

# 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

- 2024–Present **Assistant Professor of Computer Science**, Haverford College.  
○ Faculty Pedagogy Seminar & Students as Learners and Teachers program (Fall 2024), [TLI](#)
- 2018–2024 **Graduate Research Assistant**, *Humans to Robots Laboratory*, Brown University.
- Fall 2023 **Lead Lecturer**, *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*, Vassar College.  
& 2017
- Spring 2016 **Teaching Assistant**, *Foundations of Computer Science* (40), Vassar College.

## Teaching and Mentoring

### Teaching

- CS369 **Introduction to Robotics**, Spring 2026 (19).  
○ New course added to the Haverford curriculum
- CS260 **Foundations of Data Science**, Fall 2025 (36), Fall 2024 (24).
- CS105 **Introduction to Computer Science**, Spring 2025 (15).

### Mentoring

- AY 25-26 **Senior Thesis Mentees**.  
○ Conrad Coyanda-Parkzes '26  
○ Meghan Galban '26  
○ Aiden Kim '26  
○ Rami Nasr '26  
○ Jaxon Remby '26
- 2025 **Summer Student Mentees**.  
○ Owen Bluman '27  
○ Zenas Boamah '27  
○ Matt Feinstein '27  
○ Lei Lei '26
- AY 24-25 **Senior Thesis Mentees**.  
○ Jennifer Contreras-Ortiz '25  
○ Edgar Leon '25  
○ Jonathan Moon '25  
○ Daniel Rosman '25  
○ Evan Wolpert '25

## 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.

## Professional Service

HRI 2026 **Conference Reviewer**.

THRI 2024 **Journal Reviewer**.

RSS 2024 **Conference Reviewer**.

ICRA **Conference Reviewer**.

2021–2024

IROS 2023 **Conference Reviewer**.

AAAI-22 **Graduate Student Fellow & Panel Speaker**, Undergraduate Consortium.

EMNLP 2021 **Program Committee**, Novel Ideas in Learning-to-Learn through Interaction Workshop.  
& 2022

AAAI-21 **Invited Speaker**, Graduate Student Panel, Undergraduate Consortium.

Fall 2020 **Mentor**, Brown Computer Science PhD Application Support for Underrepresented Students.

## Awards

2025 **Haverford Teaching with Technology Award**, \$4700.

2021 **Scholar**, CRA-WP Grad Cohort for Women.

2016 **Scholar**, Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing.

## Skills

Technical Python, PyTorch, ROS, Java, C, Javascript, MATLAB, Linux, LaTeX, Stata

Language Vietnamese (native), English (fluent), Mandarin (intermediate)