

# Milton O. Candela-Leal

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[miltoncandela.github.io](https://miltoncandela.github.io)

## EDUCATION

- Tecnológico de Monterrey** - Monterrey, Mexico 2020 - Dec 2024  
BS in Biomedical Engineering (96/100 = 3.9/4.0 GPA)
- International Baccalaureate** - Monterrey, Mexico 2018 - 2020  
Math HL, Psychology SL, Physics SL, ...  
Thesis: [Film & Psychology] *Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* (2004),  
a Cultural and Ideological Instructor of the Millennial Viewer

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- Tecnológico de Monterrey** - Monterrey, Mexico Mar 2021 - Jul 2023, Fall 2024  
*NSF IUCRC BRAIN Center*  
Advisor: Prof. Mauricio A. Ramírez-Moreno, PhD  
Projects: Biometrics (EEG, ECG, CV) and Machine Learning to predict:  
Mental fatigue (2021); engineering interest (2021); emotion (2023).  
- Force prediction through pose estimation keypoints and RNN (2022).  
- Cognitive load in chess (2023); closed-loop BCI for attention (2024).
- Harvard Medical School** - Boston, MA, USA Aug 2023 - Jul 2024  
*Boston Children's Hospital*  
Advisor: Prof. Kiho Im, PhD  
Projects: Fetal MRI subplate segmentation (attention U-Net); non-linear qMRI for  
congenital heart disease classification; MICCAI FeTA Challenge 2024.
- University of Houston** - Houston, TX, USA Spring 2022  
*NSF IUCRC BRAIN Center*  
Advisor: Prof. Jose L. Contreras-Vidal, PhD  
Project: EEG functional connectivity and bispectrum analysis between actors.

## JOURNAL ARTICLES

(† indicates equal contribution)

- Mandujano-Granillo, J.A., **Candela-Leal, M.O.**, Ortiz-Vazquez, J.J., ... Lozoya-Santos, J.J. (2024).  
Human-Vehicle Interfaces: A Review for Autonomous Electric Vehicles. *IEEE Access*, 12,  
121635–121658. doi:[10.1109/ACCESS.2024.3450439](https://doi.org/10.1109/ACCESS.2024.3450439)
- Blanco-Ríos, M.A.†, **Candela-Leal, M.O.**†, Orozco-Romo, C., ... Ramírez-Moreno, M.A. (2024). Real-time  
EEG-based Emotion Recognition for Neurohumanities: Perspectives from Principal Component  
Analysis and Tree-based Algorithms. *Frontiers in Human Neuroscience*, 18, 1319574.  
doi:[10.3389/fnhum.2024.1319574](https://doi.org/10.3389/fnhum.2024.1319574). PubMed PMID:[38545515](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/38545515/)
- Candela-Leal, M.O.**, Gutiérrez-Flores, E.A., Presbítero-Espinosa, G., ... Ramírez-Moreno, M.A. (2022).  
Multi-Output Sequential Deep Learning Model for Athlete Force Prediction on a Treadmill Using 3D  
Markers. *Applied Sciences*, 12(11), 5424. doi:[10.3390/app12115424](https://doi.org/10.3390/app12115424)
- Ramírez-Moreno, M.A., Carrillo-Tijerina, P., **Candela-Leal, M.O.**, ... Lozoya-Santos, J.J. (2021).  
Evaluation of a Fast Test Based on Biometric Signals to Assess Mental Fatigue at the  
Workplace—A Pilot Study. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*,  
18(22), 11891. doi:[10.3390/ijerph182211891](https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph182211891). PubMed PMID:[34831645](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34831645/)

## BOOK CHAPTERS

- Lozoya-Santos, J.J., Ramírez-Moreno, M.A., **Candela-Leal, M.O.**, ... Ramírez-Mendoza, R.A. (2022).  
Current and Future Biometrics: Technology and Applications. In R.A. Ramírez-Mendoza, J.J.  
Lozoya-Santos, R. Zavala-Yoé, ... H.G. Gonzalez-Hernandez (Eds.), *Biometry: Technology, Trends  
and Applications* (1st ed., pp. 1–30). Boca Raton, FL: CRC Press. doi:[10.1201/9781003145240-1](https://doi.org/10.1201/9781003145240-1).  
ISBN: 9781003145240.

## CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS

- Candela-Leal, M.O.**, Aguilar-Herrera, A.J., Ramírez-Moreno, M.A., ... Lozoya-Santos, J.J. (2024).  
Conscious Technologies Projects as a Hub for Real Life Challenges in Engineering Education. In  
15<sup>th</sup> EDUCON (pp. 665-675). Kos, Greece: IEEE. doi:[10.1109/EDUCON60312.2024.10578738](https://doi.org/10.1109/EDUCON60312.2024.10578738)
- Candela-Leal, M.O.**, Martínez-Díaz, D., Orozco-Romo, C., ... Ramírez-Moreno, M.A. (2023).  
Biomechanics Digital Twin: Markerless Joint Acceleration Prediction Using Machine Learning and

Computer Vision. In 3<sup>rd</sup> IFE-WS (pp. 142-150). Monterrey, Mexico: IEEE.  
doi:[10.1109/IEEECONF56852.2023.10104757](https://doi.org/10.1109/IEEECONF56852.2023.10104757)

**Candela-Leal, M.O.**, García-Briones, J.M., Olivas-Martínez, G., ... Lozoya-Santos, J.J. (2021). Real-time Biofeedback System for Interactive Learning using Wearables and IoT. In 6<sup>th</sup> North American IEOM (pp. 2959-2970). Monterrey, Mexico: IEOM (**best undergraduate paper award**).  
doi:[10.46254/NA06.20210487](https://doi.org/10.46254/NA06.20210487)

Olivas-Martínez, G., **Candela-Leal, M.O.**, Ocampo-Alvarado, J.C., ... Ramírez-Moreno, M.A. (2021). Detecting Change in Engineering Interest in Children through Machine Learning using Biometric Signals. In 1<sup>st</sup> IFE-WS (pp. 33-40). Monterrey, Mexico: IEEE.  
doi:[10.1109/IEEECONF53024.2021.9733772](https://doi.org/10.1109/IEEECONF53024.2021.9733772)

Aguilar-Herrera, A.J., Delgado-Jimenez, E.A., **Candela-Leal, M.O.**, ... Ramírez-Mendoza, R.A. (2021). Advanced Learner Assistance System's (ALAS) recent results. In 1<sup>st</sup> IFE-WS (pp. 26-33). Monterrey, Mexico: IEEE. doi:[10.1109/IEEECONF53024.2021.9733770](https://doi.org/10.1109/IEEECONF53024.2021.9733770)

## INVITED TALKS

**Candela-Leal, M.O.** (2024, September). Decoding Cognitive Performance: From Chess Puzzles to STEM Classrooms. Presented to senior undergraduate students at Cognitive Neuroscience minor, Tecnológico de Monterrey, Monterrey, Mexico [\[slides\]](#)

**Candela-Leal, M.O.** (2023, April). Computer Vision and Facial Recognition. Presented to senior undergraduate computer science students at Computing Seminar course, Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León (UANL) [one of Mexico's top eight universities], Monterrey, Mexico [\[slides\]](#)

## WORKING PAPERS

Ramírez-Moreno, M.A., Romero-Días, D.C., **Candela-Leal, M.O.**, ... Lozoya-Santos, J.J. (*submitted*). Workplace Measures of Mental Fatigue.

**Candela-Leal, M.O.**, Alanis-Espinosa, M., Murrieta-González, J., ... Ramírez-Moreno, M.A. (*submitted*). Neurocognitive Insights into STEM Learning: An Integrated Analysis of Bandpower and Functional Connectivity among Youth

Ramírez-Arceo, G.A., **Candela-Leal, M.O.**, Tudon-Martínez, J.C., ... Ramírez-Moreno, M.A., (*submitted*). Innovative Spaces With Advanced Technologies Such as Research Activity Simulators for Engineering Education

**Candela-Leal, M.O.**, Lozoya-Santos, J.J., Ramírez-Moreno, M.A. (*in prep*). Task Completion Time Estimation via EEG Theta Bandpower during Chess-Based Problem-Solving

## PRESENTATIONS

### Oral Presentations

Digital Twins in Education: Enhancing Student Well-being and Academic Performance with Biometric Insights and Machine Learning. *U21 Health Sciences Group 2024 Annual Meeting*, Amsterdam University Medical Centers (Amsterdam, Netherlands) (**student speaker award**) 2024

High-resolution Fetal Subplate Automatic Segmentation. *FNNDSC Research Symposium*, Boston Children's Hospital (Boston, MA) 2024

