Ethan Villalovoz

Research Interests

Advancing human-AI collaboration through the development of interactive, socially adaptive robots. Focusing on robot learning via multimodal systems, reinforcement learning, and human feedback.

Education

- 2026–2027 Georgia Institute of Technology, College of Computing, Atlanta, Georgia USA
- GPA N/A M.S. in Computer Science, Specialization in Computational Perception and Robotics (In Progress)
- 2021–2025 Washington State University, Honors College, Pullman, Washington USA
- 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

[1] 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 2025 Meta, Remote USA

Production Engineering Fellow, Advised by Alexandre Maciel, Kush Desai

Deployed a full-stack Flask app with Docker on DigitalOcean, integrating MySQL and Nginx, automating CI/CD to cut release time by 80%, and adding Prometheus/Grafana monitoring for reliable performance.

2023–2024 Washington State University, Pullman, Washington USA

Undergraduate Research Assistant, Advised by Janardhan Rao Doppa, Haipeng Cai

Analyzed security vulnerabilities in LLM-generated code and applied Bayesian optimization to enhance prompt accuracy for secure and functionally correct code generation.

Summer 2024 Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania USA

Robotics Institute Summer Scholars, Advised by Henny Admoni

Developed hierarchical reward learning systems leveraging Bayesian inference and human feedback to align autonomous systems with human preferences and improve adaptability in dynamic settings.

Summer 2023 Google, Sunnyvale, California USA

STEP Intern, Advised by Arun Tej Chennadi, Paul Valdez

Optimized internal database processes with C++ and SQL, reducing runtime by 66% and enhancing data visualization through real-time dashboards and dynamic graphs.

Summer 2022 Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon USA

Robots in the Real World, Advised by Heather Knight

Developed geometric features for multi-robot expressive motion, integrating performing arts techniques to enhance robot character and intelligence.

Teaching

Spring 2025 CPT_S 315: Introduction to Data Mining

WSU

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant

Fall 2024 CPT_S 350: Design and Analysis of Algorithms

WSU

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant

Fall 2023 CPT_S 355: Programming Language Design

WSU

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant

Fall 2022 CPT_S 121: Program Design and Development C/C++

WSU

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant

Outreach

Summer 2025 WSU MARC & MIRA Program

WSU

Alumni Speaker and Mentor

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.

2022-2024 **WSU VCEA**

WSU

Voiland College Ambassador

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.

Summer 2024 CMU RISS RoboLaunch

CMU

Website Coordinator

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.

2021–2023 WSU Responsibility Opportunity Advocacy Respect (ROAR)

WSU

Peer Ally

Collaborated with ROAR students by providing support in attending classes, facilitating social integration, participating in university events, and fostering inclusive experiences.

Technical Skills

Programming Languages

Python, C/C++, SQL, JavaScript, TypeScript, HTML/CSS, C#, MATLAB, R, Haskell, Swift

Developer Tools

Git, GitHub, GitLab, Docker, Conda, VS Code, Rider, CLion, PyCharm, RStudio, Google Colab, LaTeX, DigitalOcean, Xcode, AWS, Ollama, Unsloth, Vercel, Ngrok, Clerk, SQLite, MLflow, CI/CD, DVC, Postman, MySQL, Jupyter, Bash, GitHub Actions

Technologies/Frameworks

React, PyTorch, TensorFlow, scikit-learn, NumPy, Pandas, Matplotlib, Seaborn, Flask, Jinja2, OpenAI Gym, Avalonia, .NET, Leaflet.js, Next.js, Tailwind CSS, Robot Operating System, Linux, Hugging Face Transformers, REST API, FastAPI, SQLAlchemy, Pydantic, React Router, Vite, face_recognition, OpenCV, LangChain, LangGraph, Firecrawl, WordCloud, NLTK, Node.js