

SANTIAGO CASTRO

Research Scientist

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[bryant1410](https://github.com/bryant1410) 📍 Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA

Diligent Computer Scientist with research experience in the industry and academia.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Computer Science, **University of Michigan**,

Sept. 2018 – June 2024, Ann Arbor, Michigan, USA

My main research interest is in holistically representing **Multimodal** sources (i.e., Language and Vision) for general-purpose applications, esp. for video tasks. I'm also interested in Computational Humor. Advisor: [Rada Mihalcea](#). GPA: 4.0/4.0

Eng. in Computer Science, **Universidad de la República**,

March 2010 – May 2015, Montevideo, Uruguay

Extracurricular classes: Intro to DL, DL applied to NLP, Formal Grammars for NL, GPGPU, and Semantic Parsing. GPA rank: 4th/665

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

[26 publications](#), [880 citations](#), and [h-index 13](#) in [Google Scholar](#).

[S. Castro](#), [A. Ziai](#), [A. Saluja](#), [Z. Yuan](#), and [R. Mihalcea](#). CLoVe: Encoding Compositional Language in Contrastive Vision-Language Models. *arXiv*, 2024.

[S. Castro](#), [O. Ignat](#), and [R. Mihalcea](#). "Scalable Performance Analysis for Vision-Language Models." *SEM @ ACL 2023.

[R. Villegas](#), [M. Babaeizadeh](#), [P.-J. Kindermans](#), [H. Moraldo](#), [H. Zhang](#), [M. T. Saffar](#), [S. Castro](#), [J. Kunze](#), and [D. Erhan](#). "Phenaki: Variable Length Video Generation from Open Domain Textual Descriptions." ICLR 2023.

[S. Castro](#) and [F. Caba Heilbron](#). "FitCLIP: Refining Large-Scale Pretrained Image-Text Models for Zero-Shot Video Understanding Tasks." BMVC 2022.

[S. Castro](#), [N. Deng](#), [P. Huang](#), [M. G. Burzo](#), and [R. Mihalcea](#). "In-the-Wild Video Question Answering." COLING 2022.

[S. Castro](#), [R. Wang](#), [P. Huang](#), [I. Stewart](#), [O. Ignat](#), [N. Liu](#), [J. C. Stroud](#), and [R. Mihalcea](#). "FIBER: Fill-in-the-Blanks as a Challenging Video Understanding Evaluation Framework." ACL 2022.

[O. Ignat](#), [S. Castro](#), [H. Miao](#), [W. Li](#), and [R. Mihalcea](#). "WhyAct: Identifying Action Reasons in Lifestyle Vlogs." EMNLP 2021.

[L. Chiruzzo](#), [S. Castro](#), and [A. Rosá](#). "HAHA 2019 Dataset: A Corpus for Humor Analysis in Spanish." LREC 2020.

[S. Castro](#), [M. Azab](#), [J. Stroud](#), [C. Noujaim](#), [R. Wang](#), [J. Deng](#), and [R. Mihalcea](#). "LifeQA: A Real-life Dataset for Video Question Answering." LREC 2020.

[S. Castro](#), [D. Hazarika](#), [V. Pérez-Rosas](#), [R. Zimmermann](#), [R. Mihalcea](#), and [S. Poria](#). "Towards Multimodal Sarcasm Detection (An_Obviously_Perfect Paper)." ACL 2019.

[S. Castro](#), [M. Cubero](#), [D. Garat](#), and [G. Moncecchi](#). "Is This a Joke? Detecting Humor in Spanish Tweets." IBERAMIA 2016. **2nd Best Paper**.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Research Scientist, **Netflix**, July 2024 – Present, Los Gatos, California, USA

Vision and Language Representation Learning. Manager: [Ashish Rastogi](#)

Research Intern, **Netflix**, May–Aug. 2023, USA (remote)

Project on Compositional Generalization of Vision-Language Models.

Mentors: [Amir Ziai](#), [Avneesh Saluja](#), and [Zhuoning Yuan](#)

Research Intern, **Google Brain**, May–Aug. 2022, USA (remote)

Project on Video Representation Learning using Language.

