

The Maryland Robotics Center proudly presents as part of the University of Maryland and Microsoft Robotics and Diversity Initiative



FUTURE LEADERS IN ROBOTICS & AI: CELEBRATING DIVERSITY & INNOVATION SEMINAR SERIES Sponsored by Microsoft DC Metro Engineering Site

A nationwide seminar series for PhD students, postdoctoral researchers, and early career professionals highlighting the latest research and innovation in the field of robotics and AI, especially from underrepresented minorities & women.

Nominations, webinar links & more at: robotics.umd.edu/FutureLeaders



Spring 2024 Seminars (2 PM TO 3 PM EST)



February 16

Merihan Alhafnawi
Postdoc Fellow, Princeton University
“Expressive robot swarms & multi-human-swarm interaction for social applications”



Jana Pavlasek
PhD Candidate, University of Michigan
“Think graphical, act local: Distributed inference for multi-robot coordination”

Krishna Murthy Jatavallabhula
Postdoc Fellow,
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
“Structured world models for robotics”



Benjamin Riviere, PhD Candidate
California Institute of Technology
“What do smart robots dream of? Search-based decision-making in games, dynamical systems, and partially-observable environments”

March 1

March 8

Chahat Deep Singh
Postdoc Fellow, University of Maryland
“Minimal perception: Enabling autonomy in palm-sized robots”



Faith Johnson
PhD Candidate, Rutgers University
“Towards socially aware visual navigation with hierarchical learning”

March 15

Anushri Dixit
Postdoc Fellow, Princeton University
“Robot safety & generalization in the era of foundation models”



Oluwami (Wami) Dosunmu-Ogunbi
PhD Candidate, University of Michigan
“Stepping into the future: Unveiling a novel stair climbing controller”

April 5

Elena Shrestha
Postdoc Fellow, University of Michigan
“Sense, imagine, act: Multimodal perception & reinforcement learning for UxV guidance & control”



Dhruv Shah, PhD Candidate
University of California Berkeley
“The Foundation Model Path to Open-World Robots”

April 26

Suresh Kumar Jayaraman
Postdoc Fellow, Carnegie Mellon University
“Enhancing transparency in human-robot teams: A machine teaching approach to communicate robot decision-making to diverse human teammates”



Ruchen (Puck) Wen, Postdoc Fellow
University of Maryland Baltimore County
“Designing language-capable robots for ethical & socially adaptive human interactions”

April 12

Catie Cuan
Postdoc Fellow, Stanford University
“Choreorobotics: Teaching robots how to dance with humans”



Thomas Berrueta
PhD Candidate, Northwestern University
“Towards transparent & reliable embodied reinforcement learning agents”