

Yusuf Ahmad

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

media.mit.edu/people/yusufa/

410-615-3602 | yusufa@mit.edu

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, JavaScript, Python

Experience

MIT Media Lab, Lifelong Kindergarten (LLK)

Researcher, 2018 - 2020

LLK is an MIT research group that invents creative tools (e.g. Scratch, LEGO robotics); funders include Google, IDEO

- Led 4 person engineering and design team in research, product planning, wireframing, prototyping, testing, and iterative development of a new design tool for educators
- Created (from research 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 20+ person faculty, engineering, and design team in developing four online and blended degree programs
- Managed complex accreditation partnerships, including technology and product integration with partners
- Led agile team of 12 in ideation, design, and launch of self-directed 'missions not majors' degree in Rwanda
- Organized and led two company-wide strategy retreats

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Junior Fellow, 2013 - 2014

- Analyzed and visualized data; authored content and website for the Corruption and Security Project
- Synthesized rule of law reform research for policymakers

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