



DAREN OKAFO

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OBJECTIVE

As a critical technologist, I try to find balance and harmony in our new media and their related impacts on communities of purposeful adults as they strive to produce value; as a critical adult educator, I work alongside people to explore creative and meaningful ways to integrate new media into their existing practice, opening avenues to examine their relationship with, and place within these co-constructed emerging digital cultures.

EXPERIENCE

St. Francis Xavier University

Senior Media Developer, Coady Institute | 2008 - Present

- Despite the title, my primary responsibility is curating an appropriate pedagogical and technical institutional position that relates the deep, community-centric, adult education legacy of The Coady International Institute with the world of information technology and the broader field of contemporary new media in general. This informs all of the work at the institute that intersects with the area of technology and innovations - adult ed. research, fieldwork, organizational learning, education programming, knowledge networking, etc.
- I currently teach in a number of courses and facilitate modules on criticality and new media production in the Advocacy/Citizen Engagement and the Skills for Social Change courses.
- My technical responsibilities can range from consulting, systems administration, application design and development (cfml, php, js, html5, etc.), experimental software design (NodeJS), graphic design and web design, mapping (Google Maps, Leaflet), data visualization (D3, Processing) and a number of emerging Big Data issues (Python, Java).
- My most recent project, *CoadyConnects*, is a software development framework and related collaborative software platform designed to lessen the gap between content knowledge experts (researchers, faculty, etc.) and pedagogical designers (instructional design staff, etc.), leveraging creativity to facilitate a critical dialog between adult learners and technology designers in digital knowledge cultures.

St. Francis Xavier University

Technology and Innovations Coordinator, Coady Institute | 2001 - 2008

- This position evolved from my CIDA Fellowship in Innovative Approaches to Education and Public Information and was initially related to partnerships formed during my fieldwork in Egypt.
- Over the initial period, I was responsible for the pedagogical design and deployment of several early web-based 'learning networks', such as the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) First Nations Fisheries Program Network, The Antigonish Movement Digital Archives Project and The UN African Youth Parliament Knowledge Network.
- I introduced the relevant technology and new media elements to both the core diploma and certificate program curricula, several of which have become independent programs, such as Social Media for Change.

Dalhousie University

Technical Instructor and Volunteer Coordinator, CKDU Radio | 1998 - 2001

- I developed a critical adult education curriculum for the orientation and training of new radio hosts, programmers and show producers
- I managed the volunteer cadre at the station, organizing the various social and technical gatherings/meetings/courses that helped support the rich community of practice at CKDU
- Contributed as a sitting member of the Nova Scotia Youth Media Literacy Committee
- Initiated and managed the project that began streaming (RealPlayer G3) CKDU FM online in 1998, one of the earliest campus community stations in Canada to do so

EDUCATION

- 2017 - M.A.Ed., Master, Adult Education, StFX
- 2008 - Adobe Certified Advanced ColdFusion Developer
- 2006 - Adobe Certified Flash ActionScript Developer
- 1996 - B.Sc., Bio-Psychology, UNB
- 1991 - Moyle Park College, Dublin

NOTABLE SPEAKING / PUBLICATIONS / APPOINTMENTS

- 2011 Presentation - Graffiti on the Blackboard©: Exploring defiance, criticality and creativity within online learning spaces. Society for Research into Higher Education (SRHE), Annual Conference, UK
- 2009 Appointment - Peer Selection Committee, New Media, Canada Council for The Arts
- 2005 Guest Seminar - Avoiding McLuhan's Rear View Mirror: Building networked environments for emancipatory adult education, Institute for Development Studies, University of Sussex
- 2004 Paper - From Prigione to Freire: Attending to the non-linearity of complex, online social organization in ICT design. IRFD World Forum on the Information Society, Geneva.

- 2001 Appointment - Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), International Youth Fellowship, Innovative Approaches to Education and Public Information, Cairo, Egypt

RELATED EXTRACURRICULAR

- Recording as Stigg of Dump / Villain Accelerate, I've been an active part of the Canadian progressive electronic music scene for fifteen years. From performing at festivals such as Mutek and All Tomorrow's Parties to scoring music for CBC and MTV or working with collaborators such as Buck 65, this purely artistic engagement with technology informs and inspires my work as a new media technologist and helps me to understand the role of creativity in how people engage with and make sense of new and emerging technologies and the related cultures they enable.