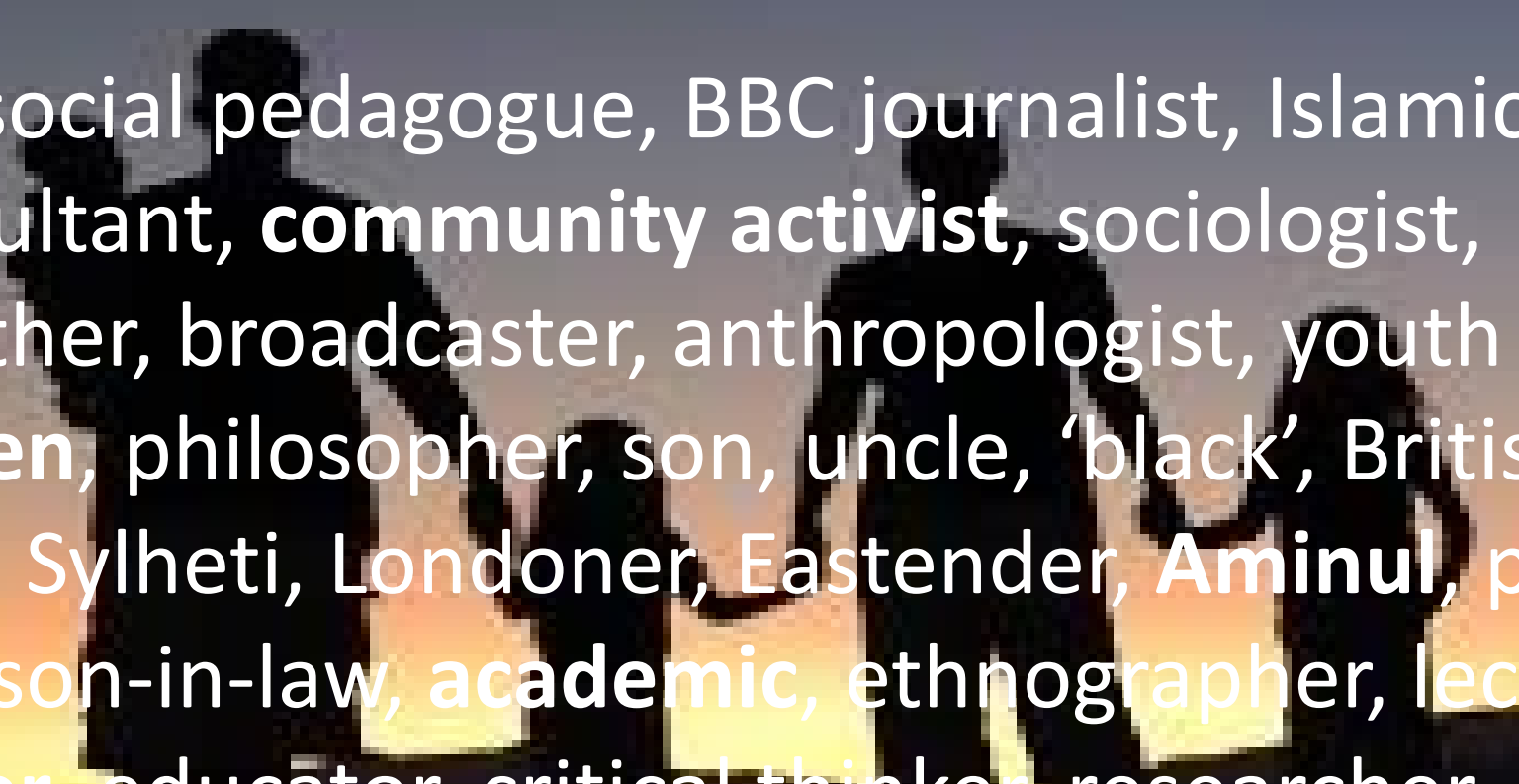


Aminul Hoque

My Story

A silhouette of a family of four walking away from the viewer on a beach at sunset. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange and yellow glow that reflects on the water. The family consists of a man, a woman, and two children. The man is on the left, the woman is on the right, and the two children are in the middle. The background is a gradient of blue and purple, suggesting a clear evening sky.

