

# Sebastian S. Rodriguez

## Curriculum Vitae

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Human-Computer Interaction Group  
srodri44@illinois.edu  
sebas.me

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

---

Human-automation/AI interaction, explainable AI, human factors, machine learning, cognitive science, extended reality, game design and development

### EDUCATION

---

- 2016 – Present **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**, Urbana, IL  
*Doctor of Philosophy in Computer Science*  
Dissertation: “Good Enough” Agents: Investigating Designed Imperfections in Human-AI Teams Across Parallel Domains  
Advisor: Alex Kirlik, PhD
- 2012 – 2016 **Northwestern University**, Evanston, IL  
*Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering*

### EXPERIENCE

---

- 2021 **Meta**, Menlo Park, CA  
Quantitative UX Research Intern (Host: Daniel Gruner)  
Influenced early design decisions of Messenger through large-scale quantitative surveys and data analytics
- 2018 – 2020 **U.S. DEVCOM Army Research Laboratory**, Aberdeen, MD  
Research Fellow (Advisors: Derrik Asher, PhD and Erin Zaroukian, PhD)  
Investigated the effects of complacency and emergent collaboration in heterogeneous teams consisting of humans and autonomous agents [C-2, 3, 4, 5, 6]
- 2018 **U.S. DEVCOM Army Research Laboratory**, Playa Vista, CA  
Research Intern (Host: James Schaffer, PhD)  
Investigated the effects of complacency in knowledge and judgment for recommendation and game-based systems [C-1]
- 2016 – 2018 **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**, Urbana, IL  
Graduate Research Assistant (Advisor: Alex Kirlik, PhD)  
Developed an API for devices communicating with a ROS framework which controls aerial drones in coordinated behavior to help elderly users retain independence
- 2015 – 2016 **Northwestern University**, Evanston, IL  
Undergraduate Research Assistant (Advisor: Corey Brady, PhD)  
Programmed hackable hardware for teaching network topology through participatory simulations in Chicago middle and high schools [J-1]

2015 **Washington State University**, Pullman, WA  
Research Experience for Undergraduates Intern (Host: Anurag Srivastava, PhD)  
Implemented fault and failure detection algorithms for phasor measurement units in smart electric grids

## SKILLS

---

**Quantitative Methods:** inferential/summary statistics, factor analysis/mediation analysis, user modeling, machine learning, survey design

**Qualitative Methods:** user interviews, usability testing

**Programming/Frameworks:** Python, R, NumPy/pandas, scikit-learn, TensorFlow, C++, C#, Unity, Java, SQL, Hive/Hadoop, git, CI/CD

**Languages:** English, Spanish (fluent)

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

---

- C-7 What's This? A Voice and Touch Multimodal Approach for Ambiguity Resolution in Voice Assistants  
Lee J., **Rodriguez S.**, Natarrajan R., Chen J., Deep H., Kirlik A. (2021)  
International Conference on Multimodal Interaction (ICMI) Conference Proceedings
- C-6 Emergent Heterogeneous Strategies from Homogeneous Capabilities in Multi-Agent Systems  
Fernandez R., Zaroukian E., Humann J., Perelman B., Dorothy R., **Rodriguez S.**, Asher D. (2020)  
World Congress in Computer Science, Computer Engineering, and Applied Computing (CSCE) Proceedings
- C-5 Multi-Agent Collaboration with Ergodic Spatial Distributions  
Asher D., Zaroukian E., Perelman B., Perret J., Fernandez R., Hoffman B., **Rodriguez S.** (2020)  
Society of Photo-Optical Instrumentation Engineers (SPIE) Defense + Commercial Sensing Proceedings
- C-4 Measuring Complacency in Humans Interacting with Autonomous Agents in a Multi-Agent System  
**Rodriguez S.**, Chen J., Deep H., Lee J., Asher D., and Zaroukian E. (2020)  
Society of Photo-Optical Instrumentation Engineers (SPIE) Defense + Commercial Sensing Proceedings
- C-3 Multi-Agent Coordination Profiles Through State Space Perturbations  
Asher D., Garber-Barron M., **Rodriguez S.**, Zaroukian E., and Waytowich N. (2019)  
International Conference on Computational Science and Computational Intelligence (CSCI) Conference Proceedings
- C-2 Algorithmically Identifying Strategies in Multi-Agent Game-Theoretic Environments  
Zaroukian E., **Rodriguez S.**, Barton S., Schaffer J., Perelman B., Waytowich N., Hoffman B., and Asher D. (2019)  
Society of Photo-Optical Instrumentation Engineers (SPIE) Defense + Commercial Sensing Proceedings
- C-1 Knowledge Complacency and Decision Support Systems **[Best Paper Award]**  
**Rodriguez S.**, Schaffer J., O'Donovan J., and Höllerer T. (2019)  
Cognitive and Computational Aspects of Situation Management (CogSIMA) Proceedings

