

Day 3 – 01 October 2026 | Thursday | 12:00 – 14:00

Time			Topic Focus	Key Points	Speaker s
12:00	12:20	00:20	Building a Professional Narrative.	Craft your story; highlight projects, internships and community contributions.	Aveena Mothilal - Twinnings
12:20	12:40	00:20	Interview Skills.	Preparation, professional appearance, confidence, communication skills, attitude, body language.	Richard Fritz - Heineken
12:40	12:45	00:05		Short Break	
12:45	13:05	00:20	LinkedIn and Digital Footprint Optimisation.	Profile essentials; showcasing projects/GitHub; recommendations; content strategy; outreach etiquette.	Amanda Gibbs – AFSUG Tejal Somaru - EY
13:05	13:25	00:20	Work Readiness – What Employers Expect.	Stakeholder communication; presentation skills; meeting hygiene; working on global and diverse teams.	Gontse Madumo - PG Glass
13:25	13:30	00:05		Short Break	
13:30	13:50	00:20	A Day in the Life of an SAP Professional.	Mindset shifts; personal learning plan; mentorship; certifications; feedback loops; building your reputation.	Musa Zulu – SAP
13:50	14:00	00:10	Wrap-Up.	Key takeaways, next steps and resources.	William Mathosa

Do Note | Topic and Speaker may change without notice.



AFSUG®
African SAP User Group



LinkedIn and Digital Footprint Optimisation

Introducing Amanda Gibbs and Tejal Somaru



Amanda Gibbs
CEO
AFSUG



Tejal Somaru
Associate Partner -EY
AFSUG Board Member

Show up consistently

- The first step is simply to participate.
- Join community sessions. Attend webinars. Come to events. Participate in discussions.
- You don't need to speak at every event. Sometimes just listening and learning is enough.
- But if people regularly see your name, see you participating and see that you are interested, you gradually become part of the community.
- **You can't build a network if nobody knows you are there.**

Be curious and ask good questions

You don't need to know everything before you engage with experienced professionals.

In fact, one of the easiest ways to start a conversation is simply to ask a thoughtful question.

Instead of saying:

- *"Can you help me get a job?"*

you could ask:

- *"You mentioned that you're working in SAP supply chain. What skills would you recommend someone starting out should learn?"*

Or:

- *"What surprised you most when you started working in the SAP ecosystem?"*

Those kinds of questions create conversations

Connect with context

If you attend a session and someone says something that interests you, connect with them afterwards.

On LinkedIn, don't just click **Connect**.

Add a short message:

"Hi Sarah, I attended your AFSUG session today. I really enjoyed your point about AI changing the role of SAP consultants. I'd love to connect and continue learning from your posts."

That small amount of context makes a huge difference.
People are much more likely to remember you.

Give before you ask

Networking should never only be about what somebody can do for you.

- Share something useful.
- Comment on someone's post.
- Congratulate someone on a project.
- Share an interesting article.
- Answer a question in the community if you know the answer.

Even as a student, you have something to contribute — your perspective, your curiosity, your research, your experience and the questions you're asking.

A strong professional network is built through contribution, not just requests.

Play the long game

Probably the most important point is this:

- **Don't network only when you need something.**
- The strongest professional relationships are built over months and years.
- Someone you meet at an AFSUG event today may not have any opportunity for you right now — and that is completely fine.

But six months from now they may remember the student who asked a thoughtful question, participated in discussions and stayed connected.

That is what professional networking really is.

So as you go into today's session about LinkedIn and your digital footprint, think about LinkedIn differently.

It's not simply an online CV.

It's a way to **join conversations, demonstrate what you're learning, connect with people and gradually become visible within a professional community.**



Top 5 Tips to Network

For students joining the AFSUG community

01



Show up consistently

Join sessions, attend regularly, and let people see you care.

02



Be curious and ask good questions

Ask thoughtful questions and learn from others' experience.

03



Connect with context

When you reach out, say who you are and why you're connecting.

04



Give before you ask

Share ideas, help others, and add value before asking for anything.

