



Eight awards from the research agencies of the Department of Defense recognized seven USC Viterbi faculty as accomplished Young Investigators.



I

Andrea Hodge, assistant professor in the Department of Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering, will investigate the formation of new states of matter and interfaces at the nanoscale.

II

Rahul Jain, assistant professor in the Ming Hsieh Department of Electrical Engineering, will work to develop optimal decision-making algorithms for use in robotics and games.

III

Noah Malmstadt, assistant professor in the Mork Family Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science, will study how the unusual conditions encountered in the deep sea environment can damage cell membranes and its health consequences on divers.

IV

Morteza Dehghani, research assistant professor in the Department of Computer Science and the USC Institute for Creative Technologies, will examine the role of religiosity in moral cognition, specifically in the formation of sacred values, researching computational models of analyzing sacred rhetoric and its consequential emotions.

V

Greg Ver Steeg, computer scientist at USC's Information Sciences Institute, will work on "Bell Inequalities for Complex Networks", in which he will devise tests to unequivocally determine the underlying mechanisms at work in complex networks.

VI

Fei Sha, assistant professor in the Department of Computer Science, will focus his research on adapting intelligent systems to uncertain and unknown operating environments — work that is paramount to building intelligent agents that are fully autonomous.

VII

Andrea Hodge, for her work in new engineered materials, specifically highly nanotwinned ultrahigh-strength aluminum alloys.

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Jongseung Yoon, assistant professor in the Mork Family Department of Chemical Engineering, for his work demonstrating a feasible path to highly integrable vertical cavity surface emitting laser arrays.



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DNR Young Investigator
Noah Malmstadt



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DARPA Young Faculty Award



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