Santiago Calderón-Peña

Github: santiago-calderon-pena LinkedIn: SantiagoCalderon1999

EDUCATION

MSc in Advanced Computing (Computer Science), King's College London London, United Kingdom

Sep 2023 — Jan 2025

- Graduated with **Distinction** (among the top students in the cohort).
- Master's Thesis: "Real-Time Incremental Explanations and Saliency Maps for Object Detection in Videos" (94/100), supervised by Prof. Hana Chockler.
- **Scholarship:** Colfuturo Foundation for the Future of Colombia (ranked 4th nationwide, top 0.5% of 779 candidates from Colombia).
- Relevant Coursework: Computer Vision, Neural Networks and Deep Learning, Data Mining, Multi-Agent Systems.
- Research Interests: Explainable AI, Computer Vision.
- Extracurriculars: Research Assistant in Explainable AI. Student Lead, Google Developer Student Club (GDSC).

BSc in Mechatronics Engineering, *Universidad Militar Nueva Granada Boqotá*, *Colombia*

Jan 2017 — Apr 2022

- Graduated Cum Laude with the highest GPA in cohort (4.54/5.0).
- Bachelor's Thesis: "Design and Implementation of Nonlinear Controllers for 3D Printing Systems" (5.0/5.0), awarded *Tesis Laureada* (highest honors).
- Honors & Awards: University Medal for Academic Merit, 5× Matrícula de Honor (highest semester GPA).
- Scholarship: Full scholarship awarded by the Colombian Ministry of Information Technologies and Communications.
- Extracurriculars: Member of the Davinci research group. Competitor on the university karate team (multiple tournament victories).

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, King's College London

Sep 2023 - Present

London, United Kingdom

- Developed the IncX algorithm for real-time explanations of object detectors, achieving an order-of-magnitude reduction in latency compared to benchmarks.
- Conducting research in Explainable AI (XAI) with peer-reviewed publications and submissions to top-tier AI conferences.
- Contributed to XAI methods for computer vision (IncX, ReX), leveraging PyTorch and ONNX within reproducible ML workflows.
- Research Areas: Explainable AI, Computer Vision

Teaching Assistant, *Universidad Militar Nueva Granada Boqotá*, *Colombia*

Aug 2020 — Jun 2021

- Delivered tutorials for the Mechatronic Systems Models module.
- Contributed to the DaVinci research group, focusing on nonlinear control systems and applied mechatronics.

PUBLICATIONS

1. Explainable AI for the Classification of Brain MRIs

European Conference on Artificial Intelligence (ECAI) 2025 Workshop on EXPLIMED Blake N., Kelly D. A., Chockler H., Calderón-Peña S., Chanchal A. ResearchSquare Preprint

2. **Real-Time Incremental Explanations for Object Detectors** [Under Review]

Submitted

Calderón-Peña S., Chockler H., Kelly D. A.

arXiv Preprint

INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE

Software Engineer - Al

Jan 2025 — Present

Linqia, Remote (Core engineering team, San Francisco, USA)

- Designed and deployed **AI agents** using Google's ADK and A2A, developing MCP tools that provide real-time data retrieval, computation and system interaction.
- · Applied large language models (LLMs) for clustering and topic modeling, deriving insights from high-volume text data.
- Optimized large-scale data processing pipelines, improving efficiency and scalability in production workflows.

Software Engineer Dec 2022 — Dec 2024

Quorum Software, Bogotá, Colombia, relocated to London, United Kingdom

 Led a text classification project comparing traditional NLP methods with fine-tuned BERT-based models, incorporating SHAP for interpretability.

• Developed a **Retrieval-Augmented Generation (RAG)** system using Azure AI Search and OpenAI GPT-4, enabling natural-language access to enterprise data.

Junior Software Developer

Mar 2022 — Oct 2022

Kin + Carta, Remote (US, Argentina, Colombia collaboration)

· Built and deployed Java RESTful APIs on GCP, supporting scalable automation and decision-making pipelines.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

- Machine Learning & Data Science: PyTorch, TensorFlow, Scikit-Learn, NumPy, Pandas, ONNX, SHAP
- Reproducibility & MLOps: Docker, Kubernetes, GitHub Actions, CI/CD, Azure Machine Learning
- Cloud Platforms: Azure, Google Cloud Platform, AWS
- Research & Documentation: LTFX, Mendeley
- Version Control: Git, GitHub

CERTIFICATIONS

Microsoft Certified DP-100: Azure Data Scientist Associate, Microsoft

Credential id: E0BEA56FD07E8AB7

Microsoft Certified Al-102: Azure Al Engineer Associate, Microsoft

Credential id: E5960BE874975467

Google Cloud Certified - Associate Cloud Engineer, Google Cloud

Credential id: <u>63393547</u>

LANGUAGES

• English: TOEFL Score: 111/120 (C2)

· Spanish: Native Speaker

• French: DELF B2 Certified (B2)

• German: Proficiency Level (B1)

• Italian: Proficiency Level (A2)

VOLUNTEERING

Web Dev Student Lead Sep 2023 — Mar 2024

Google Developer Students Club - King's College London

• Led a workshop on MLOps in Google Cloud, demonstrating how to use Vertex AI to automatically train and deploy a neural network for digit recognition using the MNIST dataset.

- Conducted a session on applying Vertex AI APIs for industry applications, including text-to-speech, speech-to-text, and face recognition.
- Presented on developing APIs with Flask for natural language processing (NLP) tasks, such as lemmatization and named entity recognition using spaCy.

Computer Skills Education Volunteer

Jul 2022 — Jun 2023

Fundación Laudes Infantis

- Taught basic robotics to children in low-income areas of Bogotá, empowering dozens of individuals with hands-on STEM skills.
- Provided foundational education in JavaScript and HTML to adolescents and adults, helping them build websites to support their entrepreneurial ventures.