05



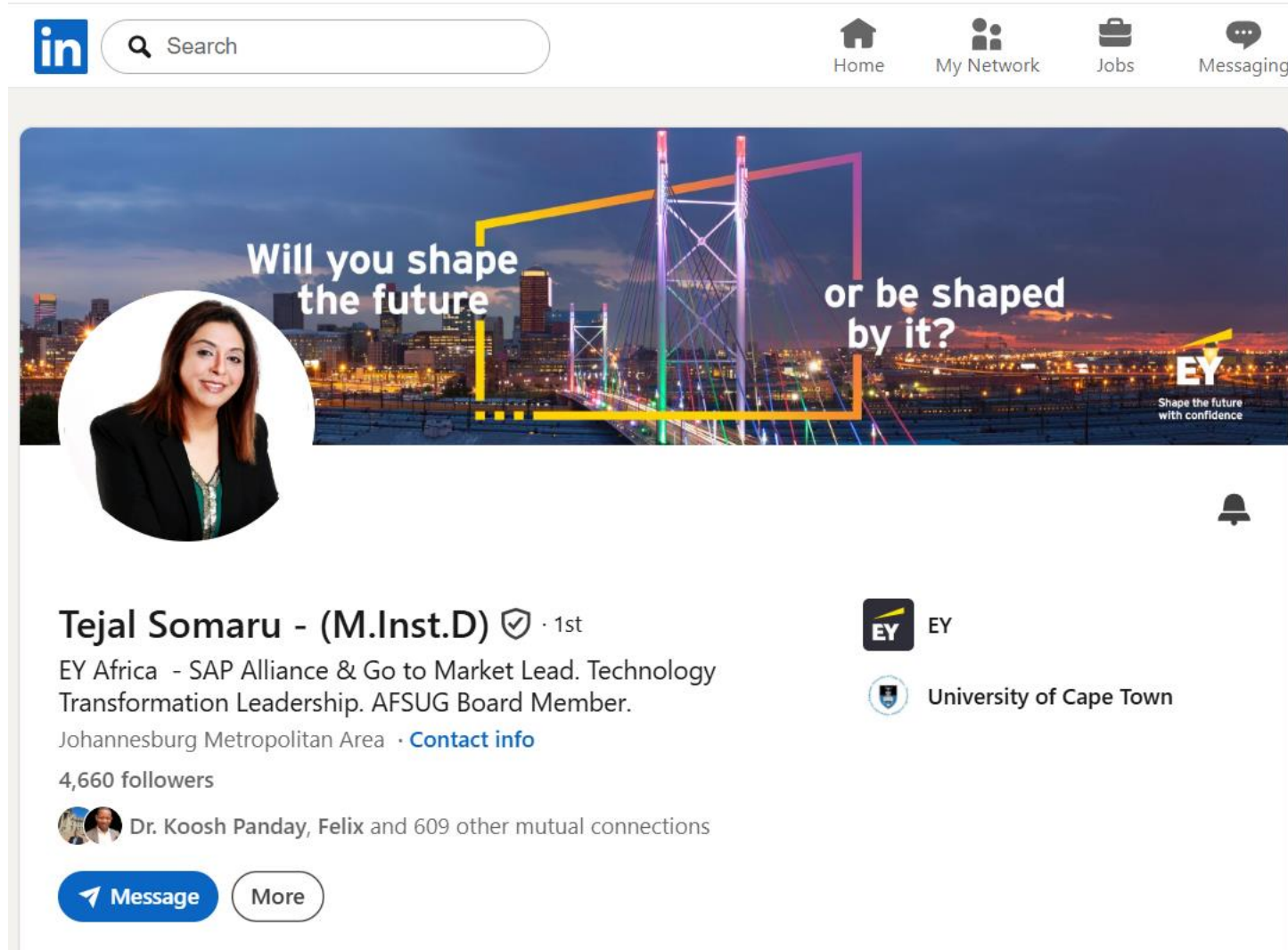
Play the long game

Relationships grow over time — focus on trust, not instant results.

Connect.Create.Collaborate.

Connect.Create.Collaborate.

LinkedIn and Digital Footprint Optimisation



The image shows a screenshot of a LinkedIn profile for Tejal Somaru. The header features the LinkedIn logo, a search bar, and navigation icons for Home, My Network, Jobs, and Messaging. The profile banner is a cityscape at night with a bridge, overlaid with the text "Will you shape the future or be shaped by it?" and the EY logo. The profile picture is a circular portrait of Tejal Somaru. Below the profile picture, the name "Tejal Somaru - (M.Inst.D)" is displayed with a verified badge and "1st" next to it. The bio states "EY Africa - SAP Alliance & Go to Market Lead. Technology Transformation Leadership. AFSUG Board Member." and "Johannesburg Metropolitan Area" with a "Contact info" link. The follower count is "4,660 followers". Below this, it says "Dr. Koosh Panday, Felix and 609 other mutual connections". At the bottom, there are "Message" and "More" buttons.

Tejal Somaru - (M.Inst.D) · 1st

EY Africa - SAP Alliance & Go to Market Lead. Technology Transformation Leadership. AFSUG Board Member.

Johannesburg Metropolitan Area · [Contact info](#)

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