Immigrant, social pedagogue, BBC journalist, Islamic expert, consultant, **community activist**, sociologist, teacher, brother, broadcaster, anthropologist, youth worker, **citizen**, philosopher, son, uncle, 'black', British, Bangladeshi, Sylheti, Londoner, Eastender, **Aminul**, public intellectual, son-in-law, **academic**, ethnographer, lecturer, author, **father**, educator, critical thinker, researcher, **footballer**, gardener, feminist, 'big kid', friend, 'Dr', Man United fan, **husband**...

About me

Dr Aminul Hoque MBE, @BrIslam2015

Academic/ writer/ author/ broadcaster/ journalist

Lecturer/ researcher in Education, Goldsmiths College

PhD – 2011

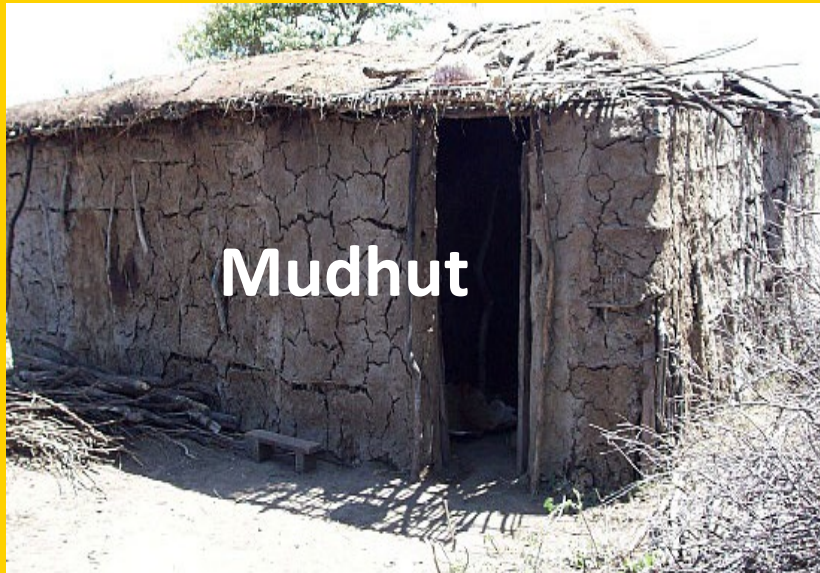
Key research interests: identity, youth cultures, multiculturalism, race, migration studies, Islamic feminism

Key publications: *British-Islamic Identity: Third Generation Bangladeshis from East London* (2015)

Presenter for *A Very British History: British Bangladeshis*, BBC4, Feb 2020

Londoner, dad, gardener, football-mad





Mudhut



Estate life



'white'
Sussex



Intrepid traveller



Suburbia

Goldsmiths
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON



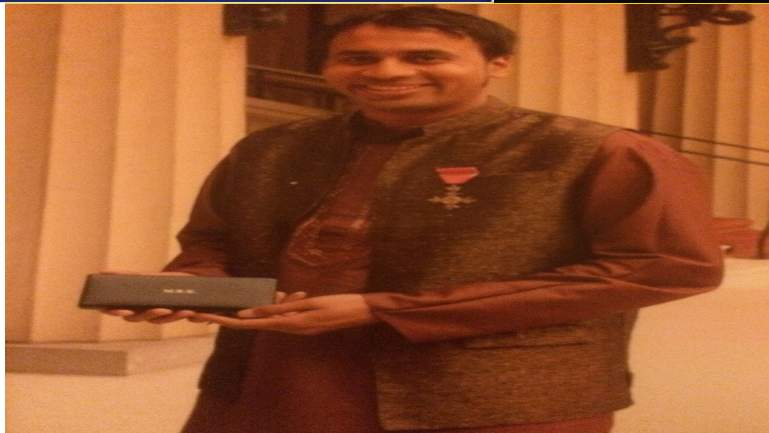
THE  INDEPENDENT

theguardian

**BRITISH-ISLAMIC
IDENTITY:** THIRD GENERATION
BANGLADESHIS FROM
EAST LONDON
AMINUL HOQUE



 ROYAL
MUSEUMS
GREENWICH





A Very British History: British Bangladeshis, BBC4, Feb 2020

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p082bnt8>



<https://vimeo.com/460112894/51e1267652>

Searching for Secrets: London, Smithsonian Channel, June 2021



- The hidden stories from the seamstresses
- Meeting and conversing with so many community heroes and inspirational role models
- Relevant also in this current geo-politics of heightened xenophobia, rise of populist nationalism and a climate of hate towards minority communities, as it highlights that migrant (Bangladeshi) communities are just normal, hard-working folk and have hopes, desires, anxieties and aspirations - just like everyone else! #BLM
- Important that we don't forget the stories and also capture these stories of our forefathers/ ancestors. The doc provided a space to my father to tell **his** story and then being able to retell this story to a mass audience
- Has brought positive attention to our wonderful brilliant Bangladeshi community
- Has started many household conversations
- Going back to the country of my birth with my own children, and then hearing about their reflections and experiences
- #Emotional

