

# Chris Agia

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## EDUCATION

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**Stanford University** 2021 – 2026

**Doctor of Philosophy in Computer Science**

Advisors: Prof. Jeannette Bohg, Prof. Marco Pavone

Dissertation: Deployment-Time Reliability of Learned Robot Policies ([Paper](#), [Talk](#))

Co-founder & President, Canadian Student Association at Stanford. Lead Organizer, Stanford AI Salon

**University of Toronto** 2016 – 2019, 2020 – 2021

**Bachelor of Applied Science in Engineering Science, Robotics**

Advisor: Prof. Florian Shkurti. Graduation with Honors, Dean's Honor List 2018 – 2021

## SELECTED RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

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**Interactive Perception and Robot Learning Lab**, Stanford University Stanford, CA, USA  
Graduate Researcher advised by Prof. Jeannette Bohg 2022-01 – Present  
*Topics: (focus) robot data curation* [[Site](#)], *task and motion planning with learned skills* [[Site](#)] *and large language models* [[Site](#), [Site](#), [Site](#)]; *(involved) imitation learning, deep reinforcement learning, constrained optimization*

**Autonomous Systems Lab**, Stanford University Stanford, CA, USA  
Graduate Researcher advised by Prof. Marco Pavone 2022-03 – Present  
*Topics: (focus) reliability for robot imitation learning* [[Site](#), [Site](#)], *foundation models for robot safety* [[Site](#), [Site](#), [Site](#)]; *(involved) uncertainty quantification, out-of-distribution detection, deep offline reinforcement learning*

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCES

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**FAIR Embodiment & Actions**, Meta Menlo Park, CA, USA  
Research Scientist Intern advised by Dr. Krishna Jatavallabhula and Dr. Franziska Meier 2025-06 – Present  
*Topics: large-scale world modeling for robotics*

**NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory**, California Institute of Technology Pasadena, CA, USA  
Visiting Researcher advised by Dr. Issa Nesnas and Dr. Saptarshi Bandyopadhyay 2023-06 – 2023-09  
*Topics: autonomy for deep space exploration* [[Site](#)]; *Section 347: mobility and robotic systems*

**Stanford Vision and Learning Lab**, Stanford University Stanford, CA, USA  
Graduate Researcher advised by Prof. Jiajun Wu 2021-09 – 2022-02  
*Topics: neuro-symbolic models for AI task planning*

**Robot Vision and Learning Lab**, Vector Institute & University of Toronto Toronto, Canada  
Undergraduate Researcher advised by Prof. Florian Shkurti 2020-05 – 2021-05  
*Topics: robot task planning in structured world models with graph neural networks* [[Site](#)]

**Mobile Robotics Lab**, MILA & McGill University Montreal, QC, Canada  
Research Intern co-supervised by Prof. Gregory Dudek and Prof. David Meger 2020-01 – 2020-05  
*Topics: learning for visual SLAM* [[Paper](#)], *visual representations for reinforcement learning* [[Paper](#)]

**Noah's Ark Lab**, Huawei Research Canada Markham, ON, Canada  
Deep Learning Research Intern, perception and localization with Dr. Bingbing Liu 2019-05 – 2020-05  
*Topics: 3D semantic scene reconstruction* [[Paper](#)], *segmentation and semantic SLAM* [[Paper](#)]

**Autonomous Systems and Biomech. Lab**, University of Toronto Toronto, ON, Canada  
Research Intern supervised by Prof. Goldie Nejat 2018-05 – 2018-08  
*Topics: sim2real transfer for robot reinforcement learning* [[Paper](#)]

## INDUSTRY EXPERIENCES

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**Mixed Reality and Robotics, Microsoft** Redmond, WA, USA  
Software Engineering Intern on the Scene Understanding and Data Teams (HoloLens) 2021-05 – 2021-08

Cloud, Google

Software Engineering Intern building ABI simulators with the Istio Networking Team

