

Silvia Sellán

University of Toronto

Department of Computer Science

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UNIVERSITY OF
TORONTO

Education

University of Toronto

PhD in Computer Science — Supervised by Prof. Alec Jacobson

2019 - 2024 (expected)

University of Oviedo

BSc in Mathematics and BSc in Physics

2014 - 2019

Experience

Yale University

Research Consultant — Supervised by Prof. Theodore Kim

Winter 2022

Adobe Research

Research Intern — Mentored by Dr. Noam Aigerman and Supervised by Dr. Jovan Popovic

Summer 2020

Adobe Research

Research Intern — Mentored by Dr. Noam Aigerman and Supervised by Dr. Jovan Popovic

Summer 2019

Fields Institute for Research in the Mathematical Sciences

Undergraduate Research Intern — Supervised by Prof. Alec Jacobson

Summer 2018

Fields Institute for Research in the Mathematical Sciences

Undergraduate Research Intern — Supervised by Prof. Alec Jacobson

Summer 2017

ICMAT (Institute of Mathematical Sciences)

Grant Programme Severo Ochoa - Introduction to Research — Supervised by Prof. Javier Parcet

Summer 2017

Publications

Bayes' Rays: Uncertainty Quantification for Neural Radiance Fields

Lily Goli, Cody Reading, Silvia Sellán, Alec Jacobson, Andrea Tagliasacchi

TBD

Reach for the Spheres: Tangency-Aware Surface Reconstruction of SDFs

Silvia Sellán, Christopher Batty, Oded Stein

SIGGRAPH Asia 2023

Neural Stochastic Screened Poisson Reconstruction

Silvia Sellán, Alec Jacobson

SIGGRAPH Asia 2023

Constructive Solid Geometry on Neural Signed Distance Fields

Zoë Marschner, Silvia Sellán, Hsueh-Ti Derek Liu, Alec Jacobson

SIGGRAPH Asia 2023

Stochastic Poisson Surface Reconstruction

Silvia Sellán, Alec Jacobson

SIGGRAPH Asia 2022

Breaking Bad: A Dataset for Geometric Fracture and Reassembly

Silvia Sellán*, Yun-Chun Chen*, Ziyi Wu*, Animesh Garg, Alec Jacobson (*joint first authors)

NeurIPS 2022

Breaking Good: Fracture Modes for Realtime Destruction

Silvia Sellán, Jack Luong, Leticia Mattos Da Silva, Aravind Ramakrishnan, Yuchuan Yang, Alec Jacobson

SIGGRAPH Asia 2022

Sex and Gender in the Computer Graphics Research Literature

Ana Dodik*, Silvia Sellán*, Amanda Phillips, Theodore Kim

SIGGRAPH Talk 2022

Swept Volumes via Spacetime Numerical Continuation

Silvia Sellán, Noam Aigerman, Alec Jacobson

SIGGRAPH 2021

Opening and Closing Surfaces

Silvia Sellán, Jacob Kesten, Yan Sheng Ang, Alec Jacobson

SIGGRAPH Asia 2020

Developability of Heightfields via Rank Minimization

Silvia Sellán, Noam Aigerman, Alec Jacobson

SIGGRAPH 2020

Solid Geometry Processing on Deconstructed Domains

Silvia Sellán, Heng Yi Cheng, Yuming Ma, Mitchell Dembowski, Alec Jacobson

ACM / Eurographics Symposium on Geometry Processing 2019

Other Publications

Geometry Synthesis for Critical Applications

Silvia Sellán

SIGGRAPH Asia Doctoral Consortium, 2023

Efficient and Robust Swept Volumes

Silvia Sellán, Noam Aigerman, Alec Jacobson

Vector Institute Research Symposium poster, 2021

Applications of Geometry Processing to Computer Graphics

Silvia Sellán

B.Sc. in Mathematics thesis co-supervised by Profs. Alec Jacobson and Carlos Fernández García

An Introduction to Primal Inflation

Silvia Sellán

BSc in Physics thesis supervised by Prof. Luigi Toffolatti

Solid Geometry Processing on Deconstructed Domains

Silvia Sellán, Heng Yi Cheng, Yuming Ma, Mitchell Dembowski, Alec Jacobson

ACM / Eurographics SGP Poster, 2018

Patents

Swept Volume Determination Techniques

Silvia Sellán, Noam Aigerman, Alec Jacobson

Filed by Adobe Inc. in 2021

Generating Developable Depth Images Using Rank Minimization

Silvia Sellán, Noam Aigerman, Alec Jacobson

United States Patent No. 11080819, 2021

Software

Gpytoolbox: A Python geometry processing toolbox

Silvia Sellán, Oded Stein

A library of general geometry processing Python research utility functions, including basic procedural meshes, differential geometric operators, bounding volume hierarchies and surface reconstruction from point clouds and SDFs.

