

Yusuf Ahmad

I build creative tools and learning communities

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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 [course](#) on creative learning technologies (2019)
- Co-taught MIT's [Learning Creative Learning](#) online course (2018)
- Coach youth in creative computing projects at [Fab Lab 01](#) (2019 - 2020)
- Mentor MIT startups with the [MIT Sandbox Fund](#) (2018 - Present)

Talks & Workshops

- [IDEO: Toolkit for inclusive design](#)
- [CLS: Creating tools for global users](#)
- [MIT: Inventing the future of learning](#)
- [Harvard: African education ventures](#)
- [ALX: Intro to rapid prototyping](#)

Skills

- Systems design, user research, coaching, product management
- Figma, JavaScript, Python

Experience

MIT Media Lab, Lifelong Kindergarten (LLK)

Researcher, 2018 - 2020

[LLK](#) is an MIT research group that invents creative tools, communities, and approaches to learning (e.g. Scratch)

- Researched and developed a [design tool for educators](#); created user stories and roadmap; guided prioritization and testing; piloted with universities and public schools
- Created [planning tool](#) for school leaders adapting to COVID; won [\\$15,000 Aspen grant](#); launched with IDEO
- Developed resources and partnerships to localize [Scratch](#) into 60+ languages (including translation into Zulu)
- Researched innovative approaches to learning and teaching from higher education to early childhood
- Designed and facilitated creative computing workshops

African Leadership University (ALU)

Director, Degrees, 2014 - 2018

ALU is a higher-ed startup with 2000+ students across Africa, campuses in 2 countries, and \$80M+ USD in [funding](#)

- Led 20+ faculty in developing project-based degree programs (through ideation, design, and launch)
- Directed technology, staffing, user experience, and scaling strategy for degrees; managed accreditation partnerships
- Led team of 12 in design of a self-directed degree program in Rwanda and unaccredited products in Kenya
- Developed teaching resources and workshops for faculty

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Junior Fellow, 2013 - 2014

- Created data visualizations, content, and website that shaped anti-corruption efforts in Africa and Asia
- Synthesized [rule of law reform](#) research for policymakers

American University in Cairo (AUC)

Presidential Associate, 2012 - 2013

- Crafted AUC's enrollment strategy during a revolution
- Awarded \$400,000 grant to enhance civic engagement and employment outcomes at universities in the Middle East