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✓ MY LIFE PHILOSOPHY

Just focus on what's important and capture the good times, develop from the negatives, and if things don't work out, just take another shot.

Ziad K. Abdelnour

👤 SUMMARY

Empathetic and technically skilled PhD graduate in Digital Media with a strong background in front-end and mobile development using React Native, TypeScript, and modern UI technologies. Known for a thoughtful approach to collaboration, problem-solving, and inclusive design. Passionate about contributing to meaningful work and helping teams succeed, with experience across health, finance, education, and research sectors. A developer who thrives where there's a need to build, improve, or support others.

🧩 HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights

Tech Focus: React Native | TypeScript | UX Design

Domains: Healthcare, Education, Research, Inclusive Design

Languages: English (C1), Portuguese (native)

🌐 LANGUAGES

Portuguese



English



Wall Street English - C1 European CEFR

💼 PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Nearsoft

Application Developer

08/2022 – present | Funchal, Portugal

- Developed and maintained cross-platform banking apps using **React Native** and **TypeScript**, implementing **OTP**, **Redux**, animations, and **Directus CMS** integration.
- Collaborated with backend, design, and consultancy teams, supported intern onboarding, and optimized performance and navigation with **React Navigation**.

See Health

Web Developer

09/2021 – 05/2022 | Funchal, Portugal

- Contributed to the **Madeira Safe** platform (web and mobile) using **Bootstrap** for responsive layouts and collaborated with the design team to implement UI enhancements, while also providing ongoing **technical support** and **email service** updates to ensure a consistent cross-device experience.
- Developed client websites using **Svelte**, **React**, and **WordPress**, customizing themes, plugins, and frontend features to meet branding and performance needs.

Clínica da Sé

Technical Assistance III

09/2020 – 03/2021 | Funchal, Portugal

- Delivered IT **support** and troubleshooting for internal clinic systems.
- Managed system updates and **backup** processes to ensure **data integrity**.



SKILLS

Frontend & Mobile

React Native, TypeScript, React, Svelte, Redux, Bootstrap, TailwindCSS, Bulma, React Navigation, React Native Animations

Web & UI

HTML5, CSS3, JavaScript (ES6+), D3.js, Figma, Responsive Design, Accessibility

Dev Tools

Git, GitHub, CI/CD, Agile (Scrum/Kanban), Android Studio, Xcode

Back-End & Data

RESTful APIs, MySQL, Python, PHP, WordPress

Others

Data Visualization, UX Design, Cross-platform Development, State Management, CMS Integration



AWARDS

Student Game Competition

CHI

2013

Selected with **"Umbra"**, an interactive installation exploring shadow-based gameplay, presented at the **ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems**.



PUBLICATIONS

Mulheres e a Tecnologia

Casa do Código

2022

This book shares **real stories** to **inspire** and **encourage** more girls and **women** to explore **tech**—because meaningful change takes all of us.

Using Technology to Visualize Gender Bias

Human-Computer Interaction – INTERACT 2021

2021

Explored how **interactive visualizations** and digital tools can be used to make **gender bias in computing** more visible, understandable, and open to discussion.

ARDITI

PhD Scholarship

09/2016 – 10/2020 | Funchal, Portugal

Thesis: *Confronting the Numbers of Women in Computer Science & Engineering (CSE): Making the Gender Gap Visible*. A research-driven exploration of **gender** representation in CSE, highlighting **systemic gaps** and proposing ways to **visualize** and address the **disparity** through **technology** and **design**.

Madeira Interactive Technologies

ERA Chair Researcher

10/2015 – 08/2016 | Funchal, Portugal

- Exploring the topic of **maps** and item tracking associated with the **Internet of Things**.

Madeira Interactive Technologies

Summer Internship

07/2015 – 09/2015 | Funchal, Portugal

- Developed a **real-time updating** single-page web app with scalable.
- Integrated **D3.js** into web applications, enabling dynamic **data visualization** with flexibility to incorporate additional libraries for expanded functionality.

ARDITI

Research Intern

02/2014 – 06/2015 | Funchal, Portugal

- Developed **"Hospital Hero"**, a **3D game** aimed at reducing children's stress in emergency rooms, with **unity**.
- Designed **"TGRAM"**, a cooperative digital **Tangram** game that promotes interactive learning, with **unity**.



PROJECTS

Clínicas do Dr Joaquim Vieira

2022

Developed a responsive and accessible website for a private clinic using **Bootstrap 5.0**, focusing on clear navigation, mobile optimization, and patient-friendly design.

LFC

2019

Developed a mobile app for a gym to manage **class schedules**, **user workout plans**, and **login functionality**, using **Android Studio**. Focused on consistent **branding by respecting the gym's color palette**, and built a user-friendly interface for both trainers and clients.

