

Sara Morrissey

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CAREER OBJECTIVE

Post-doctoral researcher in early stages of research career working in the area of assistive technology for Deaf people, namely 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.

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:

Morrissey, S. 2008. Bidirectional Data-Driven Machine Translation for Irish and German Sign Languages. *Machine Translation. (Under review).*

Morrissey, S. 2008. Data-driven Machine Translation for Sign Languages. PhD Thesis. Dublin City University, Dublin.

Bungeroth, J., D. Stein, H. Ney, **S. Morrissey**, A. Way, and L. van Zijl. 2008. The ATIS Sign Language Corpus. In *International Conference on Language Resources and Evaluation (LREC 2008)*, Marrakech, Morocco.

Morrissey, S. 2008. Assistive Translation Technology for Deaf People: Translating into and Animating Irish Sign Language. In *Proceedings of the 11th International Conference on Computers Helping People with Special Needs: Young Researcher's Consortium*, Linz, Austria.

Morrissey, S., A. Way, D. Stein, J. Bungeroth and H. Ney 2007. *Combining Data-Driven MT Systems for Improved Sign Language Translation* In Machine Translation Summit XI, Copenhagen, Denmark, pp.329-336

Stein, D., P. Dreuw, H. Ney, **S. Morrissey** and A. Way. 2007. *Hand in Hand*: In Proceedings of Theoretical and Methodological Issues in Machine Translation (TMI-07), Skövde, Sweden.

Morrissey, S. and A. Way. 2007. *Joining Hands: Developing a Sign Language Machine Translation System with and for the Deaf Community* In Proceedings of CVHI - Conference and Workshop on Assistive Technology for People with Vision and Hearing Impairments, Granada, Spain.

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.

- **Erasmus year abroad** (Besançon, Franche Comté, France) Sep 2002 – Aug 2003
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

- **Post-doctoral Researcher** (Centre for Next Generation Localisation, Dublin City University). Work Package ILT 1.9: Assistive Technology for Patients with Limited English - Deaf and minority immigrant groups Apr 2008 – Mar 2011
- **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

ACHIEVEMENTS

- **Localisation Research Committee 2008 Best Thesis Award Runner-Up** Oct 2008
 Runner up position awarded to my PhD thesis
- **Finalist in the Google Europe Anita Borg Memorial Scholarship for Women in Computing** July 2007
 Awarded a €1,000 scholarship and attended a networking weekend in Google, Zurich
- **Women’s Mini Marathon (Dublin)** June 2007, 2006, 2005
 10km run around Dublin City Centre
- **National Newspaper Interviews** Mar 2006/ Mar 2008
 Interviewed for Graduate Report article in Graduate Education Supplement of *The Irish Independent* Newspaper and the Postgraduate supplement of *The Irish Times*
- **Gaisce – The President’s Award, Gold and Bronze Medal** Oct 2006 – present
 participation in community involvement, a physical activity, and a venture project Sep 1998 – Aug 1999

SKILLS

- **Research and Analytical** exploration and development of ideas from initial stages (3rd year project) through to Post-doctoral level
- **Motivation** persistent development of technology to improve communication for the Deaf
- **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, post-doctoral representative in School of Computing, social committee
- **Communication** multiple international conference presentations at academic and industry level, member of research groups (CNLG, NCLT, MT, Gesture Recognition groups at DCU), cross-cultural collaborative research with RWTH Aachen University of Technology, Germany, and the Irish Deaf Community.

INTERESTS AND FURTHER TRAINING

- **Women in Science and Engineering Research** Member of WiSER 2007 - present
- **Yoga** Teacher training and therapy diplomas and certificates (YTTC and YTI) Sep 2004 – present
- **Holistic therapies** Certificates in head massage and reflexology Mar 2006 - present