

# Alberto Poncelas Rodriguez

✉ aponcelas2@hotmail.ie

🌐 <https://alberto-poncelas.github.io>

🌐 <https://ie.linkedin.com/in/albertoponcelas/en>



## Work Experience

---

- Oct 2019 – Present • **Postdoctoral Researcher** in ADAPT Centre, Ireland.  
Research is in the area of Machine Translation and Natural Language Processing. Investigation of indirect translation and sentiment classification. Technologies: Python, Pandas, Numpy, Spacy, Keras.
- Oct 2015 – Sep 2019 • **PhD Researcher** in ADAPT Centre, Ireland.  
Research is in the area of Machine Translation and Natural Language Processing. Use of data-selection techniques and synthetic data generation for improving machine-translation. Technologies: OpenNMT, Python, Scala, C language.
- Aug 2013 – Sep 2015 • **Big Data Engineer** in BEEVA.  
Projects involved: (i) Development of a tool for calculating the risks involved in the granting of loans; (ii) Data exploration using Spark and Scala; (iii) A client segmentation analysis using data mining techniques. Technologies: R and Hive; and (iv) Development of a tool based in intelligent agent ecosystem. Technologies: node.js and Neo4j.
- Jun 2012 – Jul 2012 • **Software Developer** in LKS.  
Use of Oracle PL/SQL, Oracle Forms and Oracle Reports technologies
- May 2011 – Aug 2011 • **Web Developer** in Sectoro4 Consultoría Y Soluciones Informáticas S.L.  
Web application development using the following technologies: PHP (Code-Igniter framework), HTML, jQuery, AJAX, CSS, MySQL

## Education

---

- 2015 – 2019 • **Ph.D., Machine Translation** in Dublin City University, Ireland.  
Research in the area of Machine Translation.  
Thesis title: *Improving Transductive Data Selection Algorithms for Machine Translation*
- 2012 – 2013 • **M.Sc., Machine Learning** in University of the Basque Country, Spain.  
Thesis title: *Preprocess and data analysis techniques for affymetrix DNA microarrays using bioconductor: a case study in Alzheimer disease*
- 2009 – 2010 • **Erasmus study year** in École pour l'informatique et les techniques avancées (EPITA), France
- 2004 – 2011 • **B.Sc. Computer Science** in University of the Basque Country, Spain.

## Certificates and Courses

---

2016 • **Machine learning** Coursera  
<https://www.coursera.org/account/accomplishments/certificate/5XKFZ85CN8U8>

2014 • **Data Science Specialization** Coursera  
<https://www.coursera.org/account/accomplishments/specialization/3QE0AonkEe>

## Teaching Experience

---

- 2020 • **Teaching** in Dublin City University.  
Machine Learning  
Statistical Machine Translation
- **Teaching** in Trinity College Dublin.  
Interlingual Technologies: Machine Translation lecture.
- 2019 • **Teaching Assistant** in Dublin City University.  
Statistical Machine Translation: teaching, coding/evaluation of lab exercises and grading.
- 2006 • **Teaching Assistant** in University of the Basque Country.  
Data Structures and Algorithms: teaching, coding/evaluation of lab exercises and grading.
- 2005–2008 • **Teaching Assistant** in University of the Basque Country.  
Programming I: teaching, coding/evaluation of lab exercises and grading.

## Research Publications

---

- 1 **Poncelas, A.**, Aboomar, M., Buts, J., Hadley, J., & Way, A. (2020). A Tool for Facilitating OCR Postediting in Historical Documents. In *Workshop on Language Technologies for Historical and Ancient Languages, LT4HALA* (pp. 47–51). Marseille, France.
- 2 **Poncelas, A.**, Pidchamook, W., Liu, C.-H., Hadley, J., & Way, A. (2020). Multiple Segmentations of Thai Sentences for Neural Machine Translation. In *Proceedings of The 1st Joint Spoken Language Technologies for Under-resourced languages and Collaboration and Computing for Under-Resourced Languages Workshop, SLTU-CCURL* (pp. 240–244). Marseille, France.
- 3 Soto, X., Shterionov, D., **Poncelas, A.**, & Way, A. (2020). Selecting Backtranslated Data from Multiple Sources for Improved Neural Machine Translation. In *Proceedings of The 58th Annual Conference of the Association for Computational Linguistics, ACL*. Seattle, USA.
- 4 Way, A., Haque, R., Xie, G., Gaspari, F., Popovic, M., & **Poncelas, A.** (2020). Facilitating access to multilingual covid-19 information via neural machine translation. *arXiv preprint arXiv:2005.00283*.
- 5 Way, A., Haque, R., Xie, G., Gaspari, F., Popović, M., & **Poncelas, A.** (2020). Rapid development of competitive translation engines for access to multilingual covid-19 information. 7(2), 19.
- 6 **Poncelas, A.** (2019). *Improving transductive data selection algorithms for machine translation* (Doctoral dissertation, Dublin City University).

