

LAURA BRAVO-SÁNCHEZ

lmbravo@stanford.edu ◊ <https://laubravo.github.io>

EDUCATION

PhD. , Biomedical Data Science, Stanford University	<i>2021 - 2026</i>
MSc. , Biomedical Engineering, Universidad de los Andes	<i>2017 - 2019</i>
BSc. , Biomedical Engineering, Universidad de los Andes	<i>2013 - 2017</i>
Minor in French Language and Culture	

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

PhD. Research - Stanford Medical AI and Computer Vision Lab, Stanford University	<i>2022 - Present</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Designing computer vision approaches for understanding 3D scenes and human interaction.• Building artificial intelligence systems for scaling parent-child interaction analysis. Advisor: Serena Yeung-Levy	
Researcher - Universidad de los Andes	<i>2019 - 2021</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Project leader of scene understanding of laparoscopic and robotic-assisted surgery videos.• Developed a machine learning approach for efficient COVID-19 testing. Supervisor: Pablo Arbeláez	
Research Scientist - Tecnología y Gerencia S.A.S	<i>Feb 2019 - May 2019</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Designed and implemented the experimental methodology for automatic recommendation of financial loans. Supervisor: Carlos E. Pérez	
MSc. Research - Universidad de los Andes	<i>2017 - 2019</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Created computer vision methods for disambiguating surgical instruments with natural language descriptions.• Collected and designed a dataset for fine-grained object localization based on four-leaf clover identification. Advisor: Pablo Arbeláez	

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- **MicroVQA: A Multimodal Reasoning Benchmark for Microscopy-Based Scientific Research**
James Burgess, Jeffrey J Nirshl*, L. Bravo-Sánchez*, et al.*
Accepted at CVPR 2025
- **Ask, pose, unite: Scaling data acquisition for close interactions with vision language models.**
L. Bravo-Sánchez, J. Heo, Z. Weng, K.C. Wang, S. Yeung-Levy
Arxiv preprint (2024)
- **Artificial intelligencepowered 3D analysis of video-based caregiver-child interactions**
Z. Weng, L. Bravo-Sánchez, et al.
Science Advances (2025)
- **Diffusion-HPC: Synthetic data generation for human mesh recovery in challenging domains.**
Z. Weng, L. Bravo-Sánchez, & S. Yeung-Levy
International Conference on 3D Vision (2024)
- **Smart pooling: AI-powered COVID-19 informative group testing.**
M. Escobar, G. Jeanneret, L. Bravo-Sánchez, et al.
Scientific Reports (2022)
- **Surgical instrument grounding for robot-assisted interventions.**
C. González, L. Bravo-Sánchez*, & P. Arbeláez*
Computer Methods in Biomechanics and Biomedical Engineering: Imaging (2022)
- **ISINet: An Instance-Based Approach for Surgical Instrument Segmentation.**
C. González, L. Bravo-Sánchez*, & P. Arbeláez*
Medical Image Computing and Computer Assisted Intervention (2020)

- **Finding Four-Leaf Clovers: A Benchmark for Fine-Grained Object Localization.**

L. Bravo-Sánchez^{*}, *A. Pardo*^{*}, *G. Perez*^{*}, *P. Arbeláez*

Sixth Workshop on Fine-Grained Visual Categorization, CVPR (2019).

^{*} denotes equal contribution.

AWARDS AND TALKS

- “How can Computer Vision guide the understanding of parent-child interactions?”. Technical talk at the 2024 WiDS Worldwide conference.
- Fulbright Colombia Minciencias Scholarship recipient 2021 Cohort (3 % acceptance, \$80.000 USD).
- Leader of Team Uniandes in the MISAW challenge part of MICCAI 2020. Won first place in the Activity Recognition task.
- Leader of Team Uniandes. We won 5 awards at the Robust Endoscopic Instrument Segmentation Challenge 2019 part of MICCAI 2019.
- “Totæ Lacrimæ: automatic recognition of human emotions based on micrographs of tear crystals”. Art exhibition (2019).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Teaching Assistant - Stanford University *Spring 2023, 2024*

- Part of the teaching team for the Computational Methods for Biomedical Image Analysis course

Graduate Teaching Assistant - Universidad de los Andes *Fall 2017, 2018*

- Instructed students in the laboratory sections of the Biomedical Image Analysis course.

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant - Universidad de los Andes *Fall 2016 - Spring 2017*

- Assisted in the Scientific Programming and Biomedical Image Analysis courses.

SKILLS

Programming: Python, PyTorch, Matlab and (some) Caffe

Languages: Spanish (native), English (C1), French (B1).

Other: Statistical analysis, 3D printing and design (MeshLab, AutoDesk Inventor).

SERVICE AND OUTREACH

- **Volunteer interpreter** - Immigrants' Rights Clinic, Stanford University *2024 - 2025*
- **Student Representative** - Department of Biomedical Data Science, Stanford University *2023 - 2024*
- **Financial Officer** - Colombian Association, Stanford University *2023 - 2024*
- **Mentor** - Visible Hands Corporation *2015, 2020*
Mentor of healthcare projects from the Innovation Girls 4.0 program, an education initiative for afrocolombian minorities from Chocó's School of Robotics (*in Spanish: Escuela de Robótica del Chocó*).
- **Volunteer Teacher** - ColombiaCrece *2018*
Second grade mathematics teacher for older adults. Guided students in learning addition and subtraction.
- **Volunteer** - Techo Colombia *2012 - 2014*
Raised funds and built emergency houses for underprivileged families in Bogotá