

# Yusuf Ahmad

**I build creative tools,  
teams, and cultures**

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## Education

**Massachusetts Institute of Tech.**

S.M. in Media, Arts, & Sciences, 2020

*Advised by Mitchel Resnick*

**Columbia University**

B.A. in Anthropology, 2012

*Summa Cum Laude*

## Mentorship & Teaching

- Co-taught MIT MAS.712 course on creative learning technologies (2019)
- Co-developed and facilitated MIT's Creative Learning online course with 5,000+ participants (2018)
- Coach youth in creative computing projects at Fab Lab 001 (2019 - 2020)
- Mentored 30+ MIT startups with MIT's Sandbox Fund (2018 - Present)

## Talks & Workshops

- IDEO: Toolkit for inclusive design
- CLS: Creative tools for global users
- MIT: Inventing the future of learning
- Harvard: Education ventures in Africa
- ALX: Intro to Rapid Prototyping

## Skills

- Human-centered systems design, UX research, coaching, facilitation
- Figma, HTML, CSS, JavaScript

## Experience

**MIT Media Lab, Lifelong Kindergarten (LLK)**

Researcher, 2018 - 2020

- LLK invents creative tools, experiences, and communities (Scratch, LEGO robotics) as part of MIT's "future factory"
- Led early-stage research and development of a design tool for educators; managed engineering and design team; prototyped concepts with 50+ users; published findings
- Created (from idea to launch) a decision making tool for schools responding to COVID. Won \$15,000 Aspen grant
- Advised South African Ministry of Education on content and technology strategy for Digital Skills for All initiative
- Developed resources and partnerships to localize Scratch into 60+ languages for 10M+ users across 100+ countries
- Prototyped place-based civic network for 2018 elections

**African Leadership University (ALU)**

Director of Degree Programs, 2014 - 2018

- ALU is a higher-ed startup with 2000+ students in Mauritius, Rwanda, and Kenya and \$80M+ USD in funding
- Led 16+ person faculty team in developing four profitable degree programs from ideation to launch to scale-up
- Directed technology, staffing, user experience, and scaling strategy for degrees; managed accreditation partnerships
- Led agile team of 12 in ideation, design, and launch of self-directed 'missions not majors' degree in Rwanda

**Carnegie Endowment for International Peace**

Junior Fellow, 2013 - 2014

- Synthesized research on urban violence prevention and rule of law reform for policymakers and governments
- Developed research, content, data visualizations, and website for the Corruption and Security Project

**American University in Cairo**

Presidential Associate, 2012 - 2013

- Developed 2013-19 enrollment strategy: modeled targets; designed and piloted new admission process with staff
- Awarded \$400,000 grant to enhance civic engagement and employment outcomes at universities in the Middle East