Awards

DiDi Graduate Student Award in Computer Science

University of Toronto Department of Computer Science — 10,000 CAD

2024

Vanier Canada Doctoral Scholarship

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) — 150,000 CAD

Awarded to 166 graduate students across all of Canada and all academic disciplines.

2021-2024

Connaught International Scholarship for Doctoral Students University of Toronto School of Graduate Studies — 50,000 CAD	2019 - 2024
EECS Rising Stars Academic Career Workshop in EECS — Travel Funding	2023
HLF Ernst Abbe Grant Heidelberg Laureate Forum — Travel Funding	2023
Beatrice “Trixie” Worsley Graduate Scholarship in Computer Science University of Toronto Department of Computer Science — 8,000 CAD <i>Awarded to a student who has taken an active role in promoting women in Computer Science.</i>	2021, 2023
Adobe PhD Fellowship Adobe Inc. — 10,000 USD	2022
Dean’s Doctoral Excellence Scholarship University of Toronto Faculty of Arts & Science — 25,000 CAD <i>Awarded to a single doctoral student across all the University of Toronto Faculty of Arts & Science disciplines.</i>	2021
Adobe Research Fellowship Adobe Inc. — Honorable mention	2020 - 2021
50th Anniversary Graduate Scholarship University of Toronto Department of Computer Science — 2,000 CAD	2020
Graduate Program Award University of Toronto Department of Computer Science — 10,000 CAD	2019 - 2020
Recognition of Excellence Award University of Toronto Department of Computer Science — 10,000 CAD	2019 - 2020
Adobe Women in Technology Scholarship Adobe Inc. — Honorable Mention	2019
SenseTime Fellowship MIT — Granted but declined	2019
Scholarship for Academic Excellence Maria Cristina Masaveu Peterson Foundation — 50,000 EUR	2014 - 2019

Academic Service

Summer Geometry Initiative Steering Committee Member	2023 - Present
ACM / Eurographics Symposium on Geometry Processing (SGP) Graduate School Chair	2024
ACM SIGGRAPH Women in Graphics Research Community Group Executive Committee Member	2022 - 2023
SIGGRAPH Research Career Development Committee Committee Member (in Undergraduate Mentorship Subcommittee)	2021 - 2023
ACM / Eurographics Symposium on Geometry Processing (SGP) Session Chair: Representation and Learning	2023
ACM / Eurographics Symposium on Geometry Processing (SGP) International Program Committee Member	2024
ACM / Eurographics Symposium on Geometry Processing (SGP) International Program Committee Member	2023
CVPR Deep Learning for Geometric Computing Organizing Committee Member	2023
Women in Computer Graphics Research (WiGRAPH) Executive Committee Member	2020 - 2022
CVPR Deep Learning for Geometric Computing Organizing Committee Member	2022

ICCV Deep Learning for Geometric Computing

2021

Program Committee Member

Referee Service

ACM SIGGRAPH Technical Papers	2024
ACM SIGGRAPH Asia Technical Papers	2023
ACM / Eurographics Symposium on Geometry Processing (SGP)	2023
ACM SIGGRAPH Technical Papers	2022 - 2023
Eurographics Technical Papers	2021 - 2023
ACM Transactions on Graphics (ToG)	2021 - 2023
IEEE Transactions on Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence	2023
The Visual Computer (TVCJ)	2023
CVPR DLGC Technical Papers	2022
International Symposium on Robotics Research	2022
Computer Aided Design Journal (CAD-J)	2022
ACM SIGGRAPH Posters	2021 - 2022
ICCV DLGC Technical Papers	2021
Journal of Computer Graphics Techniques (JCGT)	2021

