

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 2021–2024 **Conference Reviewer**.
- 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)