The Maryland Robotics Center at the University of Maryland proudly presents

FUTURE LEADERS IN ROBOTICS & AI:

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY & INNOVATION SEMINAR SERIES

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

Spring 2025 Seminars (2 PM TO 3 PM ET)

February 28

Yoonchang Sung, Postdoc Fellow
University of Texas Austin
"Extending Current Capabilities of Task and Motion Planning"

Elena-Sorina Lupu, PhD Student
California Institute of Technology
"Perception-Driven Autonomy and Learning Control for Space Robotics"

March 28

Reuth Mirsky, Assistant Professor
Tufts University
"Bad Robot, Good Robot - Rethinking the Agency of Our Artificial Teammates"

Yewei Huang, PhD Student
Stevens Institute of Technology
"Data Efficient Localization & Mapping for Distributed Multi-Robot Teams in the Field"

April 11

Oier Mees, Postdoc Fellow
University of California Berkeley
"Embodied Multimodal Intelligence with Foundation Models"

Heiko Kabutz, PhD Student
University of Colorado Boulder
"Increasing Agility of Insect Robots Through Body Shape Morphing"

April 18

Sheng Cheng, Postdoc Fellow,
University of Illinois Urbana Champaign
"DiffTune: Auto-Tuning through Auto-Differentiation"

Laura Zheng, PhD Student
University of Maryland
"Who Is Driving the Car? Modeling Driver Personas for Accurate Behavior Simulation in Autonomous Driving"

April 25

Himani Sinhmar, Postdoc Fellow
Princeton University
"Provably Scalable & Decentralized Control Design for Minimalist Robot Swarms"

Ran (Thomas) Tian, PhD Student
University of California Berkeley
"Towards Safe and Aligned Embodied AI in the Era of Robotics Foundation Models"

May 9

Homanga Bharadhwaj, PhD Student
Carnegie Mellon University
"Watch, Predict, Act: Robot Learning Meets Web Videos"

Shivani Kamtikar, PhD Student
University of Illinois Urbana Champaign
"Learning-Based Manipulation and Control of Hybrid Robotic Arms"