San Francisco, CA, USA

2020-05 – 2020-08

## HONORS AND AWARDS

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<b>Clear Ventures DeepTech Fellowship</b>	2023
Awarded to promising PhD candidates and post-docs that aspire to build deep tech companies	
<b>Stanford School of Engineering Fellowship, Computer Science</b>	2021
Awarded to outstanding students pursuing doctoral degrees in computer science and engineering	
<b>Ontario Engineering Competition</b>	2019
Awarded first prize at Toronto’s district and Ontario’s provincial programming competitions	
<b>NSERC Undergraduate Student Research Award</b>	2018
Awarded to undergraduate science and engineering students on the basis of research aptitude	
<b>President’s Scholarship Program</b>	2016
Awarded to top engineering candidates pursuing studies at the University of Toronto	

## PUBLICATIONS

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### PREPRINTS

- [1] S. Sirigiri, N. de Lara, C. Agia, F. Shkurti, and F. Ramos, “Diversity you can actually measure: A fast, model-free diversity metric for robotics datasets,” 2026, In submission. [Online]. Available: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2603.11634>.

### REFEREED CONFERENCE PAPERS

- [1] F. Marchiori, R. Sinha, C. Agia, A. Robey, G. J. Pappas, M. Conti, and M. Pavone, “Preventing robotic jailbreaking via multimodal domain adaptation,” 2026, Accepted. [Online]. Available: <https://arxiv.org/pdf/2509.23281>.
- [2] C. Agia, R. Sinha, J. Yang, R. Antonova, M. Pavone, H. Nishimura, M. Itkina, and J. Bohg, “Cupid: Curating data your robot loves with influence functions,” in *Proceedings of The 9th Conference on Robot Learning*, ser. Proceedings of Machine Learning Research, vol. 305, PMLR, 2025, pp. 2907–2932. [Online]. Available: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2506.19121>.
- [3] M. Ganai, R. Sinha, C. Agia, D. Morton, and M. Pavone, “Real-time out-of-distribution failure prevention via multi-modal reasoning,” in *Proceedings of The 9th Conference on Robot Learning*, ser. Proceedings of Machine Learning Research, vol. 305, PMLR, 2025, pp. 283–308. [Online]. Available: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2505.10547>.
- [4] J. Kwok, C. Agia, R. Sinha, M. Foutter, S. Li, I. Stoica, A. Mirhoseini, and M. Pavone, “Robomonkey: Scaling test-time sampling and verification for vision-language-action models,” in *Proceedings of The 9th Conference on Robot Learning*, ser. Proceedings of Machine Learning Research, vol. 305, PMLR, 2025, pp. 3200–3217. [Online]. Available: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2506.17811>.
- [5] Y. Huang, C. Agia, J. Wu, T. Hermans, and J. Bohg, “Points2plans: From point clouds to long-horizon plans with composable relational dynamics,” in *2025 IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, 2025. [Online]. Available: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2408.14769>.
- [6] C. Agia, R. Sinha, J. Yang, Z. Cao, R. Antonova, M. Pavone, and J. Bohg, “Unpacking failure modes of generative policies: Runtime monitoring of consistency and progress,” in *Proceedings of the 8th Conference on Robot Learning (CoRL)*, ser. Proceedings of Machine Learning Research, vol. 270, PMLR, 2024, pp. 689–723. [Online]. Available: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2410.04640>.
- [7] J. Thumm, C. Agia, M. Pavone, and M. Althoff, “Text2interaction: Establishing safe and preferable human-robot interaction,” in *Proceedings of the 8th Conference on Robot Learning (CoRL)*, ser. Proceedings of Machine Learning Research, vol. 270, PMLR, 2024, pp. 1250–1267. [Online]. Available: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2408.06105>.

