



Global Community Service Learning Lab

ICT4D in the Field – 2021

Anna Bon



What is ICT4D in the Field?

- Global Community Service Learning master-level course
- Students and staff from three continents: EU, Asia, Africa
- Open for Aurora Alliance master students (Erasmus+ project)
- This year's *“Theme AI in and for the Global South”*
- Focus on “Community Service, Innovation, SDGs



Who are the core lecturers in the team?



Dr. Anna Bon
Course coordinator
VU - Netherlands



Francis Dittoh MSc
UDS - Ghana



Dr. Cheah Wai Shiang,
UNIMAS - Malaysia



Prof. Dr. Hans Akkermans
VU, UDS, UNIMAS

What is the educational philosophy of ICT4DitF ?

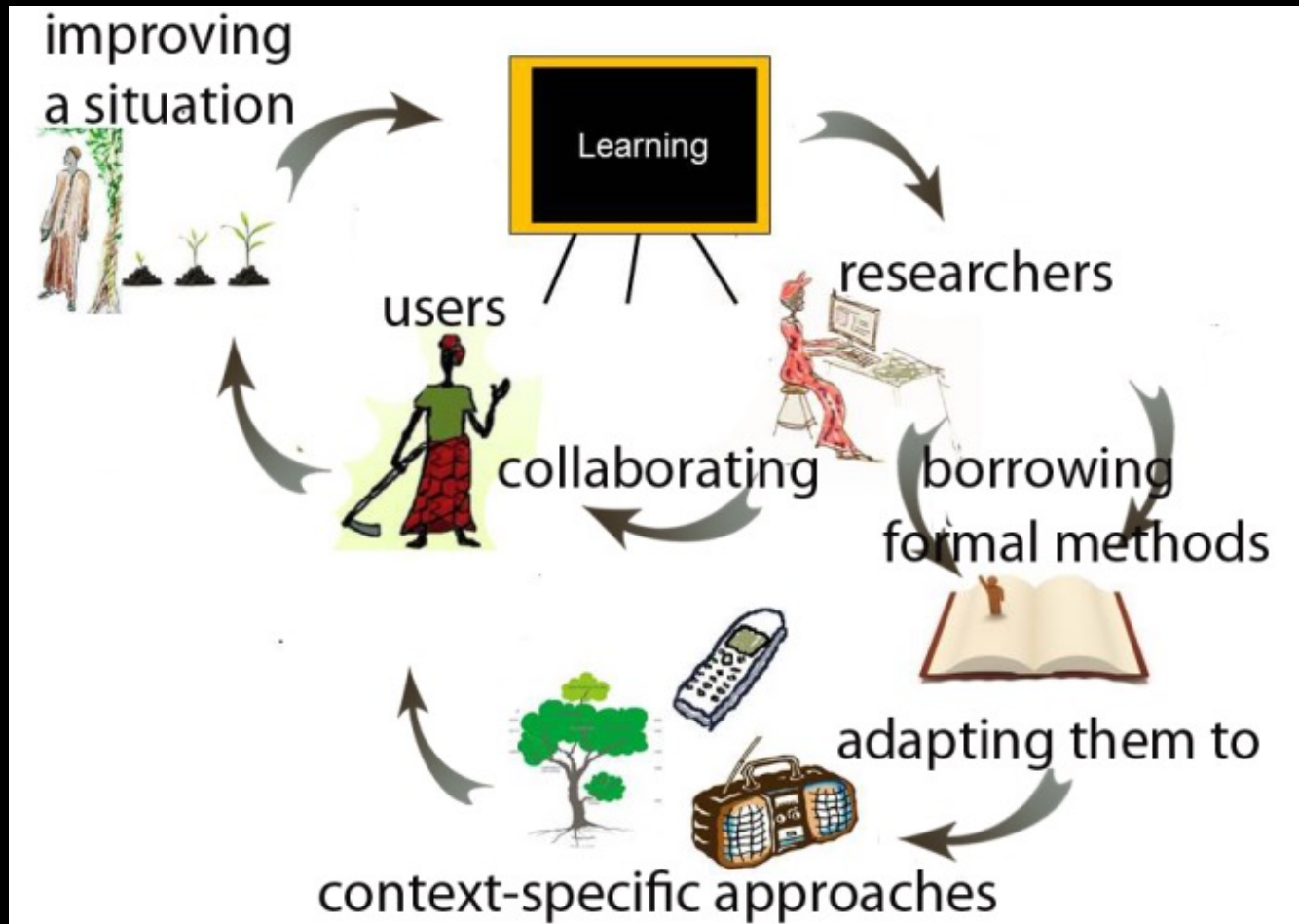
- Learning for Societal Impact –thinking in Global Challenges
- Combines to frameworks: CSL and ICT4D 3.0
- Open-ended research project
- Community-centered – **design science research**