-Social media was 'buzzing'

-Lots of emails/ letters from people sharing their personal stories of migration

Critical response and reception

'Pick of the day' @Telegraph, @guardian, @thetimes

'Critic's choice' @theipaper

Television & radio

Last night on television Anita Singh

A soul-stirring personal history of immigration



London life: Aminul Hoque and his father, Shamsul, in A Very British History

Where is home? For many of us it is the place we live now, where we grew up, and perhaps a faraway place where we have rarely or not been. But where are family roots? For Aminul Hoque, an academic and presenter of this episode of *A Very British History* (BBC Four), it is the British Isles. Like many, it is the country he chose with his wife and three children. It is also a country where he spent his childhood playing football and trying not to get his head kicked in on factory floors in east London. And it is Bangladesh, the country where he was born and lived for nearly three years before coming to Britain. But which counts a strong emotional pull?

This engaging BBC Four series has previously examined Britain's Irish and Chinese diasporas. Like the Channel 4 series *My Chinese Journey* (2017), it takes us back to the roots of a young man's family. Hoque's story began with his father, who came to the UK to work in a factory in 1950 in the East End, where he spent his childhood playing football and trying not to get his head kicked in on factory floors in east London. And it is Bangladesh, the country where he was born and lived for nearly three years before coming to Britain. But which counts a strong emotional pull?

searched tirelessly in a Yorkshire cotton mill before moving to London, where he found employment in the Spitalfields area.

One of the strengths of the series is the archive footage, which here shows an immigrant's period of social change. We saw the men at work in garment factories. I would have loved the programme-makers to have looked at the well-known garment workers who lived in the East End, where he spent his childhood playing football and trying not to get his head kicked in on factory floors in east London. And it is Bangladesh, the country where he was born and lived for nearly three years before coming to Britain. But which counts a strong emotional pull?

At the heart of the film was Hoque's own family story. The early scenes featuring him as a teenager when he first arrived in the UK are particularly poignant. He begins talking about his life, and the fact was captured, in a short scene, the older man was performing the same function as the well-known garment workers who lived in the East End, where he spent his childhood playing football and trying not to get his head kicked in on factory floors in east London. And it is Bangladesh, the country where he was born and lived for nearly three years before coming to Britain. But which counts a strong emotional pull?

television & radio

I'm hooked on this gentle, funny refugee story

Carol Midgley TV review



Home Channel 4 **A Very British History** BBC Four

Two programmes about "immigration" but different takes. Home, the comedy about a British family who found a Syrian refugee in the hood of their car and befriended him, is obviously not a documentary. Yet it can make a profound point about racism and bigotry in one 60-second scene when it might take a factual programme 20 minutes.

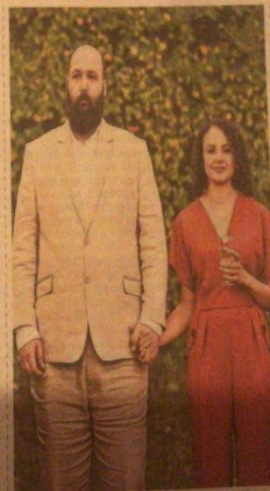
If you haven't yet caught up with it, please know that you are denying yourself a quiet classic. Because it

walks a seemingly impossible tightrope with dignity. It is not perfect, but it is frequently poignant without being sentimental, political without being sermonising and satirical without being cruel. And it is consistently funny. Not always laugh out loud, mind, but quietly so. That is a lot to pull off.

Last week it took an ugly scene in which a woman on a bus scarily berated a man for not speaking English ("You're in our country now") and defused it into pure comedy. This week Sami (Youssef Kerkour) bought new clothes from a charity shop where the woman behind the counter had Syrian refugee posters on the wall, yet was cruel and judgemental to his host Katy (Rebekah Staton).