CHD Fetal Brain Analysis using Combined Quantitative MRI Features and Custom-build Loss Functions. *FNNDSC Research Symposium*, Boston Children's Hospital (Boston, MA) 2024

Biomechanics for the Digital Twin of Performance: Study Cases. *Conscious Technologies for Smart Communities Workshop* (Virtual) 2021

*Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban* (2004), a Cultural and Ideological Instructor of the Millennial Viewer. *51<sup>th</sup> Research and Development Congress* (Virtual) 2021

### Poster Presentations

FALCONS: Fetal Automatic Landmark Computation and Optimization for Neuroimaging Segmentation. *27th Conference on MICCAI* (Marrakesh, Morocco) 2024

Real-time Dual-feature Mental Fatigue State SVM Classification using EEG Delta Bandpower. *19<sup>th</sup> IEEE-EMBS Conference on BSN*, MIT Media Lab (Boston, MA) 2023

Talent Detection Tool for Early Engineering Education. *NSF IUCRC BRAIN 2023 Annual Meeting*, Arizona State University (Phoenix, AZ) 2023

Human Machine Interface for Fleet Electric Vehicles. *NSF IUCRC BRAIN 2023 Annual Meeting*, Arizona State University (Phoenix, AZ) 2023

Biometric Cabin for Neurohumanities Lab. <i>NSF IUCRC BRAIN 2023 Annual Meeting</i> , Arizona State University (Phoenix, AZ)	2023
Digital Twin modeling for Human Biomechanics and Office Spaces. <i>NSF IUCRC BRAIN 2022 Annual Meeting</i> , University of Houston (Houston, TX)	2022
Brain on Acting: Neural Dynamics of Actor-Actor Dyads During an Acted Scene. <i>NSF IUCRC BRAIN 2022 Annual Meeting</i> , University of Houston (Houston, TX)	2022
Identifying Engineering Interest in Children through Machine Learning using Biometric Signals. <i>43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of the IEEE-EMBS</i> (Virtual)	2021
ALAS: Advanced Learner Assistance System for Engineering Education using Wearable Sensors. <i>43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of the IEEE-EMBS</i> (Virtual)	2021
Digital Twin of Biomechanics: Joint Force Prediction using Video and AI. At the <i>NSF IUCRC BRAIN 2021 Annual Meeting</i> (Virtual)	2021

## NON-INTERNATIONAL PRESENTATIONS

### Poster Presentations

Closed-Loop BCI with Haptic Feedback and SINDy Algorithm for Attention Support in ADHD Students. At the <i>24<sup>th</sup> Expo Ingenierías</i> , Tecnológico de Monterrey (Monterrey, Mexico)	2024
Biometric Cabin with Portable Real-Time Monitoring Technology for Smart Solutions. At the <i>21<sup>st</sup> Expo Ingenierías</i> , Tecnológico de Monterrey (Monterrey, Mexico)	2023
Neurohumanities Lab. At the <i>21<sup>st</sup> Expo Ingenierías</i> , Tecnológico de Monterrey (Monterrey, Mexico)	2023
Comparison of Brain Synchronization between Pairs during Collaborative and Competitive Tasks. At the <i>21<sup>st</sup> Expo Ingenierías</i> , Tecnológico de Monterrey (Monterrey, Mexico)	2023
Real-Time Knee Flexion Angle for Anterior Cruciate Ligament Injury using Computer Vision. At the <i>BMEX: Engineering and Health Sciences Symposium</i> , Tecnológico de Monterrey (Monterrey, Mexico)	2023
Advanced Learner Assistance System (ALAS). At the <i>20<sup>th</sup> Expo Ingenierías</i> , Tecnológico de Monterrey (Monterrey, Mexico)	2022
Real-Time Knee Flexion Angle for Anterior Cruciate Ligament Injury using Computer Vision. At the <i>20<sup>th</sup> Expo Ingenierías</i> , Tecnológico de Monterrey (Monterrey, Mexico)	2022
Digital Twin Office for Workspace Throughput Monitoring. At the <i>19<sup>th</sup> Expo Ingenierías</i> , Tecnológico de Monterrey (Monterrey, Mexico)	2022
Biomechanics For the Digital Twin of Performance. At the <i>19<sup>th</sup> Expo Ingenierías</i> , Tecnológico de Monterrey (Monterrey, Mexico)	2022
Advanced Learner Assistance System. At the <i>19<sup>th</sup> Expo Ingenierías</i> , Tecnológico de Monterrey (Monterrey, Mexico)	2022
Detection of Engineering Interest in Children Through an Intelligent System Using Biometric Signals. At the <i>18<sup>th</sup> Expo Ingenierías</i> (Virtual)	2021
Real-time Biofeedback System for Interactive Learning using Wearables and IoT. At the <i>18<sup>th</sup> Expo Ingenierías</i> (Virtual)	2021
Biomechanics for the Digital Twin of Performance. At the <i>18<sup>th</sup> Expo Ingenierías</i> (Virtual)	2021
Advanced Learner Assistance System (ALAS) for Engineering Education using Wearable Sensors. At the <i>17<sup>th</sup> Expo Ingenierías</i> (Virtual)	2021

