Academy of Dance, for the 6th grade of classical dance (ballet).

OTHER ACTIVITIES

2022, 2018	Monitor at Verão ULisboa and Ciências Open Day FACULDADE DE CIÊNCIAS DA UNIVERSIDADE DE LISBOA Helped in activities to promote Programming and Computer Science for high school students.
Jan 2019	Volunteer in the event Building the Future MICROSOFT AND IMATCH Participated as volunteer on the organization of the event Building the Future which joined technology, transformation and leadership to empower people and companies. The event was promoted by Microsoft in collaboration with imatch.
Jul 2017	Summer Course on Heritage and Creativity INSTITUTO POLITÉCNICO DE LEIRIA Participation on the International Summer Course about Heritage and Creativity.