

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
 - Teaching:
 - CS 369 Introduction to Robotics: Developing the course to be added to the Haverford curriculum in Spring 2026
 - CS 260 Foundations of Data Science: Fall 2025 (*course size: 36*), Fall 2024 (*24*)
 - CS 105 Introduction to Computer Science: Spring 2025 (*15*)
 - Advising:
 - 2025–2026: 5 undergraduate theses, 3 CS majors, 3 pre-major students
 - 2024–2025: 5 undergraduate theses
 - Faculty Pedagogy Seminar & Students as Learners and Teachers (SaLT) program (Fall 2024), [Teaching and Learning Institute](#)
- 2018–2024 **Graduate Research Assistant**, *Humans to Robots Laboratory*, Brown University.
- Fall 2023 **Lead Lecturer/Co-instructor**, *Artificial Intelligence (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.

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.

Service

- Fall 2025 – **Faculty Representative**, Advisory Committee, Haverford Innovations & Entrepreneurship Program.
- Present
- THRI 2024 **Journal Reviewer**.
- RSS 2024 **Conference Reviewer**.
- ICRA **Conference Reviewer**.
- 2021–2024
- 2021–2024 **Co-Faculty-Graduate Liaison**, CS Department, Brown University.
- 2018–2024 **Mentored 9 Master's and Undergraduate Students in research projects**, [Humans to Robots Laboratory](#), CS Department, Brown University.
- 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.
2019–2021 **Weekly Social Hour Co-Organizer**, CS Department, Brown University.
Fall 2020 **Mentor**, Brown Computer Science PhD Application Support for Underrepresented Students.
Fall 2019 **Orientation Co-Organizer**, CS Department, Brown University.

Fundraising & Awards

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)