## HONORS AND AWARDS

<b>Diploma of Excellence Award</b> (5% professional development), Tecnológico de Monterrey	2024
<b>International Diploma</b> (leadership & multilingual proficiency), Tecnológico de Monterrey	2024
<b>Student Speaker Award</b> (\$1600 USD), U21 Health Sciences Group	2024
<b>Outstanding Student Award</b> (1% eng. trajectories) [80/8000], Tecnológico de Monterrey	2023, 2024
1 <sup>st</sup> Place - Undergraduate Student Paper Competition, 6 <sup>th</sup> North American IEOM	2021
1 <sup>st</sup> Place - R&D Improvement Proposals (\$250 USD), 18 <sup>th</sup> Conexión Tec	2021

## TEACHING

German A2 Teacher, Mentoora MX	2022-2024
Middle School Math and Spanish Teacher, Aprendamos Juntos	2021-2022
Independent High School Physics Teacher	Fall 2019
FIRST® LEGO® League Mentor, Little Minds	Spring 2019

## PRESS

(Spanish) Conecta: <a href="#">They receive recognition for their AI learning project and take it to Amsterdam!</a>	2024
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## SKILLS SUMMARY

<b>Languages</b>	Python (3 years), R (2 years), MATLAB (1 year), Shell (3 months), SQL (3 months) English (C1), German (B1), Spanish
<b>Frameworks</b>	Numpy, Scipy, Pandas, Matplotlib, Scikit-learn, OpenCV, TensorFlow, Keras, BrainFlow FSL, FreeSurfer, MRtrix3, ANTs, NiBabel, PyDicom, IRTK, NUC, TorchIO, MNE, OSC Lattice, Dplyr, TidyR, Caret, GA, Ggplot, Shiny
<b>Tools</b>	Git, Anaconda, CUDA, CMake, Tableau, Microsoft Excel, G*Power, Overleaf, $\LaTeX$
<b>Platforms</b>	Linux, ROS, Windows, Arduino, Raspberry

