

# THE CRYING GIANT WITHOUT TIERS: A critical realist perspective to bridge gap between industry and academic in the era of AI



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**Nigeria, a nation brimming with potential, faces a critical challenge: the disconnect between industry and academia in the age of AI**

## **Introduction**





# Is Your Institution Prepared to bridging the Gap?

- This presentation explores this issue
- through the lens of critical realism,
- proposing a way forward
- for collaboration and progress.





- Industry demands readily deployable AI solutions.
- Academia focuses on theoretical research with long-term impact.
- This disconnect hinders Nigeria's ability to harness AI for national development.

Time  
Destination  
Job  
position





# Critical Realist Approach: Bridging the Divide

Change is an inevitable part of life. It happens whether we're ready or not.

- Critical realism acknowledges the gap between the real world and our understanding of it.
- It emphasizes the importance of mechanisms that generate observable phenomena.
- This approach can help bridge the gap between industry and academia.





# Bridging the Gap: Strategies for Collaboration

- Joint research projects with clearly defined industry-driven goals.
  - Internship programs for students to gain practical AI experience in industry settings.
  - Faculty exchange programs to foster knowledge transfer between academia and industry.
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- Development of AI-focused curriculums that cater to industry needs.



*we give students knowledge in class*

*In the future, students will collaborate with teachers to learn*



## Bridging the Gap: Strategies for Collaboration

- Joint research projects with clearly defined goals set by industry partners.
- Internship programs that allow students to gain practical AI experience in actual industry environments.
- Faculty exchange programs that facilitate knowledge transfer between academic researchers and industry practitioners.

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Development of AI-focused curriculums that equip graduates with the skills and expertise directly relevant to industry needs

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# building your project in the era of change

The power of:

## Teamwork

Communication  
Collaboration  
Cooperation  
Supervision  
Togetherness





# Change or Chance

Nothing is Free: Nothing is easy

Think different - act different

To be unique - is to be different in all

If you are in academics because it is easy, then you are in the wrong place

Success is about the culture

- ✓ Understanding others is a good ability to earn respect
- ✓ Easy to make friends
- ✓ If you don't make friends, how do you make money
- ✓ People need to work together

A lot of people learn to work .....In the future, it will be 'work to learn'



# Why worried about AI

The industrial period  
is for standardization

**IT is to enable yourself**

**DT is to enable others**

**AI period – differentiation**



**CCMAS is Standardization – let's think ahead**

**Yes, AI will replace lots of jobs But not you**

AI is a machine – chip

Human – brain

Pre-programmed information

Process information

No feelings

Consider environmental issues



**Making money is with humans and not machine**



# The future; A thriving AI ecosystem for national progress



*Make people like people*



## *Lecturers should be:*

- By bridging the industry-academia gap, Nigeria can unlock its AI potential.
- This will lead to the development of innovative AI solutions for national challenges.
- These solutions will propel Nigeria forward in the global AI race.

All teachers want their students to be excellent

Just have a good HEART



*Thank you*