

ALEXANDRA BARRY

AUTONOMOUS ROBOTICS
AND AI ENGINEER

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PROFILE

Robotics and machine learning researcher with hands-on experience deploying AI systems on physical robot platforms and developing decentralized multi-agent reinforcement learning algorithms. Strong software engineering background with expertise in Python, PyTorch, ROS, Docker and distributed systems. Comfortable working across research and production environments to design, implement and evaluate embodied AI systems.

EXPERIENCE

2025 - PRESENT

RAIL Lab | University of the Witwatersrand

Robotics Lab Manager

- Maintain, integrate and deploy software stacks across multiple research robots (Husky UGV, Unitree A1, Pepper, BlueROV2, YuMi manipulators, and DJI Robomaster platforms).
- Build ROS + Python + Docker interfaces to allow non-technical researchers to prototype behaviors on physical robots.
- Created the robot documentation portal: <https://raillab.github.io/robot-docs/>
- Design and launch interactive robot demos, supporting rapid iteration and multi-agent experiment deployment.

2024 - PRESENT

HCV Underwriting Managers

CTO

- Lead architecture and deployment of company-wide automation and data systems (Airflow, Docker, SQL, AWS).
- Built production-grade WhatsApp autonomous agent + API integrations for document retrieval and workflow routing.
- Full legacy system migration with distributed data reconciliation and audit infrastructure.

EDUCATION

2023 - Present

UNIV. OF THE WITWATERSRAND

- MSc. Computer Science (Robotics)
- Coursework GPA ~82
- Supervisors:
 - Prof. Benjamin Rosman
 - Dr Steven James

2024

BROWN UNIVERSITY

- Research Exchange, ACT (Automated Coordination of Teams) Lab.
- Supervised by Prof. Nora Ayanian

2015 - 2018

UNIV. OF CAPE TOWN

- BSc. Mechatronic Engineering
- Dean's Merit List (2015-2017)

SKILLS

Robotics & AI

Multi-Agent RL, decentralized coordination, GPS-denied navigation, 3D perception, cooperative autonomy

Software Engineering

Python, C++, Linux, Git, CI/CD, REST APIs, ROS middleware

Frameworks & Tools

PyTorch, TorchRL, ROS, Gazebo, Airflow, Airsim, Docker, Kubernetes, AWS, PostgreSQL

Robotic Platforms

Husky UGV, Unitree A1, Pepper, YuMi, BlueROV2, DJI Robomasters, drones

2023 - 2024, 2025

Melio AI

Intermediate Software Engineer

- Platform and pipeline development for ML model deployment (Django, FastAPI, Docker, AWS, Kubernetes).
- Designed internal ML tooling for reproducible training and evaluation workflows.

A W A R D S

- Golden Key International Honors Society (top 15%)
- Dean's Merit List (UCT Engineering)
- WomEng Fellow (selected 1 of 60 nationwide)

R E S E A R C H

2023 - Present

RAIL Lab | University of the Witwatersrand

MSc Researcher - Cooperative UAV Swarms

Supervised by Prof. Benjamin Rosman and Dr Steven James

- Develop multi-agent RL systems for UAV teams to coordinate in GPS-denied cave environments.
- Focus on communication minimization and global reward alignment under partial observability.
- Implement scalable simulation + training pipelines (PyTorch, TorchRL, VMAS).

2024

ACT Lab | Brown University

Research Exchange

Supervised by Prof. Nora Ayanian

- Designed UWB-based localization + sensor fusion for multi-drone coordination in GPS-denied scenarios.
- Investigated collective motion to reduce localization uncertainty.
- Offered PhD continuation after research period.

L A N G U A G E S

- English
- French (DELF A2)
- Spanish (2A)
- IsiZulu (Basic)

C E R T I F I C A T I O N S

- AWS Developer Associate
- AWS Cloud Practitioner
- FRM Level 1
- French DELF A2
- Spanish A2

I N T E R E S T S

DIY & Hobby Electronics

Painting Learning Languages

Nature & the Outdoors

Running & Playing Sports

Yoga & Mindfulness

C O M M U N I T Y

2025 - Present

Robot Learning for Africa (RLA) Organization

Board Member | Outreach

Advancing community, accessibility and education in robotics across the African continent.

- Deep Learning Indaba (2025):
 - Organizer for the Robotics workshop
 - Focus on human pose estimation with application on the Pepper robot for improved social interaction
- ICRA@40 Africa (2024):
 - Organizer for the IEEE ICRA@40 satellite event

R E F E R E N C E S

Contact details can be provided upon request

RAIL Lab	Benjamin Rosman
HCV	Mark Hindle
Melio AI	Harry Lee
Brown	Nora Ayanian
RLA	Ndivhuwo Makondo

2023 - Present

Vuleka St Martins Jellicoe (Non-Profit)

Robotics Teacher

Teach Robotics for a group of Grade 4-7 students.



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