- 7 **Poncelas, A.**, de Buy Wenniger, G. M., & Way, A. (2019a). Adaptation of machine translation models with back-translated data using transductive data selection methods. In *20th international conference on computational linguistics and intelligent text processing*. La Rochelle, France.
- 8 **Poncelas, A.**, de Buy Wenniger, G. M., & Way, A. (2019b). Transductive data-selection algorithms for fine-tuning neural machine translation. In *Proceedings of the 8th workshop on patent and scientific literature translation* (pp. 13–23). Dublin, Ireland.
- 9 **Poncelas, A.**, Popovic, M., Shterionov, D., de Buy Wenniger, G. M., & Way, A. (2019). Combining SMT and NMT back-translated data for efficient NMT. In *Proceedings of recent advances in natural language processing (RANLP)* (pp. 922–931). Varna, Bulgaria.
- 10 **Poncelas, A.**, Sarasola, K., Dowling, M., Way, A., Labaka, G., & Alegria, I. (2019). Adapting NMT to caption translation in Wikimedia Commons for low-resource languages. *Procesamiento del Lenguaje Natural*, 63, 33–40.
- 11 **Poncelas, A.** & Way, A. (2019). Selecting Artificially-Generated Sentences for Fine-Tuning Neural Machine Translation. In *Proceedings of the 12th international conference on natural language generation* (pp. 219–228). Tokyo, Japan.
- 12 Vanmassenhove, E., Moryossef, A., **Poncelas, A.**, Way, A., & Shterionov, D. (2019). ABI Neural Ensemble Model for Gender Prediction Adapt Bar-Ilan Submission for the CLIN29 Shared Task on Gender Prediction. In *Computational linguistics of the netherlands clin29*. Groningen, The Netherlands.
- 13 Dowling, M., Lynn, T., **Poncelas, A.**, & Way, A. (2018). SMT versus NMT: Preliminary comparisons for Irish. In *Technologies for mt of low resource languages (loresmt 2018)* (pp. 12–20). Boston, USA.
- 14 **Poncelas, A.**, de Buy Wenniger, G. M., & Way, A. (2018). Data selection with feature decay algorithms using an approximated target side. In *15th international workshop on spoken language translation (iwslt 2018)* (pp. 173–180). Bruges, Belgium.
- 15 **Poncelas, A.**, Maillette de Buy Wenniger, G., & Way, A. (2018). Feature decay algorithms for neural machine translation. In *Proceedings of the 21st annual conference of the european association for machine translation* (pp. 239–248). Alicante, Spain.
- 16 **Poncelas, A.**, Shterionov, D., Way, A., de Buy Wenniger, G. M., & Passban, P. (2018). Investigating backtranslation in neural machine translation. In *21st annual conference of the european association for machine translation* (pp. 249–258). Alicante, Spain.
- 17 **Poncelas, A.**, Way, A., & Sarasola, K. (2018). The ADAPT System Description for the IWSLT 2018 Basque to English Translation Task. In *International workshop on spoken language translation* (pp. 72–82). Bruges, Belgium.
- 18 Silva, C. C., Liu, C.-H., **Poncelas, A.**, & Way, A. (2018). Extracting in-domain training corpora for neural machine translation using data selection methods. In *Proceedings of the third conference on machine translation: research papers* (pp. 224–231). Brussels, Belgium.
- 19 Dzendzik, D., **Poncelas, A.**, Vogel, C., & Liu, Q. (2017). ADAPT centre cone team at IJCNLP-2017 task 5: a similarity-based logistic regression approach to multi-choice question answering in an examinations shared task. In *Proceedings of the ijcnlp 2017, shared tasks* (pp. 67–72). Taipei, Taiwan.
- 20 Liu, C.-H., Groves, D., Hayakawa, A., **Poncelas, A.**, & Liu, Q. (2017). Understanding meanings in multilingual customer feedback. In *Proceedings of first workshop on social media and user generated content machine translation (Social MT 2017)*. Prague, Czech Republic.
- 21 Liu, C.-H., Moriya, Y., **Poncelas, A.**, & Groves, D. (2017). IJCNLP-2017 Task 4: Customer Feedback Analysis. In *Proceedings of the IJCNLP 2017, shared tasks* (pp. 26–33). Taipei, Taiwan.

