

Sara Morrissey

National Centre for Language Technology (NCLT), School of Computing,
Dublin City University, Glasnevin, Dublin 9, Ireland
smorri@computing.dcu.ie
+353 (1) 7006914
26/04/1982

CAREER OBJECTIVE

1st Class Honours Computational Linguistics graduate currently undertaking a computing PhD in the area of Sign Language Machine Translation. Aims to use her capacity as an analytical researcher of a minority topic in an international field to advance this developing area and illustrate the valuable contribution women can make in the field of research in computing.

QUALIFICATIONS

- **PhD Candidate in Computing** (Dublin City University) Oct 2004 – Mar 2008
Example-based Machine Translation (EBMT) of Sign Languages funded by IBM & IRCSET

Publications:

Armstrong, S., M. Flanagan, Y. Graham, D. Groves, B. Mellebeek, **S. Morrissey**, N. Stroppa and A. Way. 2006. *MaTrEx: Machine Translation Using Examples. TC-STAR OpenLab on Speech Translation*. Trento, Italy.

Morrissey, S. and A. Way. 2006. *Lost in Translation: the Problems of Using Mainstream MT Evaluation Metrics for Sign Language Translation*. In Proceedings of the 5th SALT MIL Workshop on Minority Languages. Genoa, Italy, pp.91–98.

Morrissey, S. and A. Way. 2006. *Experiments in Sign Language Machine Translation Using Examples*. In Proceedings of the IBM CASCON 2006 Dublin Symposium, Dublin, Ireland.

Morrissey, S. and A. Way. 2005. *An Example-Based Approach to Translating Sign Language*. In Proceedings of the Second Workshop on Example-Based Machine Translation, Phuket, Thailand, pp.109--116.

Morrissey, S. and A. Way. 2005. *An Example-Based Approach to Translating Sign Languages*. In Proceedings of the IBM CASCON 2005 Dublin Symposium, Dublin, Ireland.

- **Certificates in Introductory, Beginners' and Post-Beginners' Irish Sign Language** (Trinity College Dublin) Oct 2003 – May 2006
Developing knowledge of sign language to facilitate research
- **BSc in Computational Linguistics** (Dublin City University) Sep 2000 – Jun 2004
Graduated with first class honours

Bachelor Thesis: “*RoBerT: An Irish Sign Language Translator*” an expansion of 3rd year project involving the advancement of our previous system and the introduction of a user interface where a virtual mannequin signs the translated weather reports.

Project: “*Harry Potter Example-based Machine Translator*” an exploration of EBMT methodology using chapters from J.K. Rowling’s Harry Potter in French and English.

- **Erasmus year abroad** (Besançon, Franche Comté, France) Sep 2002 – Aug 2003
Academic year including courses in computing and linguistics

3rd Year Project: “*The Application of Machine Translation to a Non-Spoken Language*” involving the development of a rule-based machine translation system for English to Irish Sign Language for the domain of weather.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- **Invigilator** (Dublin City University) Jan 2007
Supervision of students during exams, organisation and distribution of exam scripts Jan 2006
- **Webmaster** Sep 2006 – present
DCU President’s Award Society, BeWell Yoga, Bohemia Beads

- **Tutor** (Dublin City University) Oct 2005 – Jun 2006
Computer Assisted Language Learning (CALL), French for Science and Technology
Logic and Maths for Computing Oct 2001 – Dec 2001
- **Yoga Teacher** (Dublin City University) Sep 2004 – present
Teaching yoga classes to students and staff each week
- **Computing Intern** (Traslán) July 2004 – Oct 2004
Research and development of EBMT system for Irish and English
- **Sales Assistant and merchandiser** (Hughes & Hughes Bookstores, Dublin Airport) Jun 2000 – July 2004
- **Supervisor** (Hughes & Hughes Bookstores, Dublin Airport) assisting duty manager with three branches, supervising cash and personnel, organising stock, opening and closing of all six airport branches, cash office experience 22 Jul – 28 Aug 2002

SKILLS

- **Research and Analytical** exploration and development of ideas from initial stages (3rd year project) through to PhD level
- **Computer** – proficient in Perl, HTML, Java, CGI, Prolog programming languages
- **Language** – *academic use*: English (mother tongue), French (spoken and written), Irish (spoken and written), Irish Sign Language (post-beginners level signing); *personal interest*: Italian, Sanskrit
- **Leadership and Organisation** tutorial guidance of undergraduate students, exam invigilation, Chairperson of DCU Yoga Club 2004-2007
- **Human Relations** presentation of research work in local research community, industry level (IBM) and international machine translation conferences; active member of computing research groups: Machine Translation Research Group at the National Centre for Language Technology, DCU; Gesture Recognition Research Group, cross-cultural collaborative research with RWTH Aachen University of Technology, Germany.

ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Gaisce – The President’s Award, Gold Medal** Oct 2006 – present
participation in 60 weeks community involvement, 18 weeks of a physical activity, 52 weeks of a personal skill and a four day venture project spread over 1.5years+
- **Women’s Mini Marathon** (Dublin) June 2006
10km run around Dublin City Centre June 2005
- **Irish Independent Interview** March 2006
Interviewed for Graduate Report article in Graduate Education Supplement of *The Irish Independent* Newspaper
- **Gaisce – The President’s Award, Bronze Medal** Sep 1998 – Aug 1999
participation in 15 weeks community involvement, 12 weeks of a physical activity, 26 weeks of a personal skill and a two day venture project spread over 1 year

INTERESTS AND FURTHER TRAINING

- **Yoga**
Postgraduate Diploma in Yoga Teaching (Yoga Therapy Ireland (YTI), Dublin) Sept 2006 – present
Certificates in Yoga Therapy (Yoga Therapy and Training Centre (YTTC), Lisburn, Co. Antrim) Oct 2005 – Jun 2006
Diploma in Hatha Yoga Teacher Training (Yoga Therapy and Training Centre (YTTC), Dublin) Sep 2004 – Dec 2005
- **Holistic Therapies**
Certificate in Introduction to Indian Head Massage Oct 2006
Certificate in Introduction to Reflexology June 2006
Certificate in Reiki Level 1 March 2006