

BELU TICONA

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EDUCATION

PhD in Computer Science, George Mason University (GMU) Aug. 2024 - present
 Advisor: Prof. [Antonios Anastasopoulos](#). GPA: 4.0/4.0

Licenciante in Computer Science, University of Buenos Aires (UBA) Mar. 2018 - 2023
 Equivalent to BSc + MSc with research thesis.
 Graduated with Honors. GPA: 3.67/4.0 (8.5/10.0)

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant | [GMU-NLP Lab](#) Sep. 2024 - current
Research Engineer | [First Languages AI Reality, Mila - Quebec AI Institute](#) Jun. 2024 - Jul. 2024
Research Assistant | [CS-NLP Lab - UBA](#) Sep. 2023 - Feb. 2024
Data & Applied Scientist Intern | [Microsoft](#) Nov. 2022 - Jan. 2023
Data Scientist Intern | [Medallia](#) Nov. 2021 - Sep. 2022
Co-organizer and speaker coach | [TEDxJoven@CNBA](#) Oct. 2016 - Jul. 2019

PUBLICATIONS & PRESENTATIONS

- [Poster] **B. Ticona**, A. Anastasopoulos. [MT Crisis Cookbook: Updates & Challenges](#). Pennsylvania, UPenn. Non-archival. [MASC-SLL'25]
- [Publication] N. Krasner, J. Vaselli, **B. Ticona**, A. Anastasopoulos, C. Luo. [Machine Translation Metrics for Indigenous Languages using Fine-tuned Semantic Embeddings](#). *Machine Translation Metric Shared Task, 5th AmericasNLP Workshop, NAACL*. USA, Apr. 2025. [Americas@NAACL'25]
- [Publication] **B. Ticona**, F. Carranza, V. Cotik. [Indigenous Languages Spoken in Argentina: A Survey of NLP and Speech Resources](#). *31st International Conference on Computational Linguistics*. UEA, Jan. 2025. [COLING'25]
- [Poster] **B. Ticona**. [Towards Textless Speech-to-Speech Translation for Quechua-Spanish](#). *Young Female Researchers in Speech Workshop, Interspeech*. Greece, Sep. 2024. [YFRS@Interspeech'24]
- [Presentation] **B. Ticona**, F. Carranza, V. Cotik. [Computational Resources for Indigenous Languages Spoken in Argentina: An Introductory Survey](#). *LatinX in NLP Workshop, NAACL*. Mexico, Jun. 2024. Non-archival. [LXAI@NAACL'24]
- [Publication] G. Fernández, **B. Ticona**, C. Cossio. [AELE, an adaptable tool for programming and robotic education](#). *Argentine Conference on Didactics of Computer Science*. Argentina, Aug. 2021. [Article (ES)] [Slides] [JADICC'21]
- [Poster] **B. Ticona**, D. Onna, P. Turjanski. Perovskite synthesis: predicting crystal formation using ensemble machine learning models. *National Congress on Nanosciences*. Argentina, Apr. 2021. [NANO'21]

SELECTED TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Teaching Assistant | [CS Department, UBA](#) Mar. 2022 - May 2024
CS Instructor | [National School of Buenos Aires \(CNBA\), UBA](#) Mar. 2023 - May 2024

SELECTED INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

Tutor Coordinator & Mentor | [School of Science, UBA](#) Mar. 2023 - Jun. 2024
Student Representative Council | [CS Department, UBA](#) Mar. 2020 - Mar. 2022
Science Outreach Specialist | [CS Department, UBA](#) Mar. 2019 - Jul. 2021

SELECTED AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

2025 **Lacuna Fund NLP Grantee**, *External Parter Co-organizer* Argentina
 2024 **Young Female Researchers in Speech Scholarship**, *Conference Travel Grant* Greece
 2024 **NAACL Diversity and Inclusion Scholarship**, *Conference Travel Grant* Mexico
 2024 **Google CS Research Fellowship**, *LatinX in AI program scholar* Virtual
 2023 **Latin American Workshop for Increasing Diversity and Inclusion in Science**, *Workshop Travel Grant* Brazil

INVITED TALKS

- 2025 «AI for Indigenous Languages», Indigenous Digital Activism Summit, organized by *Global Voices*, Mexico.
- 2024 «Innovations in Indigenous NLP and ASR», *Indigenous in AI Workshop* at NeurIPS’24, Canada.
- 2024 «Why does NLP need decolonizing perspectives?», NLP seminar at CIMAT, Mexico.
- 2023 «Getting started with Data Science», panelist at *#BrunchTech*, *Technolatinas Podcast*.
- 2022 «My Journey in Computer Science», event speaker at the “*CS and Data Science Week*”, School of Science, UBA.

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Birds of a Feather Host - <i>Language Technologies for Crisis Preparedness and Response (LT4CPR)</i>	COLING’2025
Student Volunteer	COLING’2025
Ethics Reviewer	ACL-ARR’Dec. 2025
Reviewer	ComputEL’2025