The course objectives

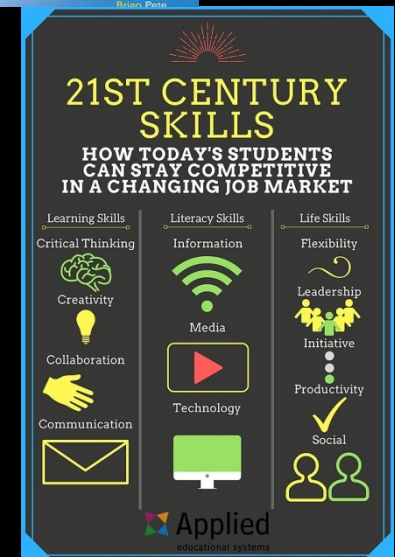
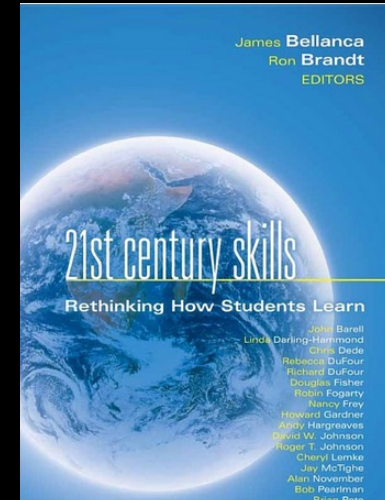
- (1) To make the next generation of information and computing scientists aware of the potential role of **ICTs for the developing and emerging world**, however (in contrast to a one-size-fits-all-approach) with a strong appreciation for the highly diverse and **complex contexts, social-cultural factors and human needs** that must be addressed.
- (2) To **equip students with relevant field research and development methods** and skills for ICTs in a rural community/developing region.
- (3) To acquire and **reflect on the experience of carrying out a full cycle of a real-world software development project in the field**, learning to be able to deal with unfamiliar and complex contexts, and to engage with real users with their own specific problems, needs and goals.

What is the approach?



ICT4D and *21st Century skills* ?

- Collaboration and teamwork
- Creativity and imagination
- Critical thinking
- Problem solving
- Flexibility and adaptability
- Global and cultural awareness
- Civic engagement and citizenship
- Oral and written communication skills
- Social responsibility and ethics
- Information and Technology literacy
- Initiative and leadership

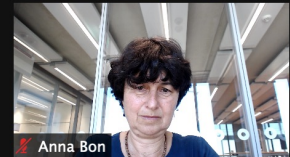


Why teaming up with UDS and UNIMAS in CSL?



Service Learning @ UNIMAS: Impact towards communities in Sarawak

Jennifer Fiona Wilfred Busu
Universiti Malaysia Sarawak



UDS Ghana has a Third Semester Community Service For all students

“The pedagogical philosophy of UDS is said to have been borne out of a new thinking in higher education emphasizing the need for universities as teaching and research institutions to play more active role in addressing societal problems (especially rural areas) for speedy development.

The University by its mandate and constituency has a pro-poor focus and this is reflected in its methodology of teaching, research and outreach services. The specific emphasis on practically-oriented, research and field-based training is aimed at contributing towards poverty reduction in order to accelerate national development.”



How does it work in practice?

- Started in 2018 and 2019 in the Field in Sarawak, by VU and Universiti Malaysia Sarawak
- Skipped in 2020 due to Covid-19
- Redesigned for online in 2021
- This year we registered 30 students
 - 12 from VU
 - 5 from UNIMAS
 - 10 from UDS
 - 3 from Aurora universities



Six community-centered student group projects, June 2021

- AI for Primary education in Kamoug Kuap, Sarawak – serious game for math
- AI for Primary education in Kamoug Kuap, Sarawak – serious game for reading
- AI and IoT for crop irrigation in Ghana
- AI for smart detection of crop diseases in Ghana
- AI to help women entrepreneurs start ups in Sarawak.

This year's theme for this course is:



AURORA
EUROPEAN UNIVERSITIES
ALLIANCE

10:30_{EU}/08:30_{GH}/16:30_{MY} Welcome and Opening



UNIMAS
UNIVERSITI MALAYSIA SARAWAK



VU  **VRIJE
UNIVERSITEIT
AMSTERDAM**




UNIVERSITY FOR
DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

The Webinar was officially launched by the Presidents of three universities

A Webinar as part of the course

- Open International 3-day Webinar:
- **Artificial Intelligence in & for the Global South** *What is AI and what can it be used for?*
- Nine AI experts from Academia and Industry give a guest lecture about an AI topic related to the Global South
- We had 150 simultaneous participants from 5 countries in EU, Asia, Africa

Guest lecturers this year



Dr. Frank Bennis
Bioinformatics



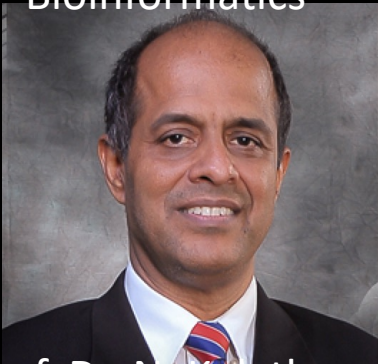
André Baart, ICT4D
AI4D expert/entrepreneur



Prof. Dr. Saa Dittoh
Rural Economy &
Development



Prof. Dr. Guglielmo Tamburri
Philosophy of Science



Prof. Dr. N. Kulathuramaiyer
AI & Indigenous Knowledge



Dr. Jaap Gordijn
Innovative e-business



Gossa Lô AI Expert



Dr. Chris van Aart CTO
BolesianAI Innovation/
AI4Good



Dr. Victor de Boer
Knowledge Repres
Semantic Web



Dr. Annette ten Teije
AI in Medicine

How does this fit in a larger educational and research program?

- Part of Aurora's 2 Year interdisciplinary European research master
- *“Digital Society and Global Citizenship”*
- Part of Unesco Chair “DISE”
- Distributed Information Society Engineering” Group at VU



Thank you !

