

WHAT YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT...

TEDDY

NAGADDYA

COMMONWEALTH SCHOLAR &
SOCIOLOGIST



INTERVIEW BY DR TINASHE DUNE
AFRICAN WOMEN AUSTRALIA INC. (AWAU)

Teddy is an award-winning Commonwealth Scholar and Sociologist in the School of Social Sciences at the Western Sydney University. Her PhD examined how the recent changes to Uganda's rural economy and the consequences of in-migration to rural villages have impacted the everyday lives of native and migrant older women. Teddy's research and teaching interests span from social policy and politics, migration, ageing, the life course perspective, and global health. Check out her book titled 'Primary Healthcare in East Africa: For how long shall countries run after diseases'.



WHEN INTRODUCED AT A PARTY, HOW DO YOU TYPICALLY DESCRIBE YOURSELF?

I avoid saying a lot about myself and just tell people my name and what I do for a living. But in saying that, it all depends on the audience.

WHAT DO YOU GET UP TO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

My kindle which has over 70 book titles. It supplements my mini home library. You will get me reading anything from Malcom Gladwell, Angela Davis, Francis Fukuyama, Judy Mikovits to Toni Morrison. And currently, I am learning how to play a guitar.

WHO DO YOU LOOK UP TO AND WHY?

My mom who is a retired teacher and now a successful farmer – she has proven to me that no mountain is too high to climb if you have the will.

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO BE WHEN YOU WERE A KID?

I wanted to be a detective. I thought detectives were super-smart and always on top of their game. You know in movies; they were portrayed to have this 'powerful' demeanour.

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"Be yourself and authentic regardless of societal constructions of who you should be. But do it with humility."

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE YOUR TEENAGE SELF?

Be yourself and authentic regardless of societal constructions of who you should be. But do it with humility.

WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE BLACK GIRLS AND WOMEN LIVING IN AUSTRALIA?

I want to tell them that *the smoke out there is thick, but it is not a wall*. They can beat the odds with the right mindset, persistence, determination, and a good plan.

WHAT WAS YOUR MOST CHALLENGING CAREER SETBACK? HOW DID YOU OVERCOME IT?

Setting unrealistic goals which caused me unnecessary pressure. I have always wanted to be in the fast lane, but I have learnt to take one step at a time.

WHAT WILL YOUR NEXT BIG PURCHASE BE? WHY?

Most likely my dream house. I want to retire in a comfortable home. But of course, this is a long-term plan and that is why it is a big purchase.

WHO HAS BEEN THE MOST INFLUENTIAL IN HELPING YOU GET TO WHERE YOU ARE TODAY?

I know it is a norm for people to have this notion of the 'most influential person' in their lives but not for me. My journey has been too long to be shaped by one person. Several women and men of different races, ages, and professional backgrounds have each put a 'brick' on the person I am today. But the most recent person has been Prof. Mary Hawkins who has seen me through my PhD journey.

WHAT DO YOU WANT TO ACHIEVE IN THE NEXT DECADE?

I would like to engage in activities that can transform me into a creative researcher and educator who can positively contribute to: 1) addressing contemporary social problems and 2) mentoring a critical mass of change makers. In addition, I would like to publish a few books.

African Women Australia Inc. (AWAU) is a women-led, community-based and non-profit organisation that aims to strengthen national intellectual capacity on African Women in Australia. We are doing so by being the hub for the most comprehensive, up-to-date and Afrocentric information about African women in Australia. We do this by employing an approach that incorporates African feminist, human rights centred and intersectional understandings to our work with African communities.

AWAU's Mission is to Raise the Voices and Profile of African Women in Australia. Visit our website: www.awau.org.au

If you know an African woman living in Australia who we should celebrate please contact Dr Tinashe Dune: secretariat@awau.org.au