



# Using a Living Curriculum

Melissa Densmore

University Of Cape Town Centre in ICT4D

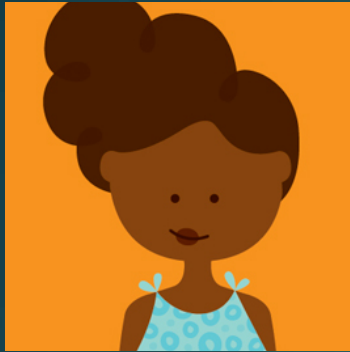


# Personas for Living Curriculum Users

## Disclaimer

These are mostly speculative ideas on my part, based on personal experience rather than any systematic study of the needs of HCI educators.





# Dr. June Newbie

“I can’t believe how much time teaching takes! But I’m really excited to make HCI relevant for my students.”

## About

- ▶ Teaches at small South African university
- ▶ Some resistance to HCI locally
- ▶ PhD - 2 years ago, from European University
- ▶ Kenyan
- ▶ First-time teacher, enrolled in a new academic program

## Teaching Profile

- ▶ Intro to HCI
  - ▶ 2<sup>nd</sup> year CS
  - ▶ 200 students
- ▶ Postgrad course in HCI
- ▶ Plus 3 other courses each year

## Use of Resources

Since it is her first time teaching, June mostly uses the existing material, but it's clear that it needs an update. She supplements her lectures with experiences from her own research and tries to update them with interesting videos from conferences, but it's hard to find time to do so.

It's possible to assign textbooks in class, but in practice only the wealthier students actually buy and read them.

- ▶ Previous class's materials
- ▶ Syllabus and materials from alma mater
- ▶ Interaction-design.org
- ▶ Guest lectures

## Needs and Vision

A living curriculum would help me learn from other HCI educators - ideas for engaging with the students and helping them be excited about HCI. But for my students the examples I've always been taught with seem so far from their own experience.



# Pravi Professional

“HCI is so important – it should be taught everywhere, at universities and to professionals too!”

## About

- ▶ Adjunct Professor at Indian university for last 5 years
- ▶ Primary job is as an independent usability consultant
- ▶ Based in Bangalore

## Teaching Profile

- ▶ Teaches advanced course on IoT and tangible user interfaces
- ▶ 25 4<sup>th</sup> year and postgrad students
- ▶ 3 h/week for 16 weeks

## Use of Resources

Pravi is always looking for new examples and new hardware for teaching the class. She finds that students are really excited about building real things.

## Needs and Vision

- ▶ Wants to contribute case studies and activities to the living curriculum
- ▶ Questions about intellectual property



# Nelson Confident

My slides are available with the textbook online, I think we can all learn from one another.

## About

- ▶ Professor at an American university
- ▶ Teaching for 20 years
- ▶ Prominent HCI researcher
- ▶ Offers a popular coursera class on HCI
- ▶ Co-author on an HCI textbook

## Teaching Profile

- ▶ Offers an undergrad course (3<sup>rd</sup> year) every other year

## Use of Resources

Nelson regularly makes minor updates his lectures, but mostly teaches from his textbook. He hasn't yet come to a rhythm for updating the MOOC version of the course. He's especially proud of the locally situated examples and making HCI relevant for his students.

## Needs and Vision

- ▶ Not sure how a living curriculum fits in against more traditional curriculums but willing to experiment
- ▶ Wants to share HCI teaching experience and resources with junior academics



# Car Examples are falling flat

## Poor Visibility (BMW's iDrive)



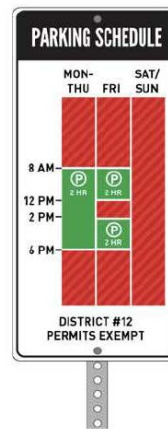
Don Norman's critique is [here](#).

# The Berkeley Parking Example Too

## What's universal and not?

### + Mental Mapping: Parking Signs

Nikki Sylianteng's solution



# Can we lead with Indigenous Design rather than Bauhaus?



“Modern Design”



South Africa



India

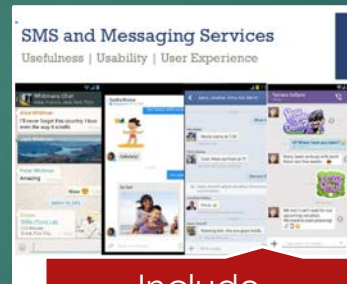
# Local topics – are they relevant for mainstream HCI?



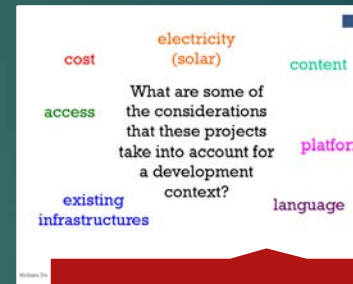
Bandwidth Caps



Diversity in Platforms



Include WhatsApp!



HCI4D