

Homerton Changemakers Catalyst Fund Development Day 2024

Date: Wednesday 6th March 2024, 15:30 - 20:00

Venue: Fellows' Dining Room (for Registration and Refreshments)

Fellows' Auditorium (for the talks)

Agenda

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| 15:30 - 16:00 | Registration over tea and coffee |
| 16:00 - 16:10 | Welcome from Dr Wood, Academic Director, Homerton Changemakers |
| 16:10 - 16:25 | Kärt Tomberg, Academic Turned Entrepreneur, CEO of ExpressionEdits
<i>Title: Chance favours the prepared mind</i> |
| 16:25 - 16:40 | Abiel Ma, CEO of Vuala (former Catalyst Fund Winner)
& Thomas Bernaudon (Founder CEO/Entrepreneur)
<i>Title: Pitching 101: from a room of 5 to a stadium of 500</i> |
| 16:40 - 16:55 | Ed Klinger, CEO of Flock /Alumnus of Homerton College
<i>Title: Mission Driven: How to build a start-up with a bigger picture in mind</i> |
| 16:55 - 17:15 | Q&A with all speakers |
| 17:15 - 17:25 | Comfort Break |
| 17:30 - 17:45 | Prof Gary Peckham, Pro Vice Chancellor (Student Enterprise & Entrepreneurship, ARU)
<i>Title: Universities Challenged: Delivering an inclusive entrepreneurial opportunity</i> |
| 17:45 - 18:00 | Emily Arnold, Investment Analyst (Social Ventures), Cambridge Enterprise ,
University of Cambridge
<i>Title: Defining social ventures – how business model and mission collide</i> |
| 18:00 - 18:10 | Dr Alison Wood, Director of Homerton Changemakers
<i>Regenerative innovation: old knowledge, new tech</i> |
| 18:10 - 18:30 | Q&A with all speakers |
| 18:30 - 18:45 | Dr Soraya Jones - Further Info about the Catalyst Fund
One minute pitch from students |
| 18:45 - 20:00 | Networking over Pizza & Beer |

Speakers

Emily Arnold, Investment Analyst, [Cambridge Enterprise](#), University of Cambridge

Emily Arnold is an associate at Cambridge Enterprise Seed Fund developing their capacity to invest and support social ventures. Before this, she worked in the U.S. as a consultant across entrepreneurial ecosystems, helping start-ups raise capital, advising the launch of several accelerators, and supporting a first-time fund secure their first \$10M. She holds an MPhil in Development Studies from the University of Cambridge and a BA in English and Environmental Science from the University of Georgetown.

Thomas Bernaudon, Founder CEO/Entrepreneur

Thomas is the Founder and CEO of a military technology start-up. Thomas founded his venture during his final year of undergraduate studies. Within 2-3 years, it quickly became a thriving business with strong traction. The company now has a talented team of 8 specialists, is supported by leading partners and continues to expand globally. As an emerging venture standing at the forefront of technological advancement in the defence domain, the company recently unveiled a ground-breaking new technological weapon poised to reshape modern military operations.

Yet Thomas is driven by more than business metrics alone. As a student-entrepreneur guided by strong ethical principles, he envisions technology and entrepreneurship as powerful tools to create a more just, equitable world. Thomas recognizes that with advanced innovation comes responsibility. He aims to steer his company's defence technologies toward moral ends that uphold humanitarian values. Thomas is a proud Homerton Changemaker Ambassador."

Dr Soraya Jones, [Director of Engagement/Operations, Homerton Changemakers](#)

Soraya is driven by her passion to promote innovation, diversity and entrepreneurship, especially amongst the next generation. She feels privileged to be involved with the visionary Homerton Changemakers Programme where she is currently the Director of Engagement & Operations. She is also an Associate Fellow of the College. In Mar 2023, she was appointed as the Royal Society Entrepreneur in Residence (hosted by the University of East Anglia).

After many years as part of the senior leadership team of Tribal Group Plc, Soraya became the first CEO of Cambridge Wireless (CW) from 2007 to 2015, where she was successful in growing the business from a one-person company to a membership cluster of over 425 companies and 20 industry-focused Special Interest Groups Forums, making it one of the premier tech clusters in the UK. She stepped down in 2015 to pursue other ventures including becoming an entrepreneur-in-residence at St. John's Innovation Centre, Innovation Ambassador for the Bradfield Centre and setting up her own consultancy business. She sits on various Advisory boards. Born in Malaysia, Soraya holds BSc and MSc degrees from Indiana University, USA, and a PhD from the University of Cambridge (Education).

