

Proposals, publications, and field work (oh my!): A year in the life of an early career, soft money research faculty

Cristina Wilson
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In this talk, Dr. Wilson discusses the direction of her research program since joining CoRIS as a Research Associate in August 2022, including: (1) an existing robust research line in human-machine teaming for Earth and planetary science data collection; (2) a new promising research line in human-in-loop operation of a robot system for grasping objects underwater; and (3) fledgling research in robotic engineering design cognition and decision making. Dr. Wilson will share her research successes and failures, in terms of proposals (submitted vs. funded), papers (rejected vs. published), and high-stakes field data collection opportunities. Her aim is to be transparent about the joys and challenges facing early career academics, and to provide insight into the opportunities and affordances of soft money positions which are increasingly common in academia.



Dr. Cristina Wilson is a new Assistant Professor (Sr Research) in the CoRIS institute at OSU. She grew up in Astoria, Oregon and received her BS from Pacific University of Oregon in 2012. Dr. Wilson is a cognitive scientist specializing in the study of human-robot teaming. She received her MS and PhD in cognitive psychology from Washington State University. From 2018 to 2022 she held a joint position as a postdoctoral research fellow in the General Robotics, Automation, Sensing and Perception Lab at the University of Pennsylvania and the

Brain and Cognitive Sciences program at Temple University. Because of her educational background, Dr. Wilson's research tends to emphasize the role of the human mind in human-robot teaming. Her research is currently funded by NASA, the National Science Foundation, and the Office of Naval Research. In her free time, Dr. Wilson enjoys reading Star Wars Legends books and hiking with her husband, Sean, and their dog, Howard

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