Departmental Service

Faculty of Arts and Science Graduate Diversity Working Group	2022
Invited Member	
Dean's Advisory Search Committee - Department Chair, Computer Science	2021 - 2022
Invited Member	
DGP Working Group on Fostering a Safe and Inclusive Workplace	2021 - 2022
Member	
DCS Grad program talk for Ukrainian undergraduate visiting students	2022
Panelist	
Graduate Applications Triager	2021
16 hours of paid work on processing graduate school applications	

Talks

Uncertainty Quantification in 3D Geometric Synthesis

University of Zaragoza Graphics and Imaging seminar — hosted by Prof. Ana Serrano	Virtual — November 2023
Brown University Graphics seminar — hosted by Prof. Daniel Ritchie	Virtual — October 2023
Banff International Research Station 3D Generative Modeling Workshop — Invited talk	Banff (Canada) — July 2023

Geometry +: Uncertain Surface Reconstruction

École polytechnique Graphics seminar — hosted by Prof. Maks Ovsjanikov	Paris (France) — July 2023
INRIA seminar — hosted by Profs. Bruno Lévy and Sylvain Lefebvre	Nancy (France) — June 2023
CNRS seminar — hosted by Dr. Julie Digne	Lyon (France) — June 2023
University of Navarra Graphics and Vision seminar — hosted by Prof. Asier Marzo	Pamplona (Navarra) — June 2023
University of Edinburgh Geometry seminar — hosted by Prof. Amir Vaxman	Edinburgh (Scotland) — June 2023
Adobe Research seminar — hosted by Dr. Valentin Deschaintre	London (England) — June 2023
University College London Vision seminar — hosted by Prof. Kaan Akşit	London (England) — June 2023
University of British Columbia Graphics seminar — hosted by Prof. Alla Sheffer	Vancouver (Canada) — June 2023
Simon Fraser University Vision seminar — hosted by Prof. Andrea Tagliasacchi	Vancouver (Canada) — June 2023
EPFL Graphics seminar — hosted by Prof. Mark Pauly	Lausanne (Switzerland) — May 2023
ETH Graphics seminar — hosted by Prof. Olga Sorkine-Hornung	Zürich (Switzerland) — May 2023
University of Waterloo Graphics seminar — hosted by Prof. Craig Kaplan	Waterloo (Canada) — April 2023
University of Montreal Graphics seminar — hosted by Prof. Mikhail Bessmeltsev	Montréal (Québec) — November 2022

Johns Hopkins Graphics seminar — hosted by Prof. Misha Kazhdan	Baltimore (United States) — November 2022
Columbia University Graphics seminar — hosted by Prof. Changxi Zheng	New York City (United States) — November 2022
New York University Graphics seminar — hosted by Prof. Daniele Panozzo	New York City (United States) — November 2022
MIT Graphics seminar — hosted by Prof. Justin Solomon	Cambridge (United States) — November 2022
Dartmouth Graphics and Rendering seminar — hosted by Prof. Wojciech Jarosz	Hanover (United States) — November 2022
TomatoGRAPH — Technical Talk	Toronto (Canada) — December 2021

Mesh Math and Beyond: An introduction to shape representations

Summer Geometry Initiative — Full-day tutorial	Virtual — July 2023
Summer Geometry Initiative — Full-day tutorial	Virtual — July 2022
Summer Geometry Initiative — Full-day tutorial	Virtual — July 2021

Blender for Academic Papers

Graphics Interface — Invited Course	Victoria (Canada) — June 2023
Geometry and Architecture Summit — Invited Talk	Toronto (Canada) — October 2022
ACM / Eurographics SGP — Invited Course	Virtual — June 2022

Geometry +: Moving Fast, Breaking Things and Putting Them Back Together

University of Southern California Graphics seminar — hosted by Prof. Oded Stein	Los Angeles (United States) — April 2023
McGill University Graphics seminar — hosted by Prof. Oded Stein	Montréal (Québec) — November 2022
Ubisoft research seminar — hosted by the LaForge team	Montréal (Québec) — November 2022
Yale University Rising Stars seminar — hosted by Prof. Theodore Kim	New Haven (United States) — November 2022
Engineering and Applied Science Forum — hosted by the EASF team	Virtual — November 2022

