

CRIMINOLOGIST CORNER(ED)

The BSC's monthly interview with the great, the good and the... hoping for greatness

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Where is home?

While I genuinely feel that home is wherever one finds peace and belonging, if we're talking roots here, I'm proud to say I'm from Nigeria, specifically from a vibrant town called Ado-Ekiti in Ekiti State, located in the southwestern region of the country.

Why Criminology?

I've always been fascinated by human behaviour and criminology's unique perspective on crime. Witnessing various forms of criminal activity in society, especially as a young man, motivated my desire to want to investigate the underlying factors that contribute to crime. I believe understanding the root causes of crime is crucial to developing effective solutions and informing policies. So, I became curious, wanting to contribute to criminology research, especially from a global south perspective, which I think is still very much under-researched and offers rich opportunities for exploration. My aim is to shed light on the complexities of crime and help governments manage the global south societies better.

Who/what inspires you?

Academically speaking, I'm inspired by a professor friend, Richard Wild, a criminologist and a lecturer at the University of Greenwich. Not only was he my course coordinator during my master's degree programme,

he also supervised my thesis. As a result, my research experience under his guidance catalysed my interest in further research, even to the PhD level. Apart from this, I'm also inspired by nature.

What advice would you give to your undergraduate self?

Stay curious, be open-minded, and never stop learning. Don't be afraid to take risks and explore different fields and interests. Seek out mentors and role models who can guide and inspire you. And most importantly, be kind to yourself and prioritize your mental and physical well-being. Remember that it's okay to not have everything figured out, and that it's a journey, not a destination. Enjoy the process, and don't be too hard on yourself when things don't go as planned.

What are you most passionate about?

My children, my relationships, and my career - both academic and professional.

Who would play you in the film of your life?

I think I would choose David Oyelowo. He's a talented actor who has played a wide range of roles, from historical figures to fictional characters. I think he would be able to bring a sense of depth and nuance to the role and would be able to convey the complexities of my personality and experiences. Moreover, he's a great guy who I think would be fun to work with.

Which book that you haven't read do you most want to read?

How Europe Underdeveloped Africa by Walter Rodney (1972). I think it would be interesting to examine Rodney's views on the impact of colonialism on African societies.

What would you have done if you hadn't become a criminologist?

I think I would have pursued a career in journalism. I've always been interested in writing and storytelling, and I think my skills in research and analysis would be valuable in this field. I also think that journalism would allow me to continue exploring social justice issues and advocating for change, which are important to me. Moreover, it would be a great way to use my skills to make a positive impact on the world.

What criminological work are you involved in at the moment?

I'm researching the complex relationships between victim-community and Banditry in Northwest Nigeria. My goal is to understand how victims interact with their communities and how these interactions shape their experiences of victimization; I'm examining how community dynamics, such as social cohesion and trust, influence reporting and response to banditry, as well as its impact on community relationships. This research aims to deepen our understanding of the interplay between victimization, community, and crime, and inform evidence-based policies and interventions to address the root causes of banditry and support victims of crime.

What do you hope to do next?

I will continue researching victim-community relations and banditry in northwest Nigeria, focusing on community-based interventions to reduce crime. I intend to submit a grant proposal for a large-scale study, collaborating with local stakeholders to design effective interventions. My long-term goal is to become a leading criminology expert in my chosen field,

informing evidence-based policies and practices that promote social justice and reduce crime across countries of the global south.

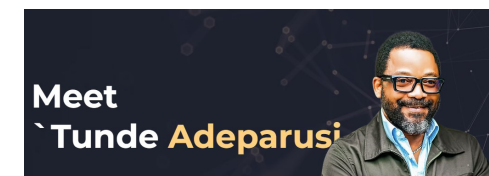
And finally, please share the one Criminological book, one album and one luxury item you would take to your desert island.....

Book – *Decolonising the Criminal Question: Colonial Legacies, Contemporary Problems* edited by Ana Aliverti, Henrique Carvalho, Anastasia Chamberlen, and Máximo Sozzo.

Album – *Rapture* by Anita Baker.

Luxury Item – A high-quality, waterproof camera.

Read more about Tunde's research and writing here:



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next month...

Jess Lawrence - Senior Researcher at Interventions Alliance