

# Ethan Villalovoz

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## Research Interests

Aligned world models for robotics, human intent inference, interactive robot learning, human–AI collaboration, generative models for embodied intelligence, developing autonomous systems that resolve ambiguity, learn from minimal human feedback, and plan safely and intelligently in complex environments.

## Education

- 2026–2027 **Georgia Institute of Technology, College of Computing**, Atlanta, Georgia, United States  
GPA 4.0 M.S. in Computer Science, Specialization in Computational Perception and Robotics
- 2021–2025 **Washington State University, Honors College**, Pullman, Washington, United States  
GPA 3.94 B.S. in Computer Science, Minor in Mathematics with Summa Cum Laude  
Senior Design Project: [Retrieval-Augmented Generation \(RAG\) using Knowledge Graphs and Vector Search](#)

## Honors & Awards

- 2023 **CS Research Mentorship Program Scholar, Google Research**  
Accepted to a three-month program that matches students with Google mentors and peers to support their pursuit of computer science research pathways.
- 2023 **Generation Google Scholarship**  
Awarded based on the strength of each candidate's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, demonstrated leadership, and academic performance.
- 2023 **National Institute of Health Fellowship - MARC**  
NIH-funded opportunity for undergraduate students from underrepresented backgrounds to embark on a two-year scientific research program, leadership development, and graduate-school preparation.
- 2021 **National Institute of Health Fellowship - ESTEEMED MIRA**  
NIH-funded unique opportunity for undergraduate students from underrepresented groups planning to major in biomedical science and engineering fields.

## Conference Publications

- [C1] **Social Triangles and Aggressive Lines: Multi-Robot Formations Impact Navigation and Approach**  
A. Bacula, **E. Villalovoz**, D. Flynn, A. Mehta, H. Knight  
IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS), 2023.

## Professional Experiences

- Summer 2026 **Microsoft**, Redmond, Washington, United States  
[Software Engineer Intern](#), Advised by TBA  
Commerce and Ecosystems.
- Summer 2024 **Carnegie Mellon University**, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, United States  
[Robotics Institute Summer Scholar](#), Advised by [Henny Admoni](#)  
Developed a hierarchical reward learning framework with Bayesian inference and interactive clarification dialogues, enhancing robot adaptability and task accuracy in human-robot collaboration research.
- Summer 2023 **Google**, Sunnyvale, California, United States  
[Software Engineering Intern \(STEP\)](#), Advised by [Arun Tej Chennadi](#), [Paul Valdez](#)  
Developed scalable C++ and SQL analytics pipelines and interactive dashboards that optimized internal data workflows, reduced runtime by 66%, and enhanced real-time decision-making across engineering teams.
- Summer 2022 **Oregon State University**, Corvallis, Oregon, United States  
[NSF REU Fellow](#), Advised by [Heather Knight](#)  
Designed and implemented geometric motion primitives and interactive deployment tools enabling expressive multi-robot behaviors for human-robot interaction research.

## Teaching

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|-------------|--|-----|
| Spring 2025 | <b>CPT_S 315: Introduction to Data Mining</b><br>Undergraduate Teaching Assistant          | WSU |
| Fall 2024   | <b>CPT_S 350: Design and Analysis of Algorithms</b><br>Undergraduate Teaching Assistant    | WSU |
| Fall 2023   | <b>CPT_S 355: Programming Language Design</b><br>Undergraduate Teaching Assistant          | WSU |
| Fall 2022   | <b>CPT_S 121: Program Design and Development C/C++</b><br>Undergraduate Teaching Assistant | WSU |

## Outreach

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|-------------|--|-----|
| Summer 2025 | <b>WSU MARC &amp; MIRA Program</b><br><b>Alumni Speaker and Mentor</b><br>Invited to present to undergraduate researchers about the graduate school application process. Shared personal experiences, strategies for overcoming rejections, and actionable advice for pursuing research opportunities. | WSU |
| 2022–2024   | <b>WSU VCEA</b><br><b>Voiland College Ambassador</b><br>Represented and connected Voiland College with industry, alumni, and prospective students, sharing unique experiences and perspectives to promote the college's mission and transformative impact.   | WSU |
| Summer 2024 | <b>CMU RISS RoboLaunch</b><br><b>Website Coordinator</b><br>An initiative to explore the world of robotics through a series of talks and interactive workshops. Responsible for updating the website to ensure accessibility and provide up-to-date information.                                       | CMU |
| 2021–2023   | <b>WSU Responsibility Opportunity Advocacy Respect (ROAR)</b><br><b>Peer Ally</b><br>Collaborated with ROAR students by providing support in attending classes, facilitating social integration, participating in university events, and fostering inclusive experiences.                              | WSU |