

Biographical Sketch

Stella De Almeida Gonsales, Ph.D.



Stella A. Gonsales is an organometallic chemist whose work includes catalysis, polymer recycling, and the design of degradable and functional polyolefins. She completed her BSc and MSc studies at University of Campinas, Brazil, where she is from, her PhD studies at the University of Florida, USA (Prof. Adam Veige, 2017), followed by postdoctoral research stays at Boston College, USA (Prof. Jeffery Byers, 2017-2018), University of Strasbourg, France (Prof. Amir Hoveyda, 2019-2021), and University of Bordeaux, France (Prof. Daniel Taton, 2022-2023). In April 2023 she started as an Assistant Professor at UCT Prague, in the Department of Polymers, and, since January 2024, as a Junior Group Leader of a joint UCT–IOCB laboratory, the Laboratory of Sustainable Polymers, where she leads an emerging research program focused on catalytic methods for sustainable polymer science.

Her scientific achievements include pioneering contributions to allene cross-metathesis, the first syntheses of cyclic polyacetylene and cyclic polypropylene, and more recently, a work on enzymatic depolymerization strategies for commodity plastics. These contributions include high-profile publications in *Nature Chemistry*, *JACS*, and *Angewandte Chemie*. She has authored 14 publications with more than 560 citations, and two U.S. patents.

This year, Stella has secured major competitive funding schemes, including the GAČR Junior Star Grant (€1M/5 years) to support research on catalysts and methods for recycling commodity polymers, and the Dagmar Procházková Fund award (2M CZK/year for 3 years) for the development of catalytic systems for degradable and functional polyolefins. Earlier recognition includes the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Seal of Excellence (2020) and several distinctions for scientific originality and research excellence during her PhD at the University of Florida.

As an independent PI, she mentors doctoral, master's, bachelor's, and postdoctoral researchers and teaches core courses in macromolecular chemistry and Organometallic Chemistry for Polymer Applications at UCT Prague.

She is married. Her husband lives with her in Prague and works as a researcher at the Institute of Organic Chemistry and Biochemistry of the Czech Academy of Sciences. Together, they are raising their four-year-old son. In her free time, she enjoys cooking, reading, and walking in nature.