

Belu Ticona

ticona.belu@gmail.com linkedin.com/in/belu-ticona beluticona.github.io

EDUCATION

PhD in Computer Science , George Mason University (GMU) <i>Advisor: Prof. Antonios Anastasopoulos. GPA: 3.5/4.0</i>	Aug. 2024 - Present
Licenciate in Computer Science , University of Buenos Aires (UBA) <i>Graduated with Honors. GPA: 3.67/4.0 (8.5/10.0)</i>	Mar. 2018 - Jul. 2023

RESEARCH & PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant <i>GMU-NLP Lab</i>	Sep. 2024 - Present
Research Engineer <i>First Languages AI Reality, Mila - Quebec AI Institute</i>	Jun. 2024 - Jul. 2024
Data & Applied Scientist Intern <i>Microsoft WebXT</i>	Nov. 2022 - Jan. 2023
Data Scientist Intern <i>Medallia</i>	Nov. 2021 - Sep. 2022

PUBLICATIONS & RESEARCH OUTPUTS

Codes: C = conference paper; W = workshop or colloquium output; P = poster; D = dataset.

W6. Uplifting Human Decision Making in AI Evaluation by Automating Benchmark Validity Analysis R. Corona, S. Truong, R. Gupta, et al., including B. Ticona . <i>Workshop on Combining Theory and Benchmarks at ICML 2026.</i>	CBT@ICML'26
W5. Beyond Technical Efficiency: A Sociotechnical Approach to Measuring Crisis Speech Tech Impact B. Ticona , A. Anastasopoulos, A. Liaqat. <i>Speech For All Workshop at CHI 2026. Barcelona, Spain.</i>	S4A@CHI'26
W4. What Do We Mean by "Pilot Study": Early Findings from a Meta Review of CHI papers B. Ticona , A. Anastasopoulos, A. Liaqat. <i>MASC-ALL 2026 (Mid-Atlantic Student Colloquium on AI, Language and Learning). Best Poster Award.</i>	MASC-ALL'26
C3. LLM-Powered Automatic Translation and Urgency Triage in Crisis Scenarios B. Ticona , A. Anastasopoulos. <i>International Conference on Information Systems for Crisis Response and Management 2026. The Hague, Netherlands.</i>	ISCRAM'26
D1. Qom Spontaneous Speech Corpus B. Ticona . <i>First transcribed Qom corpus (~10 hours) for the Common Voice Spontaneous Speech ASR Shared Task.</i>	MozillaCV'25
W3. Machine Translation Metrics for Indigenous Languages using Fine-tuned Semantic Embeddings N. Krasner, J. Vaselli, B. Ticona , A. Anastasopoulos, C. Luo. <i>AmericasNLP Workshop at NAACL 2025. United States, Apr. 2025.</i>	AmericasNLP'25
C2. Indigenous Languages Spoken in Argentina: A Survey of NLP and Speech Resources B. Ticona , F. Carranza, V. Cotik. <i>COLING 2025. UEA, Jan. 2025.</i>	COLING'25
W2. Towards Textless Speech-to-Speech Translation for Quechua-Spanish B. Ticona . <i>YFRS Workshop at Interspeech 2024. Greece, Sep. 2024.</i>	YFRS@IS'24

SELECTED AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

2026	CRA-WP Grad Cohort Workshop Scholarship , CS Department, GMU	Seattle, United States
2025	Lacuna Fund NLP Grant , Partner co-organizer of a speech-corpus project <i>funded at more than USD 100,000</i>	Argentina
2024	Young Female Researchers in Speech Scholarship , Travel Grant	Greece

2024	NAACL Diversity and Inclusion Scholarship, Travel Grant	Mexico
2024	Google CS Research Fellowship, LatinX in AI program scholar	Virtual
2023	Latin American Workshop for Increasing Diversity and Inclusion in Science, Travel Grant	Brazil

TALKS, PANELS & ROUNDTABLES

2026	<i>Who Gets Heard in a Crisis: Speech AI for Vulnerable Communities</i> , lightning talk at the Global Science Program at CHI 2026 , Barcelona, Spain. [Video].
2026	<i>Between the Academy and the Community: Are Our Contributions Doing What We Think They Are?</i> , Sunawi Workshop at Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, United States.
2026	<i>"Inteligencia Artificial" vista, interpelada y reconstruida desde Abiyala</i> , co-leading a roundtable discussion at NAISA 2026 , Temuco, Chile.
2025	Student panelist at the Indigenous in AI Workshop, NeurIPS 2025 , San Diego, United States.
2025	<i>Towards Language Technologies by Indigenous Peoples, ITD'25 - Translations Commons</i> , Virtual.
2025	<i>AI for Indigenous Languages</i> , Indigenous Digital Activism Summit, organized by Global Voices , Mexico.
2024	<i>Innovations in Indigenous NLP and ASR</i> , Indigenous in AI Workshop at NeurIPS 2024, Canada.
2024	<i>Why NLP Needs Decolonizing Perspectives</i> , NLP seminar at CIMAT, Mexico.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Teaching Assistant <i>CS Department, UBA</i>	Mar. 2022 - May 2024
Lecturer (Computational Thinking) <i>National School of Buenos Aires (CNBA), UBA</i>	Mar. 2023 - May 2024

ACADEMIC SERVICE

NAACL Student Research Workshop Co-Chair	NAACL 2027
LTs for Crisis Preparedness and Response (LT4CPR) Workshop Organizer	AACL 2026, China
Voices Across Crises: AI Speech Technologies Workshop Organizer	ISCRAM 2026
Global South Grad Student Conference (GMU) Organizing Committee	2026
Common Voice Spontaneous Speech ASR Shared Task Advisory Committee	2025
LT4CPR Birds of a Feather Host	ACL 2025, COLING 2025
Student Volunteer	COLING 2025
Ethics Reviewer	ACL ARR, Dec. 2025

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

Tutor Coordinator & Mentor <i>School of Science, UBA</i>	Mar. 2023 - Jun. 2024
Student Representative Council Chair <i>CS Department, UBA</i>	Mar. 2020 - Mar. 2022
Science Outreach Specialist <i>CS Department, UBA</i>	Mar. 2019 - Jul. 2021

LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Podcast Volunteer, Speech Pitch, ISCA-SAC	2025 - Present
Paper Discussion Group Leader, Technolatinas	Mar. 2023 - Nov. 2023
Internship Seeker Mentor, Proyecto Nutria	Mar. 2023 - Jan. 2024
School Assistant, Puerta18 Foundation	Mar. 2018 - Dec. 2019
Co-organizer and Speaker Coach, TEDxJoven@CNBA	Mar. 2015 - Mar. 2019