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Dr. Paal is a tenure-track Assistant Professor in the Zachry Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering at Texas A&M University. She joined the faculty at Texas A&M in the Fall of 2016 after completing a post-doctoral fellowship in the School of Architecture, Civil and Environmental Engineering at the Ecole Polytechnique Federale de Lausanne (EPFL) in Switzerland. She received her Master's and Doctoral degrees in Civil Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, Georga in 2011 and 2013, respectively. Additionally, she received a B.S. in Architectural Engineering from the University of Texas at Austin in 2009.

Dr. Paal has extensive background knowledge and expertise in machine learning and machine vision and applications of these technologies in infrastructure and structural condition assessments and other infrastructure-related practices. Her research focus is on mitigating the effects of natural and man-made disasters on our built infrastructure by integrating traditional civil engineering practices with emerging techniques and technologies such as artificial intelligence, augmented reality, unmanned aerial systems, and additive manufacturing. Her current research interests are towards hybrid artificial intelligence-physics-based approaches, understanding the impact of integrating artificial intelligence models and methodologies in civil engineering design, analysis, and evaluation operations, and developing advanced modeling approaches grounded in real-world data. She teaches classes on 'Structural Analysis' and 'Structural Dynamics' at Texas A&M University, and introduced a new graduate course on 'Machine Intelligence and Applications in Civil Engineering' to the Civil Engineering graduate program. This course focuses on both machine vision and machine learning within the realm of civil engineering. Her research has been supported by numerous state and federal agencies such as the National Cooperative Highway Research Program, Texas Department of Transportation, the National Association of Home Builders, and the National Science Foundation. She has 22 journal papers published or under review, five published book chapters, and has been invited to speak regarding her research over 35 times nationally and internationally. She has served on numerous workshop organizing committees and chaired several conference sessions. In 2020, she was granted an NSF Early CAREER award for her research towards enhancing our understanding of our infrastructures performance under natural hazards by leveraging available experimental data and artificial intelligence.