Sami, bearded, lonely and homeless, had registered with a GP and asked the nurse for a date while trying to shield the stool sample in his hand. She liked him because she had seen him handle the racist incident on the bus the week before. It turned something depressing into something life-affirming. You don't often see that in a half-hour comedy.

A Very British History was not about refugees, but did address the racism that Bangladeshi people faced when they came to Britain in the 1960s and 1970s for work. Aminul Hoque, a university academic who arrived here in 1980 aged three to join



Youssef Kerkour as Sami and Carvee Peer as Naomi in Home

his father, who had gone abroad to work in east London's rag trade and send money home to his family, chose the archive footage well.

It showed in grainy imagery the angry National Front marches, the breakers windows, the abuse and the man beaten up just for being Bangladeshi. When another man, Atah Ali, was stabbed to death in 1978 it outlined the Bangladeshi community to see and refuse to be treated like lesser citizens. Hoque took his three daughters back to Sylhet province in Bangladesh to show where he had come from and to urge them to maintain links, and you could see how important it was to him.

It wasn't just shabby racists with placards that the 1970s Bangladeshi had to contend with. Equally instructive was that footage in which a prison housing officer in pinstripes and his much blue eyebrows looked at a young Bangladeshi worker seeking social housing as if he were something she had trodden in. She spoke to him as if he were an irritant, a nuisance, almost a sitcom character, possibly, but he was taken in by a young white woman living near Brick Lane in London and they were still friends. "I survived having you," she told him. "Thank you," he said. In this small, individual case at least, history had prevailed.


Wednesday

Pick of the Day A Very British History

Academic Aminul Hoque has spent his career working on the intersections of immigrant identity and in this sensitive film, he recounts his experiences growing up as a Bangladeshi-born child in 1980s east London and learning about his father's own journey – like many other Bengalis of his generation – to England in the 60s. Now taking his own children back to Bangladesh, Hoque questions the effects generational assimilation has had on their sense of what constitutes home.



Saving Lives at Sea BBC Two, 8pm
Telling the extraordinary story of the nationwide volunteers who make up the

A stack of books with an open book in the foreground. The pages are yellowed and the book is slightly out of focus, suggesting a library or a collection of literature.

