

# Thao H. Nguyen

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## Education

- 2018–2024 **Ph.D. in Computer Science**, Brown University.
- Dissertation: [Human-guided Robot Object Search](#)
  - Course Design Seminar (Spring 2023), [Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning](#)
  - Reflective Teaching Seminar (Fall 2021), [Sheridan Center](#)
  - Master of Science in Computer Science (May 2020)
- 2014–2018 **Bachelor of Arts in Computer Science & Minor in Economics**, Vassar College.
- 3.9/4.0 GPA. Received General Honors and Honors in Computer Science.

## Publications

### Journal Papers

- AURO 2022 **Affordance-based robot object retrieval**  
[Thao Nguyen](#), Nakul Gopalan, Roma Patel, Matt Corsaro, Ellie Pavlick, Stefanie Tellex
- AURO 2022 **Hierarchical planning with state abstractions for temporal task specifications**  
Yoonseon Oh, Roma Patel, [Thao Nguyen](#), Baichuan Huang, Matthew Berg, Ellie Pavlick, Stefanie Tellex

### Conference Papers

- CogSci 2024 **Find it like a dog: Using Gesture to Improve Object Search**  
Acceptance Rate: 19% Madeline H. Pelgrim, Ivy Xiao He, Kyle Lee, Falak Pabari, Stefanie Tellex, [Thao Nguyen](#), Daphna Buchsbaum
- IROS 2023 **Language-Conditioned Observation Models for Visual Object Search**  
AR: 43% [Thao Nguyen](#), Vladislav Hrosinkov, Eric Rosen, Stefanie Tellex
- RSS 2020 **Robot Object Retrieval with Contextual Natural Language Queries**  
AR: 32% [Thao Nguyen](#), Nakul Gopalan, Roma Patel, Matt Corsaro, Ellie Pavlick, Stefanie Tellex
- IROS 2019 **Grounding Language Attributes to Objects using Bayesian Eigenobjects**  
AR: 43% Vanya Cohen\*, Benjamin Burchfiel\*, [Thao Nguyen](#)\*, Nakul Gopalan, Stefanie Tellex, George Konidaris (\*authors contributed equally)
- RSS 2019 **Planning with State Abstractions for Non-Markovian Task Specifications**  
AR: 31% Yoonseon Oh, Roma Patel, [Thao Nguyen](#), Baichuan Huang, Ellie Pavlick, Stefanie Tellex

### Workshop Papers

- RSS 2022 **Towards Language-Conditioned Observation Models for Visual Object Search**  
[Thao Nguyen](#), Vladislav Hrosinkov, Eric Rosen, Stefanie Tellex
- NeurIPS 2019 **Replication of Experience Replay for Continual Learning**  
[Thao Nguyen](#), Ifrah Idrees, Eric Rosen

## Academic Positions

- Fall 2024 – **Assistant Professor of Computer Science**, Haverford College.  
Present

2018–2024 **Graduate Research Assistant**, *Humans to Robots Laboratory*, Brown University.  
Fall 2023 **Lead Lecturer/Co-instructor**, *Artificial Intelligence (course size: 115)*, Brown University.  
Spring 2021 **Graduate Teaching Assistant**, *Topics in Collaborative Robotics (17)*, Brown University.  
2016–2018 **Research Assistant**, Vassar College.  
Fall 2017 **Head Teaching Assistant**, *Advanced Topics: Intelligent Robotics (5)*, Vassar College.  
Summer 2016 **Fellow**, *Undergraduate Research Summer Institute (URSI)*, Vassar College.  
& 2017  
Spring 2016 **Teaching Assistant**, *Foundations of Computer Science (40)*, Vassar College.

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## Talks

### Conference Presentations

Oct 2023 **Language-Conditioned Observation Models for Visual Object Search**,  
IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems, Detroit, MI, USA.  
July 2020 **Robot Object Retrieval with Contextual Natural Language Queries**,  
Robotics: Science and Systems, held virtually.

### Guest Lectures

Nov 2022 **Robotics**, *Artificial Intelligence*, Brown University.  
Nov 2022 **Natural Language Processing**, *Artificial Intelligence*, Brown University.

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## Service

2018–2024 **Mentored 9 Master's and Undergraduate Students in research projects**,  
*Humans to Robots Laboratory*, CS Department, Brown University.  
2021–2024 **Co-Faculty-Graduate Liaison**, CS Department, Brown University.  
IROS 2023 **Reviewer**.  
ICRA 2021 & **Reviewer**.  
2022  
EMNLP 2021 **Program Committee**, Novel Ideas in Learning-to-Learn through Interaction Workshop.  
& 2022  
AAAI-22 **Graduate Student Fellow & Panel Speaker**, Undergraduate Consortium.  
AAAI-21 **Invited Speaker**, *Graduate Student Panel*, Undergraduate Consortium.  
Fall 2020 **Mentor**, Brown Computer Science PhD Application Support for Underrepresented Students.  
2019–2021 **Weekly Social Hour Co-Organizer**, CS Department, Brown University.  
Fall 2019 **Orientation Co-Organizer**, CS Department, Brown University.

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## Fundraising & Awards

2021 **Scholar**, CRA-WP Grad Cohort for Women.  
2016 **Scholar**, Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing.

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## Skills

Technical Python, PyTorch, ROS, Java, C, Javascript, MATLAB, Linux, LaTeX, Stata  
Language Vietnamese (native), English (fluent), Mandarin (intermediate)