
Ackley Dias Will, PhD

Associate Professor of Computing | Andrews University
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PROFILE

Computer scientist, researcher, and educator working across computer vision, deep learning, medical imaging, assistive technology, and computing education. University teaching experience since 2013, with earlier work in research, software development, and information technology. Current activities connect applied AI research, project-oriented teaching, student mentoring, and practical online education.

EDUCATION

2017-2021 | PhD, Electrical Engineering (Computer Engineering)

University of Campinas (UNICAMP), Brazil.

Dissertation: Modeling and synthesis of facial aspects of Brazilian Sign Language for signing avatars. Advisor: José Mario De Martino.

2009-2012 | Master's, Computational Modeling (Scientific Computing)

National Laboratory for Scientific Computing (LNCC), Brazil.

Thesis: Simulation of performance of parallel applications of coarse granularity in distributed computing environments. Advisor: Eduardo Lucio Garcia.

2001-2005 | Bachelor's, Information Systems

Universidade Estácio de Sá (UNESA), Brazil.

SELECTED APPOINTMENTS

2022-present | Associate Professor of Computing

Andrews University, Berrien Springs, Michigan. Department Chair, July 2024-July 2026.

2013-2022 | Professor, Information Systems and Computer Engineering

Adventist University of São Paulo (UNASP), Brazil. Program Coordinator, 2018-2022.

2015-2021 | Researcher

University of Campinas (UNICAMP), Brazil. Assistive technology, facial motion capture, and signing-avatar animation.

TEACHING AND RECOGNITION

Teaching includes machine learning, computer vision, data analytics, programming, algorithms, interactive applications, and AI applications in business. Creator of *Computer Vision with PyTorch: Practical Deep Learning* on Udemy.

Student-selected Andrews University recognition: Undergraduate Teaching Excellence Award (2023); Computing Teaching Excellence Awards (2024, 2025); Open Door Award (2026).

Selected scholarship

Research interests: computer vision, transfer learning, model evaluation, medical imaging, accessibility, facial animation, and student-integrated applied research.

PEER-REVIEWED / REFEREED PUBLICATIONS

1. Dias Will, A. (2026). **Data Augmentation Strength, Training Stability, and Clinical Trade-Offs in Transfer Learning for Chest X-ray Pneumonia Classification.** *Cureus*, 18(4), e106519. [Original source](#)
2. Dias Will, A., & Sarkodie, J. (2026). **An Empirical Study of Dataset Size Effects on Fine-Tuning Depth in Transfer Learning for Chest X-ray Classification.** *Cureus*, 18(3), e106159. [Original source](#)
3. Will, A. D., De Martino, J. M., & Bezerra, J. (2019). **Automatic Mapping of Facial Mocap Data to a Realistic Signing Avatar.** *IBERDISCAP 2019, Buenos Aires*.
4. Will, A. D., De Martino, J. M., & Bezerra, J. (2018). **An Optimized Marker Layout for 3D Facial Motion Capture.** *STAG 2018 / Eurographics Italian Chapter Conference*. [Original source](#)
5. Paiva, F. A., Barbosa, P. A., De Martino, J. M., Will, A. D., Oliveira, M. R. N. S., Silva, I. R., & Xavier, A. N. (2018). **Análise do papel das expressões não manuais na intensificação em Libras.** *DELTA*, 34(4), 1135-1158. [Original source](#)
6. Paiva, F. A., Will, A. D., De Martino, J. M., Barbosa, P. A., & Benetti, A. B. (2017). **Incorporating Non-Manual Expressions into a Realistic Signing Avatar.** *IBERDISCAP 2017, Bogotá*, 551-558.
7. Oliveira, F. S. G., Karam Filho, J., Cunha, G. N., Lara, P. C. S., Will, A. D., & Madeira, L. (2012). **Gestão Municipal Eficiente Usando Técnicas de Business Intelligence.** *Revista de Engenharia da Universidade Católica de Petrópolis*.

SELECTED STUDENT RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

- Walker, L., & Dias Will, A. (2026). Replication Study on Use of U-Net Architecture in Brain Tumor Segmentation. MBAA International Conference, Chicago.
- Nwanganga, A., & Will, A. (2025). Deep Learning Model for Detection of Cardiac Arrhythmias from ECG Signals. MBAA International Conference, Chicago.
- Manigat, G., & Will, A. (2025). Detecting and Classifying Brain Tumors Using Deep Learning. MBAA International Conference, Chicago.

This short CV presents selected academic information. Download the full academic CV at ackleywill.com/documents/ackley-will-cv-full.pdf