The Maryland Robotics Center proudly presents as part of the University of Maryland and Microsoft Robotics and Diversity Initiative

**FUTURE LEADERS IN ROBOTICS & AI: CELEBRATING DIVERSITY & INNOVATION SEMINAR SERIES**

Sponsored by Microsoft DC Metro Engineering Site

A nationwide seminar series for PhD students, postdoctoral researchers, and early career professionals highlighting the latest research and innovation in the field of robotics and AI, especially from underrepresented minorities & women.

Nominations, webinar links & more at: robotics.umd.edu/FutureLeaders

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**Spring 2024 Seminars (2 PM TO 3 PM EST)**

**February 16**

Merihan Alhafnawi  
Postdoc Fellow, Princeton University  
“Expressive robot swarms & multi-human-swarms interaction for social applications”

Faith Johnson  
PhD Candidate, Rutgers University  
“Towards socially aware visual navigation with hierarchical learning”

**March 1**

Jana Pavlasek  
PhD Candidate, University of Michigan  
“Think graphical, act local: Distributed inference for multi-robot coordination”

Benjamin Riviere, PhD Candidate  
California Institute of Technology  
“What do smart robots dream of? Search-based decision-making in games, dynamical systems, and partially-observable environments”

**March 8**

Krishna Murthy Jatavallabhula  
Postdoc Fellow, Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
“Structured world models for robotics”

Chahat Deep Singh  
Postdoc Fellow, University of Maryland  
“Minimal perception: Enabling autonomy in palm-sized robots”

**March 15**

Anushri Dixit  
Postdoc Fellow, Princeton University  
“Robot safety & generalization in the era of foundation models”

Faith Johnson  
PhD Candidate, Rutgers University  
“Towards socially aware visual navigation with hierarchical learning”

Oluyami (Wami) Dosunmu-Ogunbi  
PhD Candidate, University of Michigan  
“Stepping into the future: Unveiling a novel stair climbing controller”

**April 5**

Elena Shrestha  
Postdoc Fellow, University of Michigan  
“Sense, imagine, act: Multimodal perception & reinforcement learning for UxV guidance & control”

Dhruv Shah, PhD Candidate  
University of California Berkeley  
“The Foundation Model Path to Open-World Robots”

**April 12**

Suresh Kumaar Jayaraman  
Postdoc Fellow, Carnegie Mellon University  
“Enhancing transparency in human-robot teams: A machine teaching approach to communicate robot decision-making to diverse human teammates”

Ruchen (Puck) Wen, Postdoc Fellow  
University of Maryland Baltimore County  
“Designing language-capable robots for ethical & socially adaptive human interactions”

**April 26**

Catie Cuan  
Postdoc Fellow, Stanford University  
“Choreorobots: Teaching robots how to dance with humans”

Thomas Berrueta  
PhD Candidate, Northwestern University  
“Towards transparent & reliable embodied reinforcement learning agents”