Wilful technologies Rage & Resilience

Madeline Balaam and Lone Koefoed Hansen

2019

This publication explores the intersection of **design**, **technology**, and **feminism**, featuring contributions that delve into themes of **equity**, **inclusion**, and **diversity** within **technology** development.

Participation of an audio episode "Bastidores da Ciência" | Ep. 18

ARDITI

2019

Featured in an episode discussing research, technology, and **gender in computing**, sharing insights from academic and professional experience.

The Perseverance of Gender Stereotype

Proceedings of the 32nd International BCS Human Computer Interaction Conference (HCI)

2018

Investigated the persistence of **gender stereotypes in technology and education**, highlighting how deeply rooted perceptions continue to influence participation and representation.

Gender By Numbers: Is Your Education Course Dominated By Your Opposite Gender?

Proceedings of the 32nd International BCS Human Computer Interaction Conference (HCI)

2018

Co-authored a study analyzing gender representation across academic courses, questioning how **gender-dominated environments** impact learning experiences and choices.

Where2: Exploring prior visitor journeys to enrich upcoming visitor's experience

ECCE '18: Proceedings of the 36th European Conference on Cognitive Ergonomics

2018

Co-developed **Where2**, a system that visualizes **prior visitor journeys** to help future visitors plan and enrich their own experiences.

Hospital Hero: A Game for Reducing Stress and Anxiety of Hospitalized Children in Emergency Room

Advances in Computer Entertainment (ACE 2013)

2013

Designed and developed **Hospital Hero**, a 3D game aimed at **reducing stress and anxiety in children** during emergency room visits by providing a playful, immersive experience.

AD DOMINI

2019

Built and customized a professional WordPress website for a local business, focusing on **brand identity**, **responsive design**, and **user-friendly navigation**. Tailored themes and plugins to match client needs and ensure smooth content management.

Personal Website

Built a personal portfolio site in **React**, featuring showcased projects, a custom contact form with email integration, **dark/light theme toggle**, and full **Portuguese/English** language support.

EDUCATION

BSc in Computer Science

University of Madeira

09/2008 – 07/2011 | Funchal, Portugal

MSc in Computer Science

University of Madeira

09/2011 – 02/2015 | Funchal, Portugal

Thesis: "Hospital Hero: A Game for Reducing Stress and Anxiety in Children While Waiting in Emergency Rooms."

PhD in Digital Media

FCT NOVA

10/2015 – 07/2021 | Lisbon, Portugal

Thesis: "Confronting the Numbers of Women in Technical Fields: Making the Gender Gap in Computing Visible and Debatable."

COURSES

Master React Native Animations

Udemy

2022 | Funchal, Portugal

Learn to build **smooth, interactive** animations in **React Native** using gestures, transitions, and performance-optimized techniques.

English Course

Wall Street English

2017 – 2019 | Funchal, Portugal

Completed advanced English training at Wall Street English, focused on **communication**, **fluency**, and **professional vocabulary**.

Umbral: beyond avatars: a gaming installation using shadows

CHI EA '13: CHI '13 Extended Abstracts on Human Factors in Computing Systems
2013

Co-developed an interactive installation exploring **shadow-based gameplay** as an alternative to traditional avatars, blending physical movement with digital interaction.

VOLUNTEERING

ECCE 2019 - European Conference on Cognitive Ergonomics

Co-Chair, Doctoral Consortium
2019 | Belfast, Northern Ireland

Led the organization of the **Doctoral Consortium** at the + **Conference**, coordinating with participants, reviewing submissions, and facilitating academic discussions.

11th Advances in Computer Entertainment Technology Conference (ACE 2014)

Student Volunteer
2014 | Funchal, Madeira

Supported as an event **helper** and **photographer**, assisting with logistics and visual documentation.

Workshop in Photography

University of Madeira

2009 | Funchal, Portugal

Completed a hands-on photography workshop led by **David Francisco** at the University of Madeira, focusing on **composition, lighting, and visual storytelling**.

CERTIFICATES

Project Management Course – NOVA Doctoral School

Completed a project management course led by **Carolina Santos**, focusing on **planning, execution, and communication** strategies for academic and technical projects.

Research Data Management Course – NOVA Doctoral School

Completed a course with **Fernando Bração** on best practices for managing research data, including **organization, storage, sharing, and ethical** considerations.

Research Skills Development Course – NOVA Doctoral School

Completed training focused on **enhancing research methodologies**, critical thinking, academic writing, and effective communication of scientific work.

Data Processing Automation (Python) Course – NOVA Doctoral School

Completed a hands-on course focused on automating data processing tasks using Python, including **scripting, data cleaning, and workflow optimization**.