

## #MDGComics: Mzungus in Development and Governments! #7

Omar Bah October, 2019



I AM A PHD STUDENT AT SOAS, WITH THE INTERDISCIPLINARY SCHOOL OF DEVELOPMENT. ACTUALLY, I SHOULD STOP IDENTIFYING WITH MY PHD. THE COUNSELLOR SAID THIS MANY TIMES DURING OUR FIRST YEAR IN THE PROGRAM. "DO NOT THINK YOU ARE YOUR PHD." BUT IT'S NOT EASY, WHEN YOU ARE AN ETHNOGRAPHER. YOU NEED TO JOIN HUMANITARIAN CLUBBING AND LISTEN TO RACIST STUFF AND HAVE PEOPLE SPEAK TO YOU AS THOUGH YOU ARE AN OUTSIDER TO YOUR OWN COUNTRY. IT HURTS, I DON'T KNOW HOW OTHER PEOPLE DIVIDE PHD AND REAL LIFE. ANYWAY, ABOUT ME, I AM THE SON OF A FORMER MINISTER, NOW NEARLY UNEMPLOYED REAL ESTATE AGENT IN MANCHESTER, AND OF A FORMER HOUSEWIFE, NOW SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSWOMAN. WHICH COULD ACTUALLY MAKE A GOOD PAPER ABOUT THE EFFECTS OF MIGRATION ON GENDER ROLES ... NO, ENOUGH WITH ACADEMIA. I WAS TALKING ABOUT MYSELF.



In <u>Section 7</u> Omar is in search of his own existential place within the research: definitely not inside the Cheraton, maybe far from Mzungus for a while... a holiday from Wakanda in rural England?