Ed Klinger, CEO of [Flock](#) /Alumnus of Homerton College

Ed is the CEO of Flock, a fully digital insurance company for commercial motor fleets. Flock is on a mission to make the world quantifiably safer. With Flock, safer fleets pay less. Hundreds of companies (like Jaguar Land Rover and Virtuo) trust Flock to protect their vehicles and drivers, with connected insurance that enables and incentivises safer driving. Flock recently raised a \$38M Series B fundraise led by Octopus Ventures. Ed graduated from Oxford (M. Eng, Engineering, Economics and Management) where he specialised in High-Intensity Focused Ultrasound (HIFU). He subsequently graduated from Cambridge University (M.Phil., Technology Policy), where he published papers on the opportunities and risks associated with autonomous vehicles.

Abiel Ma, CEO of [Vuala](#)

Abiel is the CEO and Co-founder of Vuala, a bio-engineering start-up making food waste recycling easy. He founded Vuala during his 2nd year at Homerton College, Cambridge. In 2 years, the company has grown to a team of 7; running its own manufacturing site and logistics channel in London, producing its product: Vuala X1 locally in the UK. Vuala is supported by the University of Cambridge, HSBC, Cambridge Science Park, Octopus Group, Bloomberg, Mayer Brown, Millennium Hotels & Resorts Group and InnovateUK, piloting its technology in 10 sites across London and Cambridge. Vuala was recently showcased at COP28 in Dubai, and the company is set to expand its operations into multiple landmark locations, including a trial installation at Heathrow Airport.

Abiel is a proud Homerton Changemaker Ambassador.

Prof Gary Peckham, Pro Vice Chancellor (Student Enterprise & Entrepreneurship), [ARU](#)

Prof. Gary Packham took up the new strategic role of Pro Vice Chancellor (PVC) for Student Enterprise and Entrepreneurship at Anglia Ruskin University (ARU) in September 2022. He leads the development and implementation of an ambitious programme to achieve a step change in the University's support of student enterprise and entrepreneurship across education and research.

He has led and managed a wide range of research and business engagement projects working for organisations such as the European Commission, Belgian Science and Policy Office, Welsh Government, Sector Skills Council and the Federation of Small Businesses. He has published widely in international peer reviewed journals in subjects such as economic development policy, entrepreneurship education and small business management and strategy.

Kärt Tomberg, Academic Turned Entrepreneur, CEO of [ExpressionEdits](#)

Kärt Tomberg's career journey uniquely blends deep scientific understanding with the drive to push beyond known frontiers. During her master's studies and her time at a small biotech company in her native Estonia, Kärt realised the stark difference between utilising existing knowledge and pioneering new discoveries. This led her to a PhD at the University of Michigan, diving deep into genetic research.

At the University of Cambridge in Prof. Allan Bradley's lab, during the COVID-19 pandemic, she seized the opportunity to innovate. This led to the formation of ExpressionEdits, a company she co-founded and now leads as CEO. ExpressionEdits is pioneering in the field of biotechnology, with a focus on redesigning protein expression from scratch. The company's goal is to produce therapeutic proteins that are currently unachievable, pushing the boundaries of what's possible in biotechnological innovation.

Dr Alison Wood, Academic Director, [Homerton Changemakers](#)

Alison is an academic, intrapreneur, & founder of Homerton's pioneering, co-curricular programme Changemakers, equipping students to be wise agents of change in complex times. Her work combines two decades of experience building major cross-sector and cross-disciplinary research initiatives (from medicine to cultural studies to research leadership) with a research career in the history - and future - of intellectual institutions. Right now, she's extremely focused on helping shift Universities towards more courageous, apt action in the face of climate collapse and geo-political crisis.

Australian born and bred Alison holds degrees in English & History from the University of Adelaide, and a PhD from King's College London (about a C19th priest who became a Darwinist and taxonomist: and about how once-radical ideas become normal). She's worked in 7 different disciplines; spent 10 years

as a musician; and has long-standing interests in regenerative thinking, permaculture, eco-leadership, biophilic education, and institutional transformation.

Organiser

Homerton Changemakers - www.homerton.cam.ac.uk/homerton-changemakers

Cambridge University students get an amazing degree –Homerton Changemakers equips these students with skills & perspectives beyond their degrees to become wise change-agents amidst complexity, challenge & disruption. The programme is unique to Homerton, teaching students the tools for 21st leadership & living, and to make a profound difference for good.

Supporter

Cambridge Wireless (CW) - www.cambridgewireless.co.uk

CW is the leading international community for companies involved in the research, development and application of wireless and mobile, internet, semiconductor and software technologies. With an active community of over 1000 technology companies ranging from major network operators and device manufacturers to innovative start-ups and universities. CW stimulates debate and collaboration, harnesses and shares knowledge, and helps to build connections between academia and industry. CW's Special Interest Groups provide its members with a dynamic forum where they can network with their peers, track the latest technology trends and business developments and position their organisations in key market sectors. CW also organises major conferences and along with other high-quality industry networking events and dinners. With headquarters at the heart of Cambridge, UK, CW partners with other international industry clusters and organisations to extend its reach and remain at the forefront of global developments and business opportunities.