Michael Przystupa | Curriculum Vitae

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Citizenship: United States & Canada

Snap Shot

- Current Position: Postdoctoral Research Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam (2025 - 2026)
- Research Interests: Assistive Robotics, Reinforcement Learning, Machine Learning
- Favorite Research Paper: Efficient Morphology-Aware Policy Transfer to New Embodiments
- Languages: English (Native), Python, C++

Education

University of Alberta — **Edmonton, AB**
Doctor of Philosophy — *2020–2026*
Supervisors: Martin Jagersand & Matthew E. Taylor

University of British Columbia — **Vancouver, BC**
Master of Science — *2020*
Supervisors: Muhammad Abdul-Mageed & Mark Schmidt
Thesis: *Investigating the Impact of Normalizing Flows on Latent Variable Machine Translation*
[Link to thesis]

University of British Columbia — **Vancouver, BC**
Bachelor of Science — *2017*
Major: Computer Science | Minor: Mathematics
Distinctions: Cooperative Education Program

Work Experience

Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam — **Amsterdam, Netherlands**
Postdoctoral Research Fellow — *Sep 2025–Jun 2026*

Université de Montréal & Mila — **Montréal, QC**
Visiting Student Intern — *Jan 2024–Aug 2025*

University of Innsbruck — **Innsbruck, Austria**
Visiting Researcher — *Aug 2023–Sep 2023*

Huawei
Research Intern — *Jan 2023–May 2023*

National Film Board of Canada & Mila — **Montréal, QC**
Research Intern — *Jul 2022–Sep 2022*

YPC Technologies
Artificial Intelligence Consultant — *Jun 2021–Jul 2021*

Borealis AI
Research Intern — *Jan 2021–May 2021*

RIKEN Center for Advanced Intelligence Project — **Tokyo, Japan**
Research Intern — *Summer–Fall 2019*

University of British Columbia — **Vancouver, BC**
Research Assistant — *2018–Spring 2019*

University of British Columbia — **Vancouver, BC**
Undergraduate Research Assistant — *Summer 2017*

NVIDIA — **Santa Clara, CA**
System Infrastructure Engineer (Intern) — *Summer 2016*

Tasktop — **Vancouver, BC**
Junior Quality Assurance (Intern) — *Summer–Fall 2014*

Avigilon — **Vancouver, BC**
Junior Firmware Developer (Intern) — *Fall 2013–Spring 2014*

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Journal Paper

2025: **Efficient Morphology-Aware Policy Transfer to New Embodiments**
Michael Przystupa, Hongyao Tang, Martin Jagersand, Santiago Miret, Mariano Phielipp, Matthew E. Taylor, Glen Berseth
Reinforcement Learning Journal 2025

Peer-Reviewed Conference Papers

2025: **Point and Go: Intuitive Reference Frame Reallocation in Mode Switching for Assistive Robotics**
Allie Wang, Chen Jiang, Michael Przystupa, Justin Valentine, Martin Jagersand
IEEE International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Automation (ICRA) 2025

2024: **Local Linearity is All You Need (in Data Driven Teleoperation)**
Michael Przystupa, Gauthier Gidel, Matt Taylor, Martin Jagersand, Justus Piater, Samuele Tosatto
IEEE International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS) 2024

2023: **Deep Movement Primitives with a Bayesian Aggregator**
Michael Przystupa, Faezeh Haghverd, Martin Jagersand, Samuele Tosatto
IEEE International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS) 2023

2023: **Learning State Conditional Linear Mappings for Low-Dimensional Control of Robotic Manipulators**
Michael Przystupa, Kerrick Johnstonbaugh, Zichen Zhang, Laura Petrich, Masood Dehghanbanadaki, Faezeh Haghverd, Martin Jagersand
IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA) 2023

2021: **Analyzing Neural Jacobian Methods in Applications of Visual Servoing and Kinematic Control**
Michael Przystupa, Masood Dehghanbanadaki, Martin Jagersand, Rupam Mahmood
IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (ICRA) 2021
[arXiv]

2019: **Neural Machine Translation of Low-Resource and Similar Languages with Backtranslation**
Michael Przystupa, Muhammad Abdul-Mageed
ACL Conference on Machine Translation 2019
[Link]