Uncertain Surface Reconstruction

UCLA and CalTech's Grundfest Memorial Lecture — hosted by Profs. Achuta Kadambi and Katie Bouman	Virtual — March 2023
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Research in Geometry Processing

University of Toronto Undergraduate Graphics Club — Invited Talk	Toronto (Canada) — February 2023
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Stochastic Poisson Surface Reconstruction

ACM SIGGRAPH Asia — Technical Paper presentation	Daegu (South Korea) — December 2022
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Breaking Good: Fracture Modes for Realtime Destruction

ACM SIGGRAPH Asia — Technical Paper presentation	Daegu (South Korea) — December 2022
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Breaking Bad: A Dataset for Geometric Fracture Reassembly

NeurIPS — Featured (oral) paper presentation	New Orleans (United States) — November 2022
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Virtual Bodies that Matter: A Trans Researcher's Career in Computer Graphics

Georgetown's Gender and Media Seminar — hosted by Prof. Amanda Phillips	Washington, D.C. (United States) — November 2022
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Sex and Gender in the Computer Graphics Literature

Queer in AI @ NeurIPS workshop — Invited Talk	New Orleans (United States) — November 2022
UNC Chapel Hill — hosted by Prof. Roni Sengupta	New Orleans (United States) — November 2022
ACM SIGGRAPH — Talk presentation	Vancouver (Canada) — August 2022

A Deep Dive into Implicit Swept Volumes

University of Toronto Undergraduate Graphics Club — Invited Talk	Toronto (Canada) — March 2022
INRIA MFX research seminar — hosted by Prof. Sylvain Lefebvre	Virtual — June 2021
MIT Graphics research seminar — hosted by Prof. Justin Solomon	Virtual — June 2021
GraphQUON — Technical presentation	Virtual — December 2020

Swept Volumes via Spacetime Numerical Continuation

ACM SIGGRAPH — Technical Paper presentation	Virtual (originally Los Angeles) — August 2021
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An Introduction to GP Programming in MATLAB with Gptoolbox

ACM / Eurographics SGP — Invited Course	Virtual — July 2021
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Developable Surfaces: A Case Study in Discrete Differential Geometry

Lancaster University Pure Mathematics Postgraduate Forum — Invited Talk	Virtual — March 2021
Technion research seminar — hosted by Prof. Mirela Ben-Chen	Virtual — December 2020
Carnegie Mellon University Geometry seminar — hosted by Prof. Keenan Crane	Virtual — November 2020

Seamless Integration of Virtual and Real World

Eurographics 2021 — *Doctoral Consortium talk*
University of Toronto — *PhD Qualifying Exam*

Virtual (originally Vienna) — *May 2021*
Toronto (Canada) — *September 2020*

Opening and Closing Surfaces

ACM SIGGRAPH Asia — *Technical Paper presentation*
Epic Games — *hosted by Dr. Ryan Schmidt*
Fields Institute Undergraduate Summer Research Program — *End-of-summer research talk*
University of Toronto DCS Summer Research Program — *Mid-summer research talk*

Virtual (originally Daegu) — *December 2020*
Virtual — *November 2020*
Toronto (Canada) — *August 2017*
Toronto (Canada) — *July 2017*

Developability of Heightfields via Rank Minimization

Toronto Geometry Colloquium — *Opener talk for Prof. Olga Sorkine-Hornung*
SIGGRAPH 2020 — *Technical Paper presentation*

Virtual — *October 2020*
Virtual (originally Washington, D.C.) — *August 2020*

Solid Geometry Processing on Deconstructed Domains

Stanford University Graphics seminar — *hosted by Prof. Doug James*
ACM / Eurographics SGP — *Technical Paper presentation*
Toronto-Montreal Area Graphics workshop — *Technical talk*
Fields Institute Undergraduate Summer Research Program — *End-of-summer research talk*
University of Toronto DCS Summer Research Program — *Mid-summer research talk*

Stanford (United States) — *October 2019*
Milan (Italy) — *July 2019*
Toronto (Canada) — *December 2017*
Toronto (Canada) — *August 2017*
Toronto (Canada) — *July 2017*

