

TEXT 1**DECOLONISING THE CURRICULUM: THE GOOD,
THE BAD AND THE PLAIN SILLY**

By Nceku Nyathi

- 1 The debate on decolonising the curriculum needs to be about how we add to, and grow, what we have rather than what we should lose. There is an opportunity here to forge a powerful new narrative and identity for South Africans.
- 2 As a young black undergraduate studying in the UK more than 15 years ago, I remember the first time I came across the viewpoint of a black academic, because it was that unusual. The academic was Professor Stella Nkomo, a pioneer in the research of race and gender in organisations, and the experience for me was profound. I was not alone.
- 3 So, when South African students talk about feeling alienated because the examples in their curricula are all from overseas or feature dead white men, I know exactly how they feel – and why it is important to change this.
- 4 The theme of decolonisation is not new, yet the problem remains essentially unresolved and, recently, there is a sense that it has been somewhat side-lined. The tendency has been towards political correctness, where the importance of cultural sensitivity is named but not really embodied, leaving a lot unsaid about colonial history. Thus, there has been a kind of glossing-over of the issues at the expense of real change and engagement.
- 5 Fixing this is no easy task. For starters, before we even begin to play the game, it is difficult to establish what the board looks like. For instance, what is this thing we call 'Africa' or 'African' that we wish to infuse into our curricula? When you unpack it, the notion of 'African' is largely a social construct that is not borne out by facts. Somalia is different to Zimbabwe and one cannot mistake Egypt for South Africa.
- 6 And if we are all just one big happy family as this narrative of an African identity suggests, what is the xenophobia we have seen playing out across South Africa in recent years all about? And, incidentally, these attacks also happen on campuses. We have the same difficulty when trying to get to grips with what we are trying to decolonise. What are we trying to get away from? What is this 'Western domination' we hear so much about?
- 7 The philosopher and novelist Kwame Anthony Appiah wrote in *The Guardian* recently that 'the West' seems to mean the north Atlantic, Europe and her former colonies in North America. 'The opposite here is a non-Western world in Africa, Asia and Latin America. This description accounts for the whole world but lumps a whole lot of extremely different societies together, so that "Western" here can look simply like a euphemism for "white".'

- 8 It's enough to give anyone a headache! If we lose ourselves in an obsession with the terms 'African', 'colonial,' 'Western' or 'white', then we run the risk of being trapped in these identities and miss an opportunity to forge something larger. Even if we answer the questions of 'what is Africa' or 'what is Western' satisfactorily to ourselves, we still have to contend with another thorny question on the path towards decolonisation: What is knowledge? More specifically, who owns it?
- 9 There is perhaps no better way to illustrate this than with the fact that the classical inheritance of Greek and Roman learning, hailed by many as the foundation of Western civilization, is actually an inheritance shared with Islam – traditionally an enemy of the West.
- 10 The BBC documentary, *Mistaken Identities*, points out that the Islamic world had a significant role to play in preserving this knowledge during the dark ages, after the fall of the Roman Empire, until it was recovered by European scholars during the Renaissance. In Baghdad during the ninth century Abbasid caliphate, the palace library featured the works of Plato, Aristotle, Pythagoras and Euclid, translated into Arabic. The knowledge did not belong to the Europeans any more than it belonged to the Arab world, but it was useful to the human project more broadly. Both sides would have been foolish to discard it.
- 11 So, back to South Africa – the conversation here would benefit more if it was not about what needs to be taken away. We should be striving for the best of both worlds, not an either/or. If there is African indigenous knowledge out there – then yes, I want more of it. If a 'Western' scientist has the cure for cancer – then, yes, I want that too!
- 12 Rather than polarising and 'othering', we need to move towards the middle ground where ideas can be exchanged and built upon, and it is crucial that we foster dialogue to facilitate this exchange. Universities are traditionally spaces where ideas can be rigorously and critically debated, and they need to step up and own this space at this difficult and exciting time in this country's history.
- 13 What is at stake is our very identity and potential. We can become visible when we see ourselves reflected in what we are studying. Let's not waste this opportunity.

