

DEPARTMENT OF COMPUTER SCIENCE

SEMINAR

2026 SERIES

Building Multimodal Intelligent Agents as Human Copilots

DATE & TIME

28 JAN 2026 (WED) 4:00 - 5:00 PM

VENUE

RRS735, 7/F, SIR RUN RUN SHAW BUILDING, HO SIN HANG CAMPUS



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ABSTRACT

Building intelligent assistants that can solve real-world human tasks has long been a central goal of artificial intelligence. Such assistants are inherently multimodal, seamlessly integrating visual and linguistic information, and should be able to observe, reason, and act under human instruction and in alignment with human goals. This raises a fundamental challenge: how can we develop agents that truly combine these interconnected capabilities?

A promising path forward is to learn directly from human experience, by observing how humans demonstrate and solve diverse tasks. I decompose this agent learning problem into three core dimensions: (i) Perception, enabling agents to interpret rich multimodal observations; (ii) Reasoning, allowing them to model deeper context and causality; and (iii) Action, supporting meaningful, goal-directed interaction with dynamic environments.

Beyond building general-purpose agents, it is equally important to ask how such systems can be deployed as specialist human copilots—acting as co-scientists that accelerate research workflows (e.g., creating posters and presentation videos), or as tutors that enhance learning and education. These efforts point toward a new generation of AI assistants that become effective collaborators in everyday life.



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