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Zak Al Balushi is an assistant professor in the department of Materials Science and Engineering at University of California, Berkeley. Zakaria received his B.S. (2011), M.S. (2012) in Engineering Science and his Ph.D. (2017) in Materials Science and Engineering all from The Pennsylvania State University. His early work focused on integration and fabrication of silicon nanowire devices, then on the growth of group-III nitride semiconductors, in situ metrology during MOCVD growth, epitaxial graphene and the discovery and characterization of unconventional low-dimensional materials and heterostructures. Prior to his appointment at the University of California, Berkeley, he held two postdoctoral fellowships: the Resnick Prize Fellowship in Applied Physics and Materials Science and the NSF Alliances for Graduate Education and the Professoriate (AGEP) Fellowship both at the California Institute of Technology under the supervision of Professor Harry Atwater. At the University of California, Berkeley, his research group continues to expand in this area and beyond, creating new synthesis and integration schemes for emerging low-dimensional materials. He is currently serving on the editorial board of Communications Materials, is an elected executive committee member for the American Association for Crystal Growth and recently named “Four rising stars who are reshaping nanoscience” by Nature [Nature 608, S12-S13 (2022)]. He is also a SK Hynix Faculty Fellow, Society of Hellman Fellow, a CIFAR Azrieli Global Scholar in Quantum Materials and a recipient of the NSF CAREER and Micron Corporation Early Career Awards in 2022.