- J-1 All Roads Lead to Computing: Making, Participatory Simulations, and Social Computing as Pathways to Computer Science  
Brady C., Weintrop D., Anton G., Orton K., **Rodriguez S.**, and Wilensky U. (2016)  
IEEE Transactions on Education Journal

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

---

- FA21 **CS 225: Data Structures**  
Department of Computer Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- SP21 **CS 565: Human-Computer Interaction**  
Department of Computer Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- FA20 **CS 225: Data Structures**  
Department of Computer Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- SP20 **CS 225: Data Structures**  
Department of Computer Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- SU20 **CS 498: Data Visualization**  
Department of Computer Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- FA18 **CS 498: Experimental Methods of Human Computer Interaction**  
Department of Computer Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- SP16 **EECS 395: Tangible Interaction Design and Learning**  
Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Northwestern University
- WI16 **EECS 330: Human Computer Interaction**  
Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Northwestern University
- FA15 **EECS 111: Fundamentals of Computer Programming I**  
Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Northwestern University
- SP15 **EECS 214: Data Structures and Data Management**  
Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Northwestern University

## MENTORING

---

- 2021 **Drshika Asher**  
UIUC BS student in Computer Science
- 2020 **Sarah Shaw**  
UIUC BS student in Computer Science and Statistics
- 2020 **Ziyuan Wei**  
UIUC BS student in Computer Science and Statistics
- 2019 **Jaewook Lee**  
UIUC BS student in Computer Science, 2022
- 2019 **Jacqueline Chen**  
UIUC BS student in Computer Science, 2022 (next: Gap Inc.)
- 2019 **Harsh Deep**  
UIUC BS student in Computer Science and Statistics, 2022 (next: Modern Treasury)
- 2017 **Amber Zhang**  
UIUC BS in Computer Science, 2018 (next: Pure Storage)
- 2017 **Wyatt McAllister**  
UIUC MS in Electrical and Computer Engineering, 2018 (next: PhD @ UIUC)

2017 **Ambika Dubey**  
 UIUC BS in Computer Science, 2018 (next: Microsoft)

## AWARDS AND HONORS

---

2021 **Illinois Scholars Undergraduate Research Program Mentor Funding**  
 UIUC grant to support an undergraduate research apprentice

2020 **Apple Scholars in AI/ML University Nomination**  
 Nominated by the Graduate College to represent UIUC at Apple's fellowship competition

2020 **Richard Tapia Celebration of Diversity in Computing Travel Grant**  
 UIUC travel grant to attend the 2020 Tapia Conference

2019 **U.S. Army CDC Army Research Laboratory Journeyman Fellowship**  
 Prestigious 1-year fellowship to conduct dissertation research with ARL

2019 **IEEE CogSIMA 2019 Best Paper Award**  
 Knowledge Complacency and Decision Support Systems [C-1]

2018 **UIUC Certificate of Recognition for Academic Excellence**  
 UIUC award for excellence in research, teaching, or service

2016 **UIUC Graduate College Distinguished Fellowship**  
 UIUC award to support graduate studies with 2 years of funding

2016 **Illinois Sloan Scholar, Alfred P. Sloan Foundation's Minority PhD Program**  
 Merit-based award for incoming minority PhD students

## SERVICE

---

<b>Reviewer</b>	<p><i>Conferences</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ICMI 2021</li> <li>• CSCW 2021</li> <li>• CHI 2021</li> <li>• CHI PLAY 2019, 2020, 2021</li> <li>• IEEE VR 2021</li> </ul> <p><i>Journals</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Human Factors and Ergonomics Society</li> <li>• Production and Operations Management</li> </ul>
<b>Development</b>	<p>Human Factors and Ergonomics Society, Member (2021 – Present)</p> <p>UIUC Chapter</p> <p>Tau Beta Pi Engineering Honor Society, Member (2020 – Present)</p> <p>Illinois Alpha Chapter</p> <p>Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, Member (2016 – Present)</p> <p>UIUC Chapter</p> <p>Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, Internal Vice President (2015 – 2016)</p> <p>Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, Member (2012 – 2015)</p> <p>NU Chapter</p>
<b>Education</b>	<p>UIUC Illinois Scholars Undergraduate Research Program 2021</p> <p>UIUC Computer Science Graduate Ambassador 2016, 2017, 2018</p> <p>Alfred P. Sloan UIUC Mentorship Program 2017</p>

**Planning** Alfred P. Sloan UIUC Mini-Conference 2019

Last updated: February 2, 2022