Applications of Geometry Processing to Computer Graphics

University of Oviedo — *B.Sc. in Mathematics Thesis Defense*

Oviedo (Spain) — *June 2019*

An Introduction to Primal Inflation

University of Oviedo — *B.Sc. in Physics Thesis Defense*

Oviedo (Spain) — *June 2019*

News

What Do Food and Research Have in Common? More Than You Might Think

Spektrum.de, written by Nina Beier

January 2024

Computer graphics researcher Silvia Sellán is awarded two prestigious scholarships

A&S News, written by Chris Sasaki

July 2021

Silvia Sellán on Virtual Colloquium Planning

Q&A with WiGRAPH, written by Kate Salesin

June 2021

Organizing

ACM SIGGRAPH Women in Graphics Research Community group

Undergraduate Outreach Coordinator

2023

CVPR Deep Learning for Geometric Computing Workshop

Organizing Committee Member

2023

ACM SIGGRAPH Women in Graphics Research Community group

Event Coordinator: Symposium on Geometry Processing

2022

Toronto Geometry Colloquium

Founder, organizer and art director

2020 - 2023

SIGGRAPH Graduate Applications Mentorship Program

Founder and organizer

2022

Summer Geometry Institute

Admissions committee member and session planner

2022

CVPR Deep Learning for Geometric Computing Workshop

Organizing Committee Member

2022

Women in Graphics Research

Event Coordinator: Symposium on Geometry Processing

2020 - 2021

SIGGRAPH Graduate Applications Mentorship Program	2021
Founder and organizer	
Summer Geometry Institute	2021
Admissions committee member and session planner	
Symposium on Geometry Processing (SGP)	2021
Student volunteer working on tech support full time during the conference and in Spanish-language outreach	
Toronto-Montreal-Waterloo Graphics Workshop (TomatoGRAPH)	2021
Student volunteer	

Teaching

Summer Geometry Initiative	Summer 2021, 2022, 2023
Instructor of a full-day tutorial including lectures, coding demos and exercises	
Graphics Interface	Summer 2023
Lecturer of the course Blender for Academic Papers	
Symposium on Geometry Processing (SGP)	Summer 2022
Lecturer of the SGP course Blender for Academic Papers	
Symposium on Geometry Processing (SGP)	Summer 2021
Co-lecturer of the SGP course An introduction to geometry processing programming in MATLAB with gptoolbox	
CSC165: Mathematical Expression and Reasoning for Computer Science	Winter 2020
Teaching Assistant (120 hours) for Prof. David Liu	
Individual High School Tutoring	2015-2018
Weekly paid mathematics and physics tutoring	

Teaching Feedback

Summer Geometry Institute	2021
During the summer of 2021, I planned, prepared and conducted a 6-hour long tutorial session on the topic of shape representations for undergraduate students of underrepresented communities, as part of MIT's Summer Geometry Institute (SGI). A representative sample of the anonymous feedback collected by professor Justin Solomon about my teaching is reproduced below, each quotation corresponding to different student.	

Silvia Sellán's presentation was idyllic, it gave the feeling of being a duck in a pond being fed delicious crumbs of bread, the students being the duck and Silvia the feeder throwing in one after another the information that we like the ducks devoured. The presentation itself was amazing to go beyond analogy it was clear and concise towards learning the topic, the information did not feel too overwhelming, nor too brief. The exercises as well as giving focus upon them and breaking them apart into which to do at what times, they felt like the perfect amount of material in order to have us learn and test our knowledge of the topics.

I just wanted to say that I really enjoyed Silvia's programme. Cutting out all the formulas definitely made her material really accessible and easy to follow without worrying about the precise details of what is going on. I think leaving these details for us to figure out by doing the exercises is really good for developing understanding, rather than having a perhaps more technical talk which is harder to follow and then not quite knowing how to approach the exercises.

Silvia's lecture was the easiest to follow and the most approachable.

Silvia's tutorial: Lively and engaging, I liked how a narrative that tied in everything together neatly was presented.

I really liked Silvia Sellán's tutorial day because for the presentations she gave us a story illustrating the motivation behind the concepts and theory and the actual coding assignments were very accessible and did not require a lot of background material.

I think a very good example of this was Silvia Sellán's tutorial day. She approached the advanced topics from a big picture perspective and all of the coding exercises needed "basic" MATLAB and knowledge of calculus and a small amount of linear algebra.

