Stefania Druga, AI Creative Learning Researcher

drugastefania.com | https://github.com/stefania11 | https://www.linkedin.com/in/drugastefania/

EXPERIENCE

MIT MediaLab Berlin, Creative AI Track Lead 2018-07-01 — 2018-08-31
http://berlin.media.mit.edu

- Designed and ran the machine learning for creative AI track, selected 10 participants from 300 applications. Organized a series of lectures, talks, and site-visits to partner organizations. Mentored students on their projects, documented and published final results.

HacKIDemia, Co-Founder 2012-01-01 — 2018-12-01
https://hackidemia.com

- Overseeing HacKIDemia, a global organization for children STEM education. We are designing a 21st century curriculum by using and adapting latest technology applications and scientific inventions. We trained local teams i n 40 countries with 600 mentors and 10.000 children involved to date.

Girls Who Code, Computer Science Lead Teacher 2016-06-01 — 2016-09-01
https://girlswhocode.com/

- Taught computer science to a group of 30 senior high-school students for 3 months as part of the Girls Who Code Immersion Summer Program and managed 2 teaching assistants.

Samsung Research , R&D Specialist 2016-01-01 — 2016-06-01
https://samsungnext.com/

- Proposed new IoT communication protocols for low powered WiFi sensors and implemented a series of prototypes for detecting water leaks at scale by measuring pipes vibration. This lead to a commercial product (Lotik) which is still being developed by Samsung.

Maker Camp, Director 2014-01-01 — 2016-01-01
makercamp.co

- Initiated the first maker camp in Berlin and Shenzhen with 15 global participants. We used only upcycled materials and tools to build the first makerspace in a shipping container in Europe and China. Each camp ran for one month, had 10 tracks, 20 mentors.

Afrimakers, Founder 2014-01-01 — 2016-01-01
afrimakers.org

- Created Afrimakers in partnership with 8 African tech-hubs in Egypt, Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda, Zambia, Botswana, Ghana, Nigeria. This initiative enables local makers to use digital fabrication for solving local challenges like access to clean water, energy, education. Local teams are developing the project further.

Singularity University, Education Advisor 2012-01-01 — 2014-01-01
singularityu.org

- Curated the education track for 80 students from 36 countries and conducted a series of prototyping workshops. Initiated coaching sessions and site-visits to pioneering ed-tech organizations like Khan Academy, Udacity, Gooru.

CRI Research Center Paris Descartes , Research Associate 2011-03-01 — 2012-01-01
https://cri-paris.org/

- Participated as a research associate in a project that applied machine learning algorithms for interdisciplinary online educational programs. The proposal was validated by an international committee of researchers and involved collaborating with an international team of data scientists

PUBLICATIONS

Special Issue on "Interaction Design and Children", Elsevier Journal 2019

- Study on Intelligence attribution for Smart Toys, S.Druga, R.Williams, H.Park, CBreazeal (under review)

MIT Master Thesis 2018

- "Growing up with AI. Cognimates: from coding to teaching machines", S.Druga

Interaction Design for Children Conference, ACM 2018

- "How smart are the smart toys ? Children's and parents' attributions of intelligence to computational objects", S.Druga, R.Williams, H.Park, C.Breazeal

Interaction Design for Children Conference, ACM 2018

- "My Doll Says It's OK: Voice-Enabled Toy Influences Children's Moral Decisions", R. Williams, C.Vazquez, S.Druga, P.Maes, C.Breazeal

Interaction Design for Children Conference, ACM 2017

- "Hey Google, is it OK if I Eat You?": Initial Explorations in Child-Agent Interaction", S.Druga*, R.Williams*, M.Resnick, C.Breazeal

ISWT Conference, ACM 2017

- "Motif: a wearable sonic cueing device for memory support and cognitive intervention", S.Druga*, A.Rieger*, P.Maes

Design for curiosity workshop, CHI Conference 2017

- "Embodied play and artificial curiosity in sensorimotor augmentations for kids", S.Druga

AERA Conference 2017

- "Open Science Hardware for Citizen Science in SE Asia and Africa", Denisa Kera, Stefania Druga, Hermes Huang, Irene Agrivine

Designing Tools For Crafting Interactive Artifacts Workshop, SIGRAPH 2014

- "Open Source Hardware (OSHW) supporting Interaction between Traditional Crafts and Emergent Science: Wayang Kulit over Microfluidic Interfaces", Justyna Ausareny, Denisa Kera, Stefania Druga, and Yair Reshef.

Interaction Design for Children Conference, ACM 2013

- "DIY Charms, Amulets and Totems: Liminal Rites with Arduino and OSHW (Open Source Hardware) supporting Health and Wellbeing.", Behaviour change workshop, S.Druga, D. Kera, A.Rigguerri

Interaction Design for Children Conference, ACM 2013

- "“Maker Education Poster-How is learning by playing and by doing enabling children'smotivation and interest in science”", Digital Fabrication Workshop, S.Druga

M.A. Thesis, Poitiers University 2010

- "Politiques institutionelles de propriété intellectuelle et diffusion des resources éducative numériques(Institutional policies of intellectual property and distribution of educational materials)", S.Druga

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AWARDS

LEGO Papert Fellow, MIT MediaLab 2018-01-01

- Selected as one of the inaugural four Lego Paper Fellows that are supported to explore and push the boundaries of future learning

Finalist Ideas for Europe, EU 2017-08-10

- Represented Romania at the European innovation competition for small and medium enterprises. Selected as finalists to do a TED talk at the European Comission Event in Hague.

Women to Watch in Science, Women at the frontier 2016-01-01

- Selected as one of the women to watch in 2016 for the international work on STEM education I have been doing with HacKIDemia and Afrimakers.

Most Wearable Design, MIT 2017-03-01

- "Standing Robin" dress, Sustainable Fashion Competition.

VOLUNTEERING

KKEV Cambodia, Teacher 2012-01-01 — 2012-03-01
https://kkev-cambodia.org

- As part of a voluntary mission I was teaching 100 children how to use computers and new technologies. Within 2 months I have acquired 3000 € in donations and created a computer lab for the children.You can find out more here: teachingcambodia.blogspot.com

EDUCATION

Massachusetts Institute of Technology 2016-09-01 — 2018-09-01
M.A. - Media Arts and Science, GPA: 5.0

- MAS.910 Research in Media Technology
- HAE.T550 Des for Learning by Creating
- MAS.863 How to Make Almost Anything

Technical University of Lisbon, Poitiers University, UNED Madrid 2008-09-01 — 2010-09-01
M.A. - Instructional Design, GPA: 5.0

- Media Engineering for Education
- Curriculum Design and Media Literacy Studies
- Research on teacher's practices in using open source licenses

Polytechnic University of Timisoara 2005-09-01 — 2008-09-01
B.A - Public Relations & Communication, GPA: 5.0

- Introduction to organizational public relations
- Linguistics and Translation Techniques
- Introduction to Marketing and Management

Flatiron School 2015-11-01 — 2016-02-01
CS Program - Full stack development

- Mapped and semantically analysed product reviews (ProductTracker)
- Implemented an RoR music sharing platform (Soundfriend)
- Built a collaborative documentation platform for hardware projects (Makehub)

SKILLS

Research : AI education, Intelligence attribution, Smart toys, Interaction Design for Children, HRI

R&D: Full Stack software development , Embedded programming for IoT , Digital fabrication

Intructional Design : STEM curriculum design , Teacher Training , Project based teaching

LANGUAGES

Romanian [Native speaker] , English , Spanish , French , Portuguese , Italian

INTERESTS

Climbing , Gardening , Radio [WMBR show]