

Yusuf Ahmad

I design tools and experiences that empower people as creative learners

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Education

Massachusetts Institute of Tech.

Master of Science, Expected 2020

Columbia University

B.A. in Anthropology, 2012

Summa Cum Laude

Mentorship + Teaching

- Co-taught MIT course on designing creative learning technologies and experiences ([online](#) + [in-person](#))
- Mentor low-income youth in creative computing projects at the South End Tech Center (2019 - 2020)
- Mentor 8-12 MIT startup teams per semester through the Sandbox Innovation Fund (2018 - Present)

Talks + Workshops

- IDEO: Iterative and inclusive design
- Connected Learning Summit
- WW Graduate School for Teaching
- Stanford's *Designing for Digital Agency*
- MIT Jamil World Education Lab
- Harvard Africa Business Conference
- More here: <https://bit.ly/YusufsTalks>

Experience

MIT Media Lab, Lifelong Kindergarten

Researcher, 2018 - Present

- [Developing a tool](#) for designing project-based learning experiences. Led user research, design workshops, and prototyping; managed engineering and design team
- Awarded \$15,000 [Aspen Institute grant](#) to design an iterative and inclusive [planning tool](#) for school leaders and educators
- Advised South African Ministry of Education on content and technology strategy for Digital Skills for All initiative
- Developed online community and resources to translate [Scratch 3.0](#) into 50+ languages
- Prototyped [place-based civic social network](#) for 2018 elections

African Leadership University (ALU)

Director of Degree Programs, 2014 - 2018

- ALU is an experimental pan-African university where students learn through projects, research, and internships
- Led faculty team in design and delivery of computing, electrical engineering, social science, and business degrees
- Directed strategy (technology, credentialing, pedagogy, student experience, scale up); managed accreditation partnership; and supported faculty in design, facilitation, and development
- Led efforts to launch experimental project-based degrees and unaccredited alternatives to “full-stack” degrees

Carnegie Endowment

Junior Fellow, 2013 - 2014

- Synthesized research on urban violence prevention into actionable lessons for global group of government leaders
- Developed content, data visualizations, and website for the Corruption and Security Project

American University in Cairo

President's Office, 2012 - 2013

- Reported directly to President Anderson during the Arab Spring
- Developed 2013-2019 enrollment strategy: modeled enrollment targets; designed and piloted new admission process with staff
- Awarded \$400,000 Silatech grant to enhance civic engagement and employment outcomes at universities in the Middle East