[<<http://www.gsbbusinessreview.gsb.uct.ac.za/decolonising-curriculum-good-bad-plain-silly/>>]

TEXT 2A

Travel trends for post-Covid-19 | Five new trends you need to know

Solo travel will become a new normal in the next couple of years, due to the new social practice that tells people to avoid the crowd. However, solo travel does not mean that you should not make friends along the way!

Eco-tourism is a significant trend. Travellers are making simple changes, shifting their concern to ethical and sustainable tourism options such as carbon-offsetting flights or staying at eco-friendly hotels.

The recent global epidemic might put an end to superficial 'mass tours'. Tourists today love to engage and take part in the local culture, from exploring a new cuisine to staying with the locals for an authentic experience.

Virtual reality travel allows you to visit places that are too sensitive for visitors or limited to a certain number of visitors every day.

Wellness tourism is a powerful intersection that comes from the idea of maintaining a healthy lifestyle and wellness routines when people are away from home.

[Adapted from: <<https://scivitravel.com/blog/travel-trends-for-post-covid-19-5-new-trends-you-need-to-know/>>]

TEXT 2B



[<<http://www.statssa.gov.za/?p=9264>>]

TEXT 2C**Domestic travel is key to saving the tourism sector**

Tourism is key to South Africa's economy, contributing R425 billion (or 8%) to South Africa's gross domestic product in 2019. The industry provides 1,5 million direct and indirect jobs, more than the individual contributions of the agriculture, automotive, chemical and mining industries.


For six months now, the tourism industry has been at a standstill, with hotels closed and flights grounded.

The decline in international tourism could contribute to more being invested in developing products and packages that cater to the domestic market.

As in countries such as Australia and Germany, domestic tourism could become the main pillar for South Africa's tourism industry resurgence. The government is looking at introducing a two-tier pricing system. Domestic tourists will thus have an opportunity to enjoy the wonders of South Africa at a discounted citizens' rate.

[Adapted from: <<https://mg.co.za/opinion/2020-10-07-domestic-travel-is-key-to-saving-the-tourism-sector/>>]

TEXT 3




WE'RE EQUALLY DIFFERENT

i speak three
languages

**French, Arabic
and Schizophrenic**

We all meet the world differently. Each mind is one out of 7 billion others, and each one of us is unique, just like everybody else. This is what makes us equally different. **Stop the stigma.**



asfourieh association
mental health awareness program
WWW.ASFOURIEH.COM

[<<https://www.behance.net/gallery/19930405/Asfourieh-Mental-Health-Awareness-Campaign>>]

TEXT 4



MINDFULNESS...

