

Emilio Villa-Cueva

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Google Scholar

EDUCATION

- **Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence (MBZUAI)** UAE
PhD in Natural Language Processing 2024 - Present
 - **Supervised by:** Tamar Solorio
 - **Coursework:** Advanced Natural Language Processing, Speech Processing, Advanced Computer Vision, Machine Learning
- **Mathematics Research Center (CIMAT)** Mexico
MSc in Computer Science; GPA: 9.86/10 2022 - 2024
 - **Thesis:** Adaptation Techniques in Transformers for Text Classification in under-resourced settings
- **University of Guanajuato** Mexico
Bachelor in Engineering Physics; GPA: 9.79/10 2017 - 2022

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- **University of Michigan**
Visiting Researcher at Language and Information Technologies (LIT) Lab 2025
Working on conversation structure understanding in videos with **Dr. Rada Mihalcea**.
- **MBZUAI, Department of NLP**
Research Assistant 2023 - 2024
Conducted research on computationally efficient few-shot cross-lingual transfer and with **Dr. Tamar Solorio**.
- **CIMAT, NLP Group**
Research Assistant 2021 - 2024
Conducted research on domain adaptation, few-shot classification, and question answering with **Dr. Adrian Pastor Lopez-Monroy** and **Dr. Fernando Sánchez Vega**.

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

- E. Villa-Cueva, S. Ahmed, R. Chevi, J. C. B. Cruz, K. Elzeky, F. Cristobal, A. F. Aji, S. Wang, R. Mihalcea, and T. Solorio, “MoMentS: A comprehensive multimodal benchmark for theory of mind,” *EMNLP 2025 Findings*, 2025
- E. Villa-Cueva, S. Bolatzhanova, D. Turmakhan, K. Elzeky, H. B. Ademtew, A. F. Aji, I. A. Azime, J. Baek, F. Belcavello, F. Cristobal, *et al.*, “CaMMT: Benchmarking culturally aware multimodal machine translation,” *EMNLP 2025 Findings*, 2025
- E. Villa-Cueva, A. P. López-Monroy, F. Sanchez-Vega, and T. Solorio, “Adaptive Cross-Lingual Text Classification through In-Context One-Shot Demonstrations,” in *NAACL 2024. Proceedings of the 2024 Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics.*, Association for Computational Linguistics, June 2024
- M. Mitchell, G. Attanasio, I. Baldini, *et al.*, “SHADES: Towards a Multilingual Assessment of Stereotypes in Large Language Models,” in *NAACL 2025. Proceedings of the 2025 Annual Conference of the Nations of the Americas Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics.*, Association for Computational Linguistics, 2025 (Accepted.)
- D. Romero, C. Lyu, H. A. Wibowo, T. Lynn, I. Hamed, A. N. Kishore, A. Mandal, A. Dragonetti, A. Abzaliev, A. L. Tonja, *et al.*, “Cvqa: Culturally-diverse multilingual visual question answering benchmark,” in *NeurIPS 2024. Proceedings of the Neural Information Processing Systems Track on Datasets and Benchmarks*, 2024
- E. Villa-Cueva, M. Valles-Silva, A. P. López-Monroy, F. Sanchez-Vega, and L.-S. J. Roberto, “Few Shot Profiling of Cryptocurrency Influencers using Natural Language Inference & Large Language Models,” in *CLEF 2023 Labs and Workshops, Notebook Papers*, 2023

- E. Villa-Cueva, I. González-Franco, F. Sanchez-Vega, and A. P. López-Monroy, “NLP-CIMAT at PoliticEs 2022: PolitiBETO, a Domain-Adapted Transformer for Multi-class Political Author Profiling,” in *Proceedings of the Iberian Languages Evaluation Forum (IberLEF 2022)*, CEUR Workshop Proceedings, CEUR-WS.org, 2022
- A. L. Tonja, S. Anand, E. Villa-Cueva, *et al.*, “Afri-mcqa: Multimodal cultural question answering for african languages,” 2026
- V. T. Dang, A. Vo, E. Villa-Cueva, Q. Tau, D. Dm, T. Solorio, and D. Kim, “Vmmu: A vietnamese multitask multimodal understanding and reasoning benchmark,” 2026

AWARDS

- **Best Thesis Award:** José Negrete Award, by the *Mexican Society of Artificial Intelligence* (2024)
- **First-Place Prize at PAN-CLEF 2023:** Awarded by *Symanto Research* for Few-shot Learning on Cryptocurrency Influencers (2023)
- **Full Scholarship:** Awarded by the *University of Montreal* for the Montreal Industrial Problem Solving Workshop (2023)

PROJECTS

- **Trademark Collision Detection:** Developed a pipeline for detecting textual, semantic and phonetic collisions in trademarks on the Mexican Institute for Intellectual Property. Project carried out at the SPI Industrial Problem Solving Workshop at the Mathematics Research Center (2023).
- **Synthetic Data Privacy Attacks:** Proposed an approach for attribute inference attacks on synthetic data at the Montreal Industrial Problem Solving Workshop with *Desjardins*. (2023)

WORKSHOPS & PANELS

- **Panelist at Mexican NLP Summer School:** Participated in the panel: “*Getting into NLP: Insights from Experts and Peers*” at the Mexican NLP Summer School 2024, co-located with NAACL 2024.
- **Workshop Facilitator at MexLef 2022:** Conducted a workshop on Domain Adaptation of Transformers, focusing on adapting BERT models to specific domains.

SKILLS

- **Languages:** Python, R, C
- **Libraries:** PyTorch, OpenCV, Transformers, Scikit-learn