

EDI Seed Fund: Project Summary Report

Please provide a summary of how your EDI Seed Fund money was spent and the impact and lessons learnt from your project.

Please note that summary reports will be published on the [EDI Seed Fund webpage](#), to help raise awareness and increase visibility of outcomes.

Deadline for submission: 31 July 2024

Maximum length: 2 pages

Please email any queries and your completed summary report to: [Associate Provosts \(EDI\)](#)

Applicant name(s): Dr Wayne Mitchell

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Project title: Meet the author' monthly book club sessions

Summary of project spend (please include how much funding granted and how much spent)

The project was awarded £1000 from the EDI seed fund and the final spend for the project was £1008.14. Below is the breakdown of how the monies were spent. The funds supported 7 Meet the Author events including a joint session with the Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies (AISS).

Date	Author	Book	Attendance	Catering Cost
Sept	Cynthia So	If You Still Recognize Me	10	114.15
Oct	Winston Trew	Rot at the Core	20	107.75
Nov	Ayesha Khan	Heart	20	114.51
Dec				
Jan	Linda Ince -Greenway	Hard Truths: Growing out of Adversity	20	112.1
Feb	Joseph Ovwemuwos	Love and Paradox	20	87.6
Mar	Siamak Herawi	Tali Girls	50	186.3
Apr				
May	Sai Pathmanathan	Chews Your Own Tasty Adventure	20	115.3
	Banner			154.43
	Miscellaneous			16
	Totals			1008.14

Summary of project achievements and impacts:

Imperial As One's 'Meet the Author' embarked on a literary journey of discovery. Specifically, where we found ourselves laughing, grieving, relishing, learning, and celebrating with our diverse authors with their different backgrounds and experiences. Each author presented their personal stories and how particular moments in their lives helped them grow and changed their lives forever.

The Key Objectives of the 'Meet the Author Sessions' were to:

- Introduce authors from diverse backgrounds and their books, achievements, lessons learnt from their experience.
- Drive audience involvement, dialogue and learning of different avenues of experiences and teachings.
- **Promote Imperial** Colleges diversity program in integrating diversity in the UK higher education system.

Our pilot event saw **Simon Hudson** describe his efforts in putting together "History Through the Black Experience," a two-part series that displays the stories of so many monumental Black experiences across a calendar year. Simon's knowledge exuberated in the room as you could hear the passion and strength of his work and impact. At a young age Simon realized how his identity impacted him and the wider society. Simon used his intelligence and driven mindset to make it a purpose to recognize the black identity and successes by writing about their impact and celebrating their achievements. The books are thought provoking and the knowledge is immense.

Cynthia So, outlined the development of creative ideas framing the stories and gave a behind-the-scenes insight into world of publishing their book, 'If You Still Recognize Me'. Cynthia's spoke the genre of young adult-fiction and the process of writing an intersectional book.

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Winston Trew's story is one to be heard. Wrongfully convicted at the age of 19, Winston passionate narrative of his 47 years fight for justice and clearing his name. His persistence, commitment, and courage to stand against injustice through the overwhelming adversity was captivating and inspiring. Winston is now a resource for many who are going through similar injustices and his work will continue far beyond our times. To find out more, watch [Winston's Belonging Interview](#).

Ayesha Khan showed us how she was a 'beautiful and old soul' in the words captured in her book, Heart. Her charisma captures the room, her connection starts with a shy pretense and quickly overtakes the enthralled audience. Self-conscious but free, young but old, serious but playful all in one, while telling us about how she came to create "Heart: A Journey Through Love." While Ayesha has her MSc in Cancer from UCL, her artistic side is illuminated in her personality and book of poems which guides the reader through love, pain, and everything in between.

Dr Lynda Ince-Greenaway and her book 'Hard Truths: Growth through Adversity' tells her remarkable journey towards healing and resilience. Hard Truth is a compelling and dynamic story of triumph over adversity, progress over brokenness and success over misfortune. It is written for audiences everywhere, for people of diverse cultural groups and for people of all faiths and ages.

Joseph Ovwemuvmose book of poems, "[Love and Paradox](#)." From a poor village without electricity to starting his own publishing company while getting his PhD in Physics, Joseph Ovwemuvmose has seen and done more in his young life than many of us could ever imagine to. His stories of getting locked in a library because of his curiosity, to not conforming to the British accent are all moments captured in his extraordinary work poems in "Love and Paradox." Joseph's "Meet the Author" session left us inspired by his courage, tenacity, and genuine love for life. His poems reflect the nature of transition, grief, racism, love, and much more. With such incredible writing and passion, it's certain that Joe will increase his already growing impact in the world and we were honored to have him as our guest for [Meet the Author!](#)

In March 2024, Imperial As One hosted our first collaboration event with the [Afghan Institute for Strategic Studies for a book launch for "Tali Girls"](#) written by well-known author Saimak Herawi. The event had panelists speaking about the book, poetry readings, and words from Mr. Herawi about the book and his writing. Exploring the journey of different women from in Afghan mountain village under Taliban rule. Their experiences in what has become of Afghanistan today. It certainly is a book that you cannot put down once you start reading it. We were thrilled to host the group and look forward to more collaboration sessions with other institutions.

In our final "Meet the Author" session, former neuroscientist Sai Pathmanathan highlighted the importance of making science fun and accessible. Sai's outreach programmes help disadvantaged schools creatively engage with the science using food, health and the environment. Her current projects with Key Stage 2 children (7-11 year olds) focus on the science behind cooking and baking. Her two books, "Chews Your Own Tasty Adventure" and "Utterly Jarvellous," plus many resources that are helping children, families and communities across the UK better understand various topics in science and how to lead healthier lifestyles.

This is just the beginning for Imperial As One's "Meet the Author" series. The impact of hearing from such a diverse range of authors sharing their life experiences, helping others to gain insight into cultures and ideas that help to shape and enrich our community. We intend to continue to host the Meet the Author series with a focus on provide a platform for different viewpoints and narratives to be shared with the Imperial community. Through sharing, we gain better understanding and hope to make our community a more inclusive and welcoming environment to work and study.