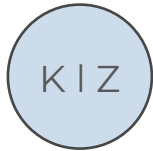
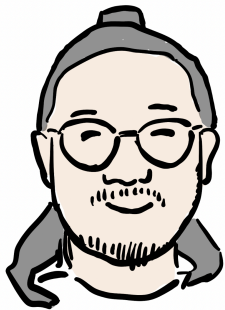


KAI ZHUANG



INNOVATION AND LEADERSHIP EDUCATOR



Profile

I am an innovation and leadership educator with a background in engineering and a diverse skillset in systems thinking, leadership development, and the creative arts. Through my teaching, consulting, and visual storytelling, I inspire people and organizations to think bigger and care more, and help them do work that really matters.

Address

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Toronto, ON, Canada.

Contact

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E: kai@brave49.com

EDUCATION

PhD. Chemical Engineering

University of Toronto, 2012

MASc. Chemical Engineering

University of Toronto, 2009

BASc. Biomedical Engineering

University of Toronto, 2006

EXPERTISE

- Innovation Leadership
- Systems Thinking
- Coaching & Facilitation
- Education & Pedagogy
- Visual Storytelling
- Computational Modeling
- Environmental- and Bio-Engineering

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2021 - Present

Toronto, ON

Co-Founder

Brave49

- I co-founded a research and education non-profit
- We collaborate with universities to develop innovation and leadership skills in faculty and students
- We collaborate with industry and university leaders to create future-ready education

2017 - 2021

Toronto, ON

Educational Developer & Researcher

Lassonde School of Engineering, York University

- I led educational innovation and improvement efforts across the school of engineering.
- I helped university professors develop leadership, communication, and teaching skills.
- I co-led research efforts in developing accessible, inclusive, and future-ready education.

2015 - Present

Toronto, ON

Innovation and Leadership Educator

Lassonde School of Engineering / Others Institutions

- I developed and delivered innovative programs and courses that taught engineers innovation and leadership skills
- I taught courses on systems thinking, creative problem solving, communications, and ethics in Canadian and European universities

SELECTED AWARDS

University of Toronto National Scholarship
Full scholarship for tuition/living
2002-2006

Otto Mønsted Foundation Grant for Research Stay Abroad
2015

Best Paper Award, American Society for Engineering Education
Recognition for my use of comics in leadership education
2022

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE CONTINUED..

2012 - Present

Consultant: Education & Leadership

Various Universities

- I help leaders and educators innovate through creative facilitation and visual storytelling
- I consulted for several institution-scale innovation efforts in higher education, including the launching of a new university in the UK.

2012 - 2015
Copenhagen, Denmark

Research Scientist & Engineer

Center for Biosustainability, Denmark Technical University

- I led a large-scale assessment of the sustainability and profitability of bio-based chemicals
- I developed bio-based chemicals using computational models

TRAITS

- Creative
- Empathetic
- Resilient
- Purpose-driven
- Multi-talented

INTERESTS



Martial Art



Singing



Dancing



Drawing



Reading

CREATIVE WORKS

Animation: Finding Courage
A animation I created to inspire students and fellow engineers.
<https://youtu.be/N3euxMXP6Q>

Leadership Comics
Visual comics I wrote to teach leadership concepts.
<https://tinyurl.com/brave-comics>

REFERENCES

Dr. Janusz Kozinski
Dean & Professor, Lakehead University
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Dr. Richard Hornsey
Department Chair & Professor, York University
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Evan Hu
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Dr. Franz Newland
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