Workshop Papers & Preprints

2025: **Investigating the Efficacy of Mode-Switching with Deep Learning Action Maps for Teleoperation**
Michael Przystupa, Allie Wang, Lino Knote, Adam Parker, Jakob Hollenstein, Martin Jagersand, Matthew E. Taylor, Justus Piater, Samuele Tosatto
In Submission

2025: **Align and Filter: Improving Performance in Asynchronous On-Policy RL**
Homayoun Honari, Roger Castanyer, Michael Przystupa, Michael Noukhovitch, Pablo Castro, Glen Berseth
In Submission

2025: **ManiMorph: Object Representations in Robot Manipulators Morphology for Improving Multi-Task Manipulation Performance**
Alli Abdalla, Michael Przystupa, Glen Berseth
In Submission

2024: **Efficient Design-and-Control Automation with Reinforcement Learning and Adaptive Exploration**
Jiajun Fan, Hongyao Tang, Michael Przystupa, Mariano Phielipp, Santiago Miret, Glen Berseth

AI for Accelerated Materials Design Workshop, NeurIPS 2024

2024: **Contextual Subspace Approximation with Neural Householder Transforms**
Kerrick Johnstonbaugh, Michael Przystupa, Jacob Keller, Martin Jagersand

2019: **Investigating the Impact of Normalizing Flows on Latent Variable Machine Translation**
Michael Przystupa, Muhammad Abdul-Mageed, Mark Schmidt
ICML Invertible Neural Networks and Normalizing Flows Workshop 2019
[Link]

2018: **Iroko: A Data Center Emulator for Reinforcement Learning**
Fabian Ruffy, Michael Przystupa, Ivan Beschastnikh
NeurIPS ML for Systems Workshop 2018
[arXiv]

Leadership & Service

Leadership Roles

2025: Mentor for the UR2PHD Program

2025: Organizer, Montreal Robotics Summer School

2024: Organizer, Morphology-Aware Policy and Design Learning Workshop at CoRL

2024: Organizer, REAL Lab Retreat

2024: REAL Lab Robot Learning Seminar Organizer

2020–2022: EDI Graduate Student Representative, University of Alberta Computing Science Department

Conference Reviewing

2025: ICRA, AISTATS, ICLR, T-RO

2024: RAL, NeurIPS, IROS, ICML, ICLR

2023: ICML, ICRA, NeurIPS DeepRL Workshop

2022: IROS

Awards & Scholarships

2025: Mila Speed Science Event – People's Choice Winner

2022–2024: President's Doctoral Prize (3 years)

2023: Michael Smith Foreign Study Supplements

2022: Alberta Graduate Excellence Scholarship

2022: NSERC Canada Graduate Scholarship

2021: Alberta Graduate Excellence Scholarship

2018: Design for People Showcase & Poster Session Project Prize

2013, 2016–2017: All-Canadian Academic Athlete (3 years)

2012–2013: Dean's Honour List (2 years)

2011: President's Entry Scholarship

Teaching Experience

CMPUT 301: Introduction to Software Engineering — **University of Alberta**
Teaching Assistant — *Sep–Dec 2020*
Instructor: Ken Wong

CMPUT 301: Introduction to Software Engineering — **University of Alberta**
Teaching Assistant — *Jan–Apr 2020*
Instructor: Abram Hindle

LING 530F: Deep Learning for NLP **UBC**
Guest Lecturer *Sep 2018*
Topic: Linear Algebra Review

CPSC 340: Machine Learning & Data Mining **UBC**
Teaching Assistant *Jan–Apr 2018*
Instructor: Mike Gelbart

CPSC 322: Introduction to Artificial Intelligence **UBC**
Teaching Assistant *2015–2017*
Multiple terms with various instructors

CPSC 210: Software Construction **UBC**
Teaching Assistant *2015–2016*
Multiple terms with various instructors

CPSC 189: Systematic Program Design in Python **UBC**
Teaching Assistant *Jan–Apr 2016*
Instructor: Paul Carter

Technical Skills

Languages: Python, C++, JavaScript, Java, MATLAB, Clojure

ML Frameworks: PyTorch, JAX, Torch, TensorFlow, Scikit-Learn, Pyro

Operating Systems: Windows, Linux

Other Activities

2022–2024: Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) Certified

2021–2022: Computer Science Graduate Association – External Relations & Partnership Executive

2020–2021: Computer Science Graduate Association – Inclusion and Diversity Executive

2012–2017: Varsity Track and Field Athlete

2011–2016: Wrestling Club Member

2012–2016: Knights of Columbus Member