- [8] M. Bazzi, A. Shahid, C. Agia, J. Alora, M. Forgiione, D. Piga, F. Braghin, M. Pavone, and L. Roveda, “Robomorph: In-context meta-learning for robot dynamics modeling,” in *International Conference on Informatics in Control, Automation and Robotics*, 2024. [Online]. Available: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2409.11815>.
- [9] R. Sinha, A. Elhafsi, C. Agia, M. Foutter, E. Schmerling, and M. Pavone, “Real-time anomaly detection and reactive planning with large language models,” in *Robotics: Science and Systems*, Outstanding Paper Award, 2024. [Online]. Available: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2407.08735>.
- [10] DROID Dataset Team, “Droid: A large-scale in-the-wild robot manipulation dataset,” in *Robotics: Science and Systems*, 2024. [Online]. Available: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2403.12945>.
- [11] Open X-Embodiment Collaboration, “Open X-Embodiment: Robotic learning datasets and RT-X models,” in *2024 IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, Best Paper Award, 2024. [Online]. Available: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2310.08864>.
- [12] C. Agia, G. C. Vila, S. Bandyopadhyay, D. S. Bayard, K. Cheung, C. H. Lee, E. Wood, I. Aenishanslin, S. Ardito, L. Fesq, M. Pavone, and I. A. D. Nesnas, “Modeling considerations for developing deep space autonomous spacecraft and simulators,” in *IEEE Aerospace Conference (AeroConf)*, 2024. [Online]. Available: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2401.11371>.
- [13] C. Agia, T. Migimatsu, J. Wu, and J. Bohg, “Stap: Sequencing task-agnostic policies,” in *2023 IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA)*, 2023, pp. 7951–7958. DOI: 10.1109/ICRA48891.2023.10160220. [Online]. Available: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2210.12250>.
- [14] C. Agia, K. M. Jatavallabhula, M. Khodeir, O. Miksik, V. Vineet, M. Mukadam, L. Paull, and F. Shkurti, “Taskography: Evaluating robot task planning over large 3d scene graphs,” in *Proceedings of the 5th Conference on Robot Learning (CoRL)*, ser. Proceedings of Machine Learning Research, vol. 164, PMLR, 2022, pp. 46–58. [Online]. Available: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2207.05006>.
- [15] R. Cheng, C. Agia, F. Shkurti, D. Meger, and G. Dudek, “Latent attention augmentation for robust autonomous driving policies,” in *2021 IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS)*, 2021, pp. 130–136. DOI: 10.1109/IROS51168.2021.9636449.
- [16] R. Cheng, C. Agia, Y. Ren, X. Li, and L. Bingbing, “S3cnet: A sparse semantic scene completion network for lidar point clouds,” in *Proceedings of the 2020 Conference on Robot Learning (CoRL)*, ser. Proceedings of Machine Learning Research, vol. 155, PMLR, 2021, pp. 2148–2161. [Online]. Available: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2012.09242>.
- [17] R. Cheng, C. Agia, D. Meger, and G. Dudek, “Depth prediction for monocular direct visual odometry,” in *2020 17th Conference on Computer and Robot Vision (CRV)*, IEEE Computer Society, 2020, pp. 70–77.

#### REFEREED JOURNAL PAPERS

- [1] K. Lin, C. Agia, T. Migimatsu, M. Pavone, and J. Bohg, “Text2motion: From natural language instructions to feasible plans,” *Autonomous Robots, Special Issue: Large Language Models in Robotics*, 2023. DOI: 10.1007/s10514-023-10131-7. [Online]. Available: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2303.12153>.
- [2] A. Elhafsi, R. Sinha, C. Agia, E. Schmerling, I. A. D. Nesnas, and M. Pavone, “Semantic anomaly detection with large language models,” *Autonomous Robots, Special Issue: Large Language Models in Robotics*, 2023. DOI: 10.1007/s10514-023-10132-6. [Online]. Available: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2305.11307>.
- [3] Y. Ren, B. Liu, R. Cheng, and C. Agia, “Lightweight semantic-aided localization with spinning lidar sensor,” *IEEE Transactions on Intelligent Vehicles*, vol. 8, no. 1, pp. 605–615, 2021. DOI: 10.1109/TIV.2021.3099022.
- [4] H. Hu, K. Zhang, A. H. Tan, M. Ruan, C. Agia, and G. Nejat, “A sim-to-real pipeline for deep reinforcement learning for autonomous robot navigation in cluttered rough terrain,” *IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters*, vol. 6, no. 4, pp. 6569–6576, 2021. DOI: 10.1109/LRA.2021.3093551.

#### THESIS / DISSERTATION PAPERS

- [1] C. Agia, “Deployment-time reliability of learned robot policies,” Doctoral Dissertation, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, 2026. [Online]. Available: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2603.11400>.
- [2] C. Agia, “Contextual graph representations for task-driven 3d perception and planning,” Undergraduate Dissertation, University of Toronto, Toronto, ON, 2021. [Online]. Available: <https://arxiv.org/abs/2603.26685>.

