

Alexandra Bejarano

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SKILLS | Java, Python, Javascript, Unity, ROS, Human-Subject Experimental Design, Qualitative Research Methods, Statistical and Thematic Data Analysis, Interface Prototyping and Implementation

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Computer Science

Colorado School of Mines

Golden, CO | May 2025

Teaching Assistant (TA): *Computer Vision, Robot Ethics*

Select Coursework: *Human-Robot Interaction (HRI); Computer Vision; Human-Centered Robotics; Robot Ethics; Augmented Reality; Fundamentals of College Teaching; Social and Collaborative Computing*

M.S. Computer Science

Colorado School of Mines

Golden, CO | Dec 2022

Project: *Conducted literature review of interactions and perceptions of robot groups. Designed and completed a human-subject study exploring trust distribution among a robot group based on identity.*

B.S. Computer Science

University of Tulsa

Tulsa, OK | May 2020

Select Coursework: *Fundamentals of Algorithm and Computer Applications; Data Structures; Database Systems; Game Programming; Web Apps Development; Interaction Design*

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Virginia Tech | Postdoctoral Research Associate, LANCSET

Blacksburg, VA | June 2025 – Present

Advised by Dr. Qin Zhu. *Work on fostering a culture of compassion in STEM education using methodologies from HRI and Engineering Education.*

Colorado School of Mines | Research Assistant, MIRRORLab

Golden, CO | Aug 2020 - May 2025

Advised by Dr. Tom Williams. *Researched robot group identity performance strategies and user mental model formation in HRI. Design and implementation of multi-robot control interfaces.*

University of Tulsa | Research Assistant

Tulsa, OK | Jan 2019 - Jul 2020

Advised by Dr. Sandeep Kuttal. *Researched remote human-human pair programming to assess gender differences, human-computer pair programming, and computer programmers online foraging behavior to inform Human-Computer Interaction technology design.*

University of Notre Dame | Research Assistant

St. Joseph County, IN | May 2019 - Jul 2019

Advised by Dr. Aaron Striegel. *Participated in an NSF REU Program at the University of Notre Dame's Wireless Institute. Researched the use of network data packets and signal interference towards the development of a system in which WiFi may be used to detect tree leaves for optimal leaf pickup.*

Oregon State University | Research Assistant

Corvallis, OR | May 2018 - Jul 2018

Advised by Dr. Kagen Tumer. *Participated in an NSF REU Program at OSU's Autonomous Agents and Distributed Intelligence Lab. Researched the use of counterfactuals in reinforcement learning to enhance the performance of intelligent agents within a simulated multi-agent rover domain.*

University of Tulsa | Research Assistant

Tulsa, OK | May 2016 - Aug 2017

Advised by Dr. Julio Diaz. *Researched robot design for HRI through manipulation of robot appearance and a user control interface to assist children with special needs to play.*

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & OUTREACH

Mentorship | Research mentor to high school, undergraduate, and graduate students

2021 - Present

Trefny Graduate Teaching Fellowship | Fellow

2023-2024

Provided feedback on teaching portfolios and conducted course teaching observations for graduate students in the College Teaching Certificate Program. Created a resource for educators that highlights ethics discussion and broader thinking in computer science courses. [View Project](#)

Graduate Student Government | Director of Media/Marketing, DEI Committee Member

2023-2024

Conferences & Journals | Paper Reviewer

Present

ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction - 2023, 2024, 2025

ACM CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems - 2024, 2025

ACM Transactions on Human-Robot Interaction - 2023, 2024, 2025

IEEE International Conference on Robot & Human Interactive Communication - 2023, 2024, 2025
International Journal of Social Robotics - 2022, 2024
ICSR Workshop HRI for Space Robotics - 2021

HRI Conference | Workshop Organizer 2022-2024
2024 HRI Robo-Identity Workshop
2023 HRI Pioneers Workshop, Web/Publicity Chair

Summer Multicultural Engineering Training Program | Workshop Organizer Jun 2023
Organized and ran interactive robot design workshops for high students in the SUMMET program.

Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers | Outreach Organizer and Volunteer 2019-2023
CSM Chapter: National Dia de Ciencias, assisted in STEM activity engagement with high school students.
Dia de Ciencias, presented about HRI to students and their families.
TU Chapter: Noche Dia de Ciencias, organized STEM activities for middle and high school students.

RECOGNITIONS

Dr. Bhakta Rath and Sushama Rath Research Award | Winner May 2025
Dissertation: "Understanding Users' Mental Models of Flexibly Configurable Multi-Robot Systems"

Trefny Graduate Teaching Fellowship | Fellow Aug 2023 - May 2024

Roboethics Competition at ICRA 2023 | 1st Place Winning Team Jul 2023
Proposal: "NICE: An ethically-sensitive design framework for fetch robots in care contexts"

HRI Pioneers Workshop | Selected for 2022 Cohort Mar 2022

NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program | Honorable Mentions Jan 2020, 2021

Oklahoma Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation | Scholar 2016 - 2020

PUBLICATIONS

CLSTR: Capability-Level System for Tracking Robots

Alexandra Bejarano, Claire Bonial, Tom Williams
2025 IEEE Conference on Robotics and Automation. [Read Paper](#)

Hardships in the Land of Oz: Robot Control Challenges Faced by HRI Researchers and Real-World Teleoperators

Alexandra Bejarano, Saad Elbeleidy, Terran Mott, Sebastian Negrete-Alamillo, Luis Angel Armenta, Tom Williams
2024 33rd IEEE International Conference on Robot and Human Interactive Communication. [Read Paper](#)

Degrees of Freedom: A Storytelling Game that Supports Technology Literacy about Social Robots

Terran Mott, Mark Higger, Alexandra Bejarano, Tom Williams
2024 33rd IEEE International Conference on Robot and Human Interactive Communication. [Read Paper](#)

Prototyping a User Interface for Multi-Robot Speech Control

Alexandra Bejarano, Sebastian Negrete-Alamillo, Terran Mott, Tom Williams
Late-Breaking Report at HRI 2024. [Read Paper](#)

A Gender-Controlled Replication Study on Deconstructed Trustee Theory

Alexandra Bejarano, Tom Williams
Workshop on Robo-Identity at HRI 2024. [Read Paper](#)

A Preliminary Multi-Level Service Blueprint of Robot End-User Development in Socially Assistive Robots

Saad Elbeleidy, Alexandra Bejarano, Tom Williams
Workshop on End-User Development at HRI 2024. [Read Paper](#)

No Name, No Voice, Less Trust: Robot Group Identity Performance, Entitativity, and Trust Distribution

Alexandra Bejarano, Tom Williams
2023 32nd IEEE International Conference on Robot and Human Interactive Communication. [Read Paper](#)

Conversations with Identity Performing Robots: Considerations for Algorithms and Interfaces

Alexandra Bejarano, Sebastian Negrete-Alamillo, Tom Williams
Workshop on Human-Robot Conversational Interaction at HRI 2023. [Read Paper](#)

You Had Me at Hello: The Impact of Robot Group Presentation Strategies on Mental Model Formation

Alexandra Bejarano, Samantha Reig, Priyanka Senapati, Tom Williams
2022 ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction. [Read Paper](#)

Robot Co-design Can Help Us Engage Child Stakeholders in Ethical Reflection

Terran Mott, Alexandra Bejarano, Tom Williams
2022 ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction. [Read Paper](#)

Understanding and Influencing User Mental Models of Robot Identity

Alexandra Bejarano, Tom Williams
Pioneers Workshop at HRI 2022. [Read Paper](#)

Designing for Perceived Robot Empathy for Children in Long-Term Care

Alexandra Bejarano, Olivia Lomax, Peyton Scherschel, Tom Williams
2021 International Conference on Social Robotics. [Read Paper](#)