Mentors: [Mohammad Babaeizadeh](#) and [Ruben Villegas](#)

AWARDS

CSE Service Award for Excellence in Climate and DEI, April 2023

Best poster award, NLP@Michigan Day, May 2022

1st place in TASS 2017, Task 1, corpus GraTASS 1k, SEPLN 2017. Sentiment Analysis contest. We also finished 2nd in one of the other two corpora

3rd place in the Engineering Fair ("Ingeniería de Muestra"), CS Thesis Contest. Oct. 2015

1st place in National Microsoft Hoshimi Programming Contest, Dec. 2009

Finalist in National Math Olympiads, Dec. 2003

GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Research Initiation Grant, By CSIC, for a project on the study of Subjectivity and its application to Humor Classification using DL. \$16,632. Nov. 2017

Research Initiation Scholarship, By ANII, for the undergraduate thesis project. \$2,400. Aug. 2014

PATENTS

Adapting Pretrained Classification Models to Different Domains (pending), April 2022

TEACHING

Information Retrieval and Web Search, **University of Michigan**, H1 2021

Advanced Data Structures and Algorithms ("Programación 3"), **Universidad de la República**, H2 2014–2018

Data Structures and Algorithms ("Programación 2"), **Universidad de la República**, H1 2014–2015, 2018

Logic Programming, **Universidad de la República**, H1 2016–2017

THESIS SUPERVISIONS

Machine Classifier System of Answers According to their Relevance ("Sistema clasificador automático de respuestas según relevancia"), Eng. in CS thesis, **Universidad de la República**, Aug. 2016 – Dec. 2017

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Reviewer, ACL Rolling Review Dec. 2023; NeurIPS 2023; *SEM 2023; BMVC 2022; CTRLGen @ NeurIPS 2021; CVEU @ ICCV 2021; HAHA @ IberLEF 2019, 2021; ACII 2019; SBAC-PAD 2018; HAHA @ IberEVAL 2018

Research Intern, **Adobe Research**, May–Aug. 2021, USA (remote)

Project on Video Representation Learning. Mentor: [Fabian Caba Heilbron](#)

Research Intern, **Netflix**, May–Aug. 2020, USA (remote)

Project on Language and Vision Representation Learning through videos.

Manager: [Vinith Misra](#)

Principal Research Engineer, **Xmartlabs**,

Sept. 2016 – Aug. 2018, Montevideo, Uruguay

I started an ML area highly focused on Mobile CV. It included the conception, design, and engineering leadership of the open-source project [Bender](#), the first framework to run neural nets in real-time on an iPhone using the GPU. After its release, competitors have subsequently emerged from big tech companies (i.e., Google's TF Lite, Apple's Core ML, Facebook's Caffe2Go, and Baidu's MDL). I also worked on other CV+ML projects for the entertainment, retail, and agro industries.

Teaching & Research Assistant (“Asistente – Grado 2”),

Universidad de la República, March 2014 – Aug. 2018, Montevideo, Uruguay

Android Engineer, **Xmartlabs**,

March 2014 – Aug. 2016, Montevideo, Uruguay

REFERENCES

Available upon request.

(Resume last update: June 7, 2024)

IN THE NEWS

[Finding and Lifting Up Diamonds in the Rough: Shaping the Next Generation of AI Researchers](#), **Rada Mihalcea's Blog**, Jan. 2024

“I am giving the ‘then and now’ profile of one of my current PhD students, Santiago Castro.”

[Building In-Video Search](#), **Netflix Technology Blog**, Nov. 2023

I'm a coauthor of this technology.

[BD61 - Santiago Castro, estudiante de Doctorado](#), **Podcast Bigdatéame**, Feb. 2021

“Santiago Castro, PhD Student.”

[Nicosanti ganador del concurso de la Fundación de Cultura Informática](#), **LaRed21**,

Dec. 2009, Montevideo, Uruguay

“NicoSanti team winner of the coding challenge”, organized by Fundación de Cultura Informática and Microsoft Uruguay.

INVITED TALKS

An “Eye”-Opening Experience: Adding Vision into the Mix, **CSI 5180, Oakland University**,

April 2024, Rochester Hills, MI, USA

An “Eye”-Opening Experience: Bringing Vision to Retrieval, **EECS 486, University of Michigan**,

March 2024, Ann Arbor, MI, USA

GPGPU in the context of Deep Learning, **GPGPU class, Universidad de la República**,

June 2021, Montevideo, Uruguay (remote)

Mobile Machine Learning, **ML undergrad class, Universidad de la República**,

May 2018, Montevideo, Uruguay

Mobile Machine Learning with Bender,

DL Applied to CV grad class, Universidad de la República,

Oct. 2017, Montevideo, Uruguay

Bender: Efficient Execution of Neural Networks in iOS, **Open Tech 2017**,

Sept. 2017, Montevideo, Uruguay

Humor Detection in Tweets, **9º Foro de Lenguas de ANEP**, Dec. 2016, Montevideo, Uruguay

Humor Detection in Spanish Tweets, **CS Dept. Seminar, Universidad de la República**,

June 2015, Montevideo, Uruguay