## INVITED TALKS

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<b>UT Austin.</b> Data-Centric Understanding of Policy Performance with Influence Functions ( <a href="#">YouTube</a> )	2025-10
<b>IEEE CASE.</b> Data-Centric Understanding of Policy Performance with Influence Functions	2025-08
<b>TRI.</b> Data-Centric Understanding of Policy Performance with Influence Functions	2025-07
<b>NASA University Leadership Initiative.</b> Unpacking failure modes of generative policies	2024-10
<b>SystemX Conference, Stanford University.</b> Learning to solve long-horizon tasks ( <a href="#">YouTube</a> )	2023-11
<b>Robot Vision and Learning Lab, UofT.</b> Task and motion planning with skills and language models	2023-07
<b>Facebook AI Research.</b> Taskography: Evaluating robot task planning over large 3d scene graphs	2021-07
<b>Microsoft Research.</b> Robot task planning in structured world models	2021-07

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE AND TEACHING

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### Workshop Organizing

1. “Making Sense of Data in Robotics: Challenges in Collection, Curation, and Interpretability at Scale,” held at the Conference on Robot Learning (CoRL), 2025. **Lead organizer.** [Workshop Site](#).
2. “The 2nd Workshop on Out-of-Distribution Generalization in Robotics: Towards Trustworthy AI-driven Autonomy,” held at Robotics: Science and Systems (RSS), 2025. **Supporting organizer.** [Workshop Site](#).

### Additional Service

Journal Service: Reviewer for IJRR, RA-L

Conference Service: Reviewer for RSS, CoRL, CVPR, ICRA, IROS, ISER, L4DC, AeroConf

2 x Teaching assistant for Stanford AA174A/CS137A/EE160A ([2023](#), [2024](#)): Principles of Robot Autonomy 1

1 x Teaching assistant for Stanford AA274B/CS237B/EE260B/ME274B ([2025](#)): Principles of Robot Autonomy 2

1 x Teaching assistant for Stanford Test of AI & Emerging Technologies ([2026](#)) in service of the US Air Force ([news](#))

## PATENTS

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- Agia, C.G., Sinha, R., Yang, J., Antonova, R., Nishimura, H., Pavone, M., Itkina, M., Bohg, J. (2025). *Curating Training Data for Robot Learning Based on Influence Functions*. U.S. Patent Pending.
- Agia, C.G., Cheng, R., Ren, Y., Liu, B. (2022). *Systems and Methods for Generating a Road Surface Semantic Segmentation Map from a Sequence of Point Clouds* (U.S. Application No. 17/676,131, U.S. Patent No. 12,008,762). U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. [Google Patents link](#).
- Cheng, R., Agia, C.G., Ren, Y., Liu, B. (2022). *Methods and Systems for Semantic Scene Completion for Sparse 3D Data* (U.S. Application No. 17/492,261, U.S. Patent No. 12,079,970). U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. [Google Patents link](#).

## COMMUNITY SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP

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**Canadian Student Association**, Stanford University 2024-01 – Present  
Co-founder and President of Stanford’s Canadian Student Association

**Stanford AI Salon**, Stanford University 2021-10 – Present  
Lead Organizer of Stanford’s AI Salon, a platform facilitating open-ended discussion between graduate students, industry, and academic leaders on contemporary ML & AI topics and their societal implications

**Stanford CS Mentorship Program**, Stanford University 2021-10 – Present  
Advising students from underrepresented and minority groups to lead fruitful careers in computer science research

**Frosh Scholars Mentorship Program**, Stanford University 2021-10 – 2022-07  
Mentoring first generation college students towards balanced progress in academics, career, and well-being

**Pro Bono Research Mentoring** 2021-01 – Present  
Guided many undergraduate research students through applications at top graduate engineering schools

## SKILLS

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Languages: (*Proficient*) Python, C/C#/C++, MATLAB, Rust, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Bash - (*Working*) Java, Assembly

Tools: Git, Linux/Unix, Unity, Docker, Wasmtime (WebAssembly), Kubernetes

Libraries: PyTorch, TensorFlow, ROS, NumPy, ml-agents, PCL, OpenCV, SciPy, scikit-learn, Pandas, Jupyter