Design, Performance, and Perception of Robot Identity

Ryan Blake Jackson, Alexandra Bejarano, Katie Winkle, Tom Williams
Workshop on Robo-Identity: Artificial identity and multi-embodiment at HRI 2021. [Read Paper](#)

On the Flexibility of Robot Social Identity Performance: Benefits, Ethical Risks and Open Research Questions for HRI

Katie Winkle, Ryan Blake Jackson, Alexandra Bejarano, Tom Williams
Workshop on Robo-Identity: Artificial identity and multi-embodiment at HRI 2021. [Read Paper](#)

How end-user programmers forage in online repositories? An information foraging perspective

Sandeep Kuttal, Se Yeon Kim, Carlos Martos, Alexandra Bejarano
2021 Journal of Computer Languages, Vol. 62. [Read Paper](#)

Cognitive Architectural Control for Free-Flying Robots on the Lunar Orbital Platform-Gateway

Jon Emmanuel Serrano, Shania Jo Runningrabbit, Sayanti Roy, Alexandra Bejarano, Tom Williams
2020 International Conference on Social Robotics. [Read Paper](#)

Identity Performance in Multi-Robot Distributed Systems

Tom Williams, Daniel Ayers, Camille Kaufman, Jon Serrano, Shania Jo Runningrabbit, Sayanti Roy, Poulomi Pal, Alexandra Bejarano, Ryan Blake Jackson
2020 International Conference on Social Robotics. [Read Paper](#)

Remote pair programming in online CS education: Investigating through a gender lens

Sandeep Kuttal, Kevin Gerstner, Alexandra Bejarano
2019 IEEE Symposium on Visual Languages and Human-Centric Computing (VL/HCC). [Read Paper](#)

RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

CLSTR: Capability-Level System for Tracking Robots

Presentation and poster at the IEEE Conference on Robotics and Automation, May 2025.

Hardships in the Land of Oz: Robot Control Challenges Faced by HRI Researchers and Real-World Teleoperators

Presentation at the IEEE International Conference on Robot and Human Interactive Communication, Aug 2024.

Prototyping a User Interface for Multi-Robot Speech Control

Poster for HRI Late-Breaking Reports session, Mar 2024.

A Gender-Controlled Replication Study on Deconstructed Trustee Theory

Presentation at the workshop on Robo-Identity at HRI, Mar 2024.

Interfaces and Architectural Mechanisms for Multi-Robot Control

Presentation at Mines CS Department Graduate Seminar, Nov 2023. Poster at the Distributed and Collaborative Intelligent Systems and Technology (DCIST) PI Meeting at the University of Pennsylvania, Jun 2023.

No Name, No Voice, Less Trust: Robot Group Identity Performance, Entitativity, and Trust Distribution

Presentation at the IEEE International Conference on Robot and Human Interactive Communication, Aug 2023. Poster at the Rocky Mountain Celebration of Women in Computing, Sep 2022.

Conversations with Identity Performing Robots: Considerations for Algorithms and Interfaces

Presentation at the workshop on Human-Robot Conversational Interaction at HRI, Mar 2023.

You Had Me at Hello: The Impact of Robot Group Presentation Strategies on Mental Model Formation

Presentation at the ACM/IEEE International Conference on Human-Robot Interaction, Mar 2022.

Understanding and Influencing User Mental Models of Robot Identity

Presentation at the HRI Pioneers Workshop, Mar 2022.

Perceived Robot Empathy within Social Robot Design for Hospitalized Children

Poster for Computing-Mines Affiliates Partnership Program, Colorado School of Mines, 2020.

WiFi Leaf Detection System

Poster at the OK-LSAMP Research Symposium, 2019. Poster at the Summer Undergraduate Research Symposium (SURS), University of Notre Dame, 2019.

Counterfactuals in a Multiagent Domain

Presentation at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research, 2019. Poster at the OK-LSAMP Research Symposium, 2018.

Robot Design for Human Interaction

Presentation at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research, Edmond, Oklahoma 2018. Presentation at the OK-LSAMP Research Symposium, 2017.