- 22 **Poncelas, A.**, Maillette de Buy Wenniger, G., & Way, A. (2017). Applying n-gram alignment entropy to improve feature decay algorithms. *The Prague Bulletin of Mathematical Linguistics*, 108(1), 245–256.
- 23 **Poncelas, A.**, Way, A., & Toral, A. (2016). Extending feature decay algorithms using alignment entropy. In *International workshop on future and emerging trends in language technology* (pp. 170–182). Springer. Seville, Spain.
- 24 **Poncelas, A.** (2013). *Preprocess and data analysis techniques for affymetrix dna microarrays using bioconductor: a case study in alzheimer disease* (Master's thesis, University of the Basque Country).

## **Presentations**

---

- 2020 • **The sentiment classification on indirect translation** (in French) Brest, France
- 2019 • **Transductive Data-Selection Algorithms for Fine-Tuning Neural Machine Translation** Dublin, Ireland
- **Combining SMT and NMT Back-Translated Data for Efficient NMT** Varna, Bulgaria
- **Adaptation of Machine Translation Models with Back-translated Data using Transductive Data Selection Methods** La Rochelle, France
- 2018 • **Understanding Meanings in Multilingual Customer Feedback** Prague, Czech Republic
- 2017 • **IJCNLP-2017 task 4: Customer feedback analysis Workshop presentation** Taipei, Taiwan
- **A Similarity-Based Logistic Regression Approach to Multi-choice Question Answering in an Examinations Shared Task** Taipei, Taiwan
- 2016 • **Extending feature decay algorithms using alignment entropy** Sevilla, Spain

## **Miscellaneous**

---

### **Professional services**

- 2020 • **Transactions on Asian and Low-Resource Language Information Processing (TALLIP)** Reviewer
- **Machine Translation journal** Reviewer
- **ACL 2020** Reviewer
- 2019 • **MTSummit 2019** PC member / Proceedings chair
- **LoResMT (MTSummit 2019)** PC member / Reviewer
- **RANLP 2019** PC member / Reviewer
- **Language Resources and Evaluation (LREV)** Reviewer
- 2018 • **LoResMT (AMTA 2018)** Reviewer
- 2017 • **Cupral Workshop (IJCNLP 2017)** Reviewer
- **Customer Feedback Analysis Shared Task (IJCNLP 2017)** Co-organizer / Reviewer

## Miscellaneous (continued)

---

- 2015 • DL4MT Winter School: Deep Learning for Machine Translation volunteer

### Grants and Awards

- 2018 • President's Awards for Engagement (nominated).  
2017 • School of computing travel grant  
2015 – 2019 • Science Foundation Ireland (SFI). PhD funded by SFI through the ADAPT Centre.

### Scientific outreach

- 2017 – 2018 • My Thesis in 3 in French  
2016 – 2019 • DCU Research Day

### Volunteering Experience

- 2017 – 2019 • **Coordinator** All Ireland Linguistics Olympiad (AILO) and International Linguistics Olympiad (2017)  
2018 • **Spanish Teacher**  
2016 • **Intercultural Ambassador.**

## Languages

---

- Native: Spanish
- Proficiency level: English
- Intermediate level: French, Basque
- Basic level: Serbian, German, Japanese