I thoroughly enjoyed Silvia's talk and the associated exercises.

I also found Silvia's talk very valuable, not only for the geometry processing material offered (which was undoubtedly great, well-structured and very accessible), but also for increasing our awareness about potential nefarious uses of geometry processing. Also the brief digressions on true diversity when talking about fonts/letters were in my opinion very welcome – I (unfortunately) tend to think in a very "westernized" way, and it's always good to bring awareness to things outside of our intellectual comfort zone.

I really liked Silvia Sellán's day of the tutorial week. I think she did a really good job of creating presentations and exercises that met me where I am as a student without a formal experience in geometry processing. The mathematics and computer science that she talked as well as exercises she designed were accessible to me as someone who has undergraduate majors in mathematics and computer science as well as had participated in larger projects with programming computer graphics components. I also think she did a really good job of telling and motivating a story, which was really important to staying engaged throughout the day. I also really appreciate that she spoke about ethics in computing and the need to think critically about academic work. It's definitely something that is not spoken enough about and that needs to be spoken about more.

YOU GUYS ARE WONDERFUL! Not gonna lie, I started looking at PhD opportunities to pursue this field after attending this program.

Mentoring

Summer Geometry Initiative

2023

Served as the mentor for two two-week long geometry processing research projects for eight undergraduate students.

Graduate School Applications

2020 - 2023

Volunteer mentoring of dozens of prospective Computer Graphics students from underrepresented groups with their graduate school application package and decisions. Successful applicant destinations include MIT, UCSD, University of Toronto, UBC and others.

Canada-Wide Science Fair

Spring 2022

Mentored grade 11 students with their project as part of University of Toronto's Pursue STEM

Canadian Black Scientists Network Youth Science Fair

Winter 2022

Mentored grade 11 students with their project as part of University of Toronto's Pursue STEM

University of Toronto DCS Graduate Applications Mentorship Program

Fall 2021

Mentor for several prospective graduate students.

SIGGRAPH Graduate Applications Mentorship Program

Fall 2021

Mentor for several prospective graduate students.

Fields Undergraduate Summer Research Program

Summer 2021

Graduate research mentor for a group of four undergraduate researchers.

Creating a better summer experience: A DEI workshop

Spring 2021

DEI workshop for mentors of undergraduate students, organized by the Center for Minorities in the Mathematical Sciences.

Fields Undergraduate Summer Research Program

2020 - 2021

Graduate research mentor for a group of four undergraduate researchers.

Mentoring Feedback

Summer Geometry Institute

2021, 2023

During the summers of 2021 and 2023 (the latter together with my colleague Ana Dodik), I worked as a mentor for MIT's Summer Geometry Initiative, founded by Professor Justin Solomon. In it, I directed two projects for two groups of undergraduate students from underrepresented communities new to geometry processing. Below is a representative sample of the anonymous feedback collected by Prof. Solomon

Ana and Silvia built a collaborative, safe, open environment for new ideas. Both taught us a lot about how to research and approach problems with different approaches. They are outstanding researchers that I admire even more now.

Ana and Silvia are both absolutely fantastic mentors!

This week has been great! Ana and Silvia are excellent mentors. They created an excellent environment for us to learn and collaborate

I still have no idea what Silvia's role was, but she went above and beyond to help out with everything. She made us all feel welcome in the Slack channel before SGI even started and continued to dole out advice and support throughout the whole of SGI. She also patiently answered my millions of questions almost as quickly as I could ask them.

Silvia ensured we all felt welcome right from the beginning of the Slack channel. When we introduced ourselves, I noticed she found something nice to say to each of us, and it felt very welcoming to have that display of friendliness right from the get-go.

Silvia Sellán, I would like to thank you specifically for the SGP & Siggraph 2021 WiGraph event, sharing your thoughts in grad school event and being accessible.

Volunteering

General election worker

Day-long volunteer helping citizens vote on the day of the Spanish General Elections.

July 2023

Reading Partners

Translation of documents into Spanish for literacy non-profit

August 2020

General election worker

Day-long volunteer helping citizens vote on the day of the Spanish General Elections.

April 2019

General election worker

Day-long volunteer helping citizens vote on the day of the Spanish General Elections.

June 2016