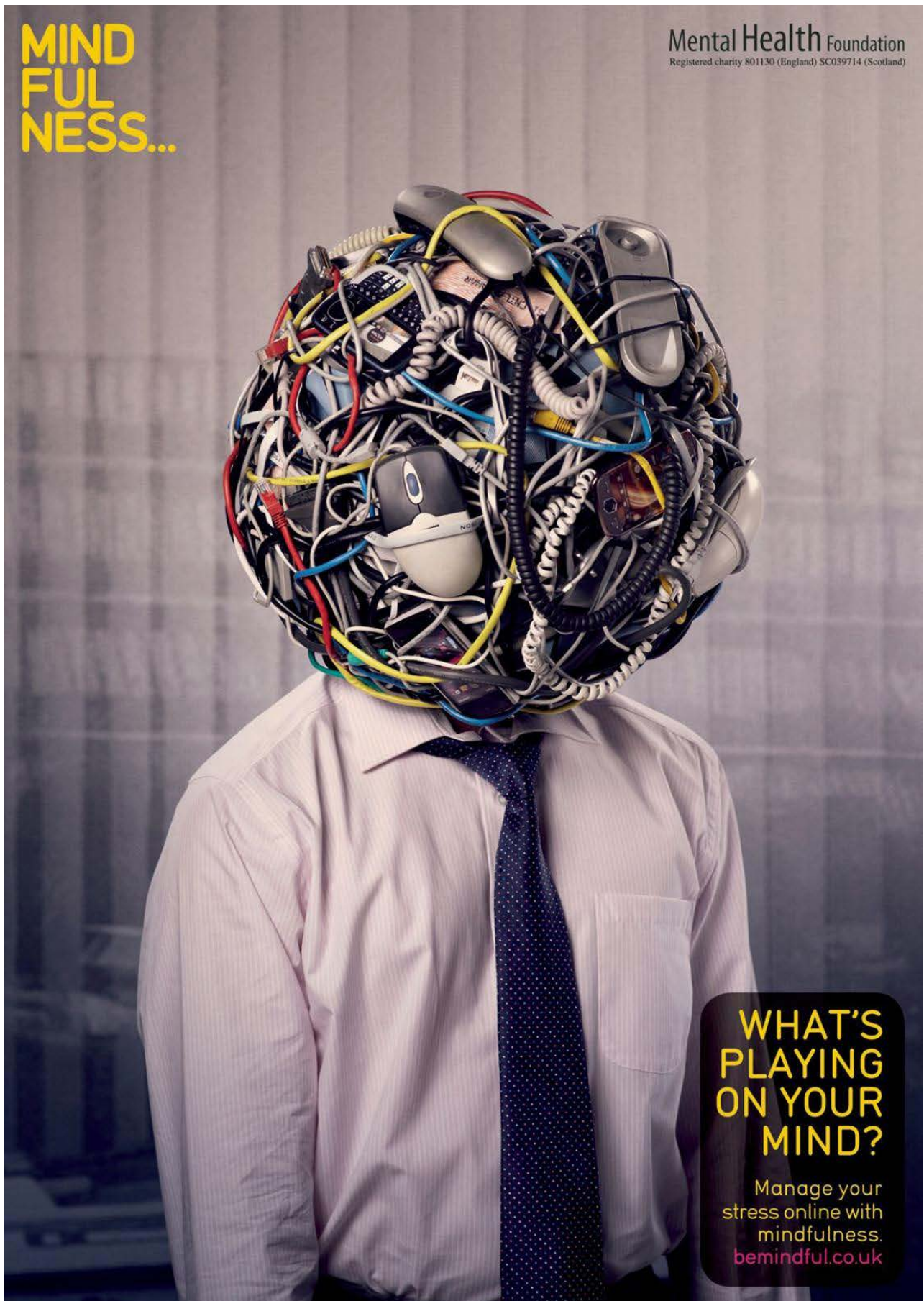
Mental Health Foundation
Registered charity 801130 (England) SC039714 (Scotland)

WHAT'S PLAYING ON YOUR MIND?

Manage your stress online with mindfulness.
bemindful.co.uk

[<https://www.adsoftheworld.com/media/print/mental_health_foundation_manage_your_stress_1>]

TEXT 5

A man in a white shirt and tie is shown from the chest up. His head is replaced by a large, tangled ball of various electronic devices and cables, including computer mice, mobile phones, and power cords. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

MINDFULNESS...

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[<https://www.adsoftheworld.com/media/print/mental_health_foundation_manage_your_stress_1>]

TEXT 6A

when both you and your friend are severely depressed but find happiness in the mutual feelings of despair



[<<https://medium.com/on-advertising/two-type-of-tears-unpacking-the-rise-of-mental-health-memes-f7aafe1c68da>>]

TEXT 6B

When you joined a gym and started therapy as part of your New Years resolution and now you're down 25 pounds and have a good grip on your mental health



[<https://www.reddit.com/r/wholesomememes/comments/ct9zml/feels_great_everyone/>]

TEXT 7

- 1 Being kind means letting go of the idea that you have to look a certain way to be worthwhile.
- 2 Being kind means listening to your body when it needs nourishment, exercise, or rest.
- 3 Being kind means more than just getting rid of toxins in the form of dangerous chemicals. It also means getting rid of toxic behaviour, letting go of toxic relationships, and freeing yourself from anything that poisons your life – whether literally or figuratively.
- 4 Being kind means stopping the comparisons that leave you feeling guilty, bitter, unsatisfied, or weak.
- 5 Being kind means enjoying the other aspects of this amazing life, even if they don't always fall into the 'ideal' aspect of nutrition or fitness.
- 6 Kindness to the people around us, to the world we live in, to the many creatures that roam the world. We can't be truly healthy if our body and mind are poisoned by bitterness, judgement, comparison, or apathy.
- 7 Being kind to others reminds us of our own blessings. It can erase lines that once divided us and caused division, and bring peace, clarity, and hope in a world that desperately needs it.

[<<https://www.thankyourbody.com/importance-self-love/>>]