

AI RISING STARS / SPOTLIGHT SPEAKERS

Iretiayo Akinola

Title: *Accelerated Robot Learning via Human Brain Signals*

Bio: Iretiayo recently obtained his PhD Degree in the Computer Science department at Columbia University under the supervision of Prof. Peter Allen. His doctoral thesis focused on classical and learning-based methods to improve robotic grasping and manipulation of objects. His research also entails interactive learning with humans-in-the-loop to provide supervision to an apprentice robot. Along this theme, he has developed methods to capture naturally evoked evaluative feedback from a human observer via non-invasive Brain Computer Interfaces and use the signals to passively guide the robot learning process.

Kianté Brantley

Title: *Solving Sequential Decision-Making Problems with Experts*

Bio: Kianté Brantley is a final-year Ph.D. student at The University of Maryland College Park advised by Hal Daumé III. Before starting his Ph.D., he completed a master's degree at the University of Maryland Baltimore County, advised by Tim Oates. He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Maryland Baltimore County as well. His research interests are in machine learning. He is most excited about imitation learning and interactive learning, or more broadly, settings that involve a feedback loop between a learner and the input that the learner sees.

Caris Moses

Title: *Active Learning of Action Feasibility*

Bio: Caris is a PhD student at MIT working in CSAIL with Professors Tomás Lozano-Pérez and Leslie Pack Kaelbling. She works at the intersection of robotics and artificial intelligence. She is interested in developing robots that have the ability to reason about low-level physics while trying to accomplish manipulation tasks.

Shibani Santurkar

Title: *Machine Learning Beyond Accuracy*

Bio: Shibani Santurkar is a postdoctoral researcher at Stanford University with Tatsu Hashimoto, Percy Liang and Tengyu Ma. Her research revolves around developing machine learning models that can perform reliably in the real world, and characterizing the consequences if they fail to do so. Shibani received a PhD in Computer Science from MIT in 2021, where she was advised by Aleksander Mądry and Nir Shavit. Prior to that, she obtained a B.Tech and M.Tech in electrical engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay. She is a recipient of the Google Fellowship and an Open Philanthropy early-career grant.

Angela Stewart

Title: *Layered Perspectives: Multimodal Representations of Middle School Girls' Engagement in a Computer Science Camp*

Bio: Angela is a Postdoctoral Fellow in the Human-Computer Interaction Institute at Carnegie Mellon University. She received a Bachelor of Software Engineering from Auburn University in 2015 and a PhD in Computer Science from the University of Colorado Boulder in 2020. Angela's work sits at the intersection of education, artificial intelligence, and HCI. She investigates the creation of educational technologies that support the agency of learners and teachers, towards the goal of creating more equitable, inclusive educational spaces.