## PROJECTS

<b>FeTA Challenge @ MICCAI - Harvard Medical School</b>	2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 7-label dataset (CSF, GM, WM, Ventricles, Cerebellum, Deep GM, Brainstem)</li> <li>- Pre-processed multi-site data; evaluated model zoo performance on in-house data</li> <li>- Trained a MRI U-Net model with spatial, intensity and resolution augmentation</li> </ul>	
<b>High-res Fetal Subplate Segmentation - Harvard Medical School</b>	2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Upsampled, aligned, and corrected subplate segmentation in a higher resolution</li> <li>- Implemented Bivariate Gaussian Smoothing (BGS) for step-like borders</li> <li>- Trained a MRI U-Net leveraged by transfer-learning for automatic segmentation</li> </ul>	
<b>Non-linear qMRI for CHD Classification - Harvard Medical School</b>	2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Designed Recursive RF importance (RRFi) for feature selection (20,453)</li> <li>- Created a 5-feature kNN model with 0.88 F1-score (0.10 better than baseline)</li> <li>- Discovered and proposed new biomarkers in fetal CHD brain identification</li> </ul>	
<b>Real-time Emotion Recognition - Tecnológico de Monterrey</b>	2022-2023
<i>(Neurohumanities Lab)</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Created an 8-channel EEG-based VAD 15 emotion recognition model</li> <li>- Designed a channel selection pipeline using lobe-based PCA and RF</li> <li>- Reduced 32-channel DEAP dataset dimensionality into optimal OpenBCI config</li> </ul>	
<b>Cognitive Load Dynamics in Chess - Tecnológico de Monterrey</b>	2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Designed, led, and processed 37 chess players under ambient/white noise</li> <li>- Calculated Task Completion Time (TCT) based on EEG biomarker theta C4</li> <li>- Validated TCT with Cognitive Load Theory (CLT), stratifying by chess level</li> </ul>	
<b>Digital Twin of the Workspace - Tecnológico de Monterrey</b>	2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Designed a throughput monitoring system via Human Action Recognition (HAR)</li> <li>- Integrated Velodyne LiDAR pointcloud with CV tracking using CCTV footage</li> <li>- Fitted a RNN HAR model (Walking, Running, Jumping) using CV human keypoints</li> </ul>	
<b>Brain on Acting - University of Houston</b>	2022
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recorded a play using 32-electrode EEG on two actors and the director</li> <li>- Calculated bispectrum signal for the combination of pairs using MATLAB</li> <li>- Assessed the difference in moments of gaze via Wilcoxon Rank-Sum Test</li> </ul>	
<b>Biomechanical Force Prediction - Tecnológico de Monterrey</b>	2021-2022
<i>(Biomechanics for the Digital Twin)</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Used OpenPose API and DLT to markerless track an individual's joints</li> <li>- Designed and trained an RNN using Tensorflow and Keras in Python</li> <li>- Predicted the force exerted by using raw human pose keypoints</li> </ul>	
<b>Mental Fatigue Prediction - Tecnológico de Monterrey</b>	2021
<i>(Advanced Learner Assistance System [ALAS])</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Feature engineered 4-electrode EEG &amp; ECG wearables features using R</li> <li>- Developed and tuned a ML algorithm that predicted mental fatigue via Python</li> </ul>	

- Used the least amount of combined features (2) to achieve high accuracy (93%)

**Interest in STEM Prediction** - *Tecnológico de Monterrey*  
(*Talent and Passion Detection Through Biometrics*)

2021

- Trained ML regression models with biometrics (EEG, ECG, and CV emotions)
- Predicted change in vocational interest after a STEM lecture using Python
- Validated with STEM-CIS psychometric test, the algorithm achieved 80% accuracy

## MEMBERSHIPS

SACNAS

Mar 2024 - Mar 2025

## AUDITED COURSES

**Harvard - Department of Psychology**

PSY 3340 Research Seminar in Cognition, Brain, and Behavior - *T. Ullman*

Spring 2024

PSY 1322 The Cognitive Science of Making Up Your Mind - *T. Ullman*

Spring 2024

**MIT - Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences (BCS)**

9.014 Quantitative Methods and Computational Models in Neuroscience - *M. Jazayeri*

Fall 2023

9.66 Computational Cognitive Science - *J. Tenenbaum*

Fall 2023

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

**MIT - Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences (BCS)**

(Workshop) Exploring New Horizons: Strategies for Success in new Scientific Field

2024

(Symposium) McGovern Institute: Transformational Strategies in Mental Health

2024

(Symposium) McGovern-MEGIN: MEGnificent brain discoveries

2024

**Tecnológico de Monterrey**

(Course) Data Science - *Crystal System*

(150 h) 2022

(Workshop) Biosignal processing in Python - *Neuroengineering and Neuroacoustics*

2021

(Hackathon) HackMTY

2021

(Hackathon) B-Hack - *43<sup>th</sup> National Biomedical Engineering Congress*

2020

(Course) Systemic Change - *Ashoka*

2020

## COURSERA SPECIALIZATIONS

**Johns Hopkins University**

Data Science

(288 h) 2021

Neuroscience and Neuroimaging

(42 h) 2020

Health Informatics

(56 h) 2020

Patient Safety

(54 h) 2020

Healthcare IT Support

(20 h) 2021

**University of Michigan**

Applied Data Science with Python

(145 h) 2021

**DeepLearning.AI**

AI for Medicine

(72 h) 2021

**Imperial College London**

Infectious Disease Modelling

(65 h) 2021

**Alberta Machine Intelligence Institute**

Machine Learning: Algorithms in the Real World

(41 h) 2020

**IBM - edX**

Fundamentals of AI

(80 h) 2020

**Rice University**

Fundamentals of Immunology

(69 h) 2020

**University of Colorado System**

Applied Cryptography

(34 h) 2020

**University System of Georgia**

Six Sigma Green Belt

(49 h) 2020

**Duke University**

Excel to MySQL: Analytic Techniques for Business

(109 h) 2021