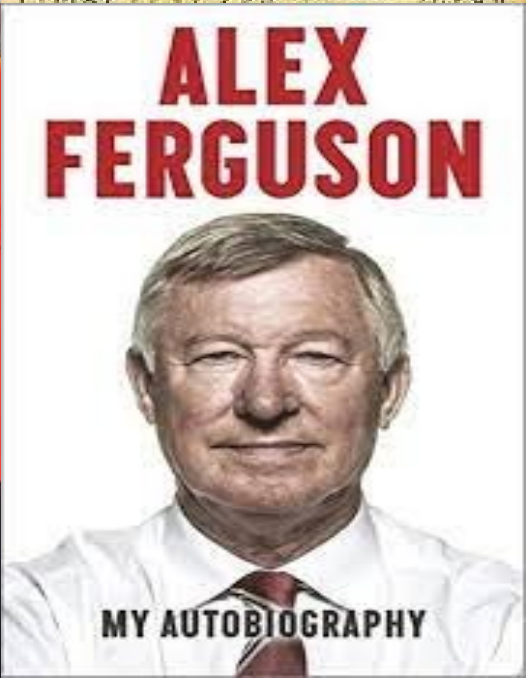
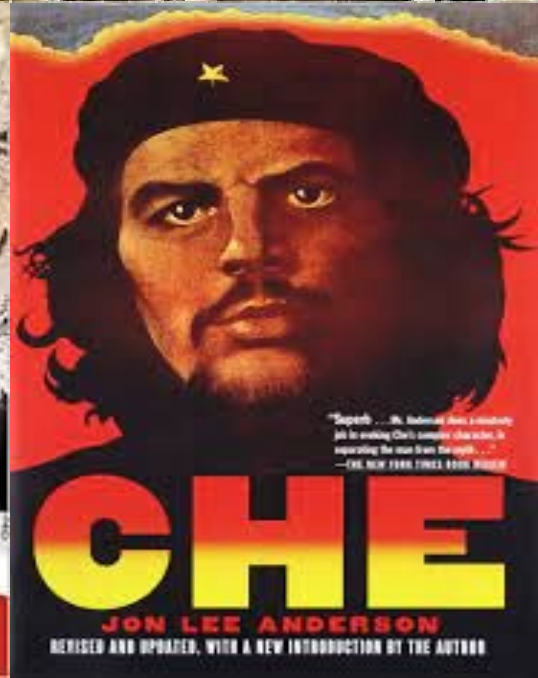
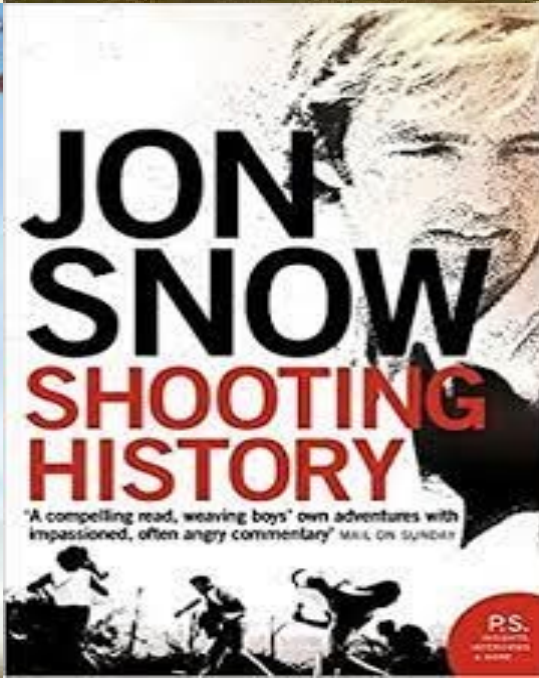
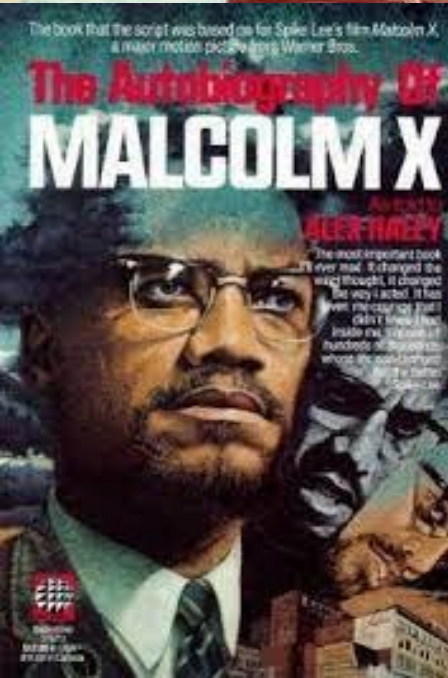
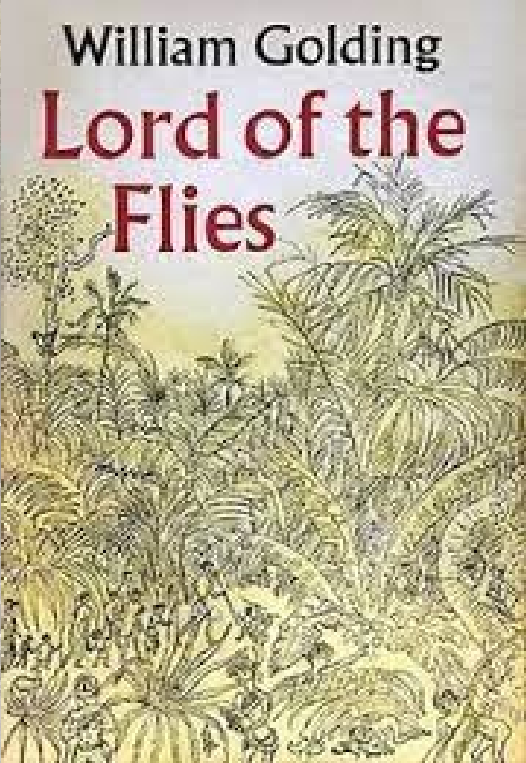
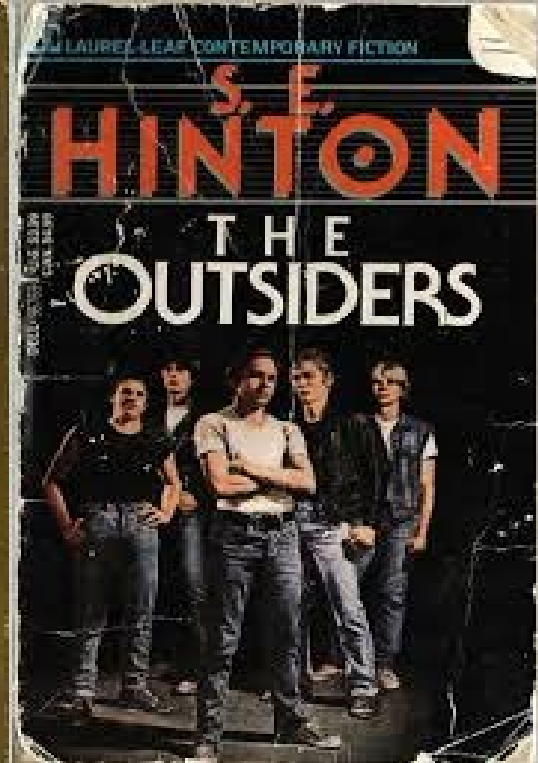
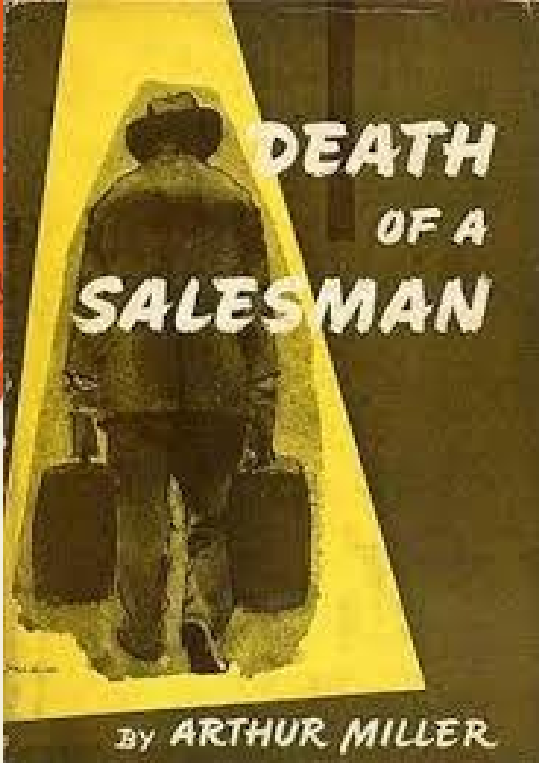
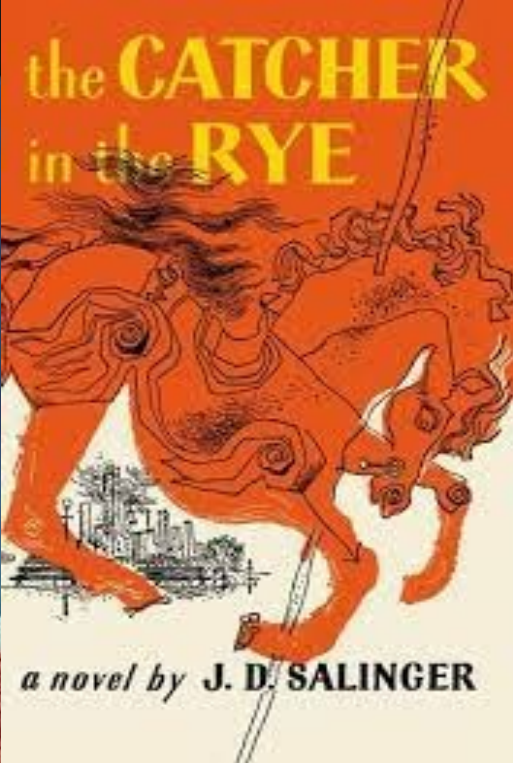
Books...
Literature....
Reading...
Travelling...

A black and white photograph of Michael Jordan in a celebratory pose, shouting with his arms raised. He is wearing a basketball jersey and a watch on his left wrist.

**I'VE ALWAYS BELIEVED
THAT IF YOU PUT IN THE
WORK, THE RESULTS WILL
COME.**

-Michael Jordan-

RICHANDFAMOUSQUOTES.TUMBLR.COM



#AskQuestions

#Travel

#BroadenYourHorizons

#Watch&ReadTheNews

#PositiveIdentity

#Confidence

#The power of networking

#Listen, be humble, reflect, learn

Good luck.

All the best.

Stay in touch

E: a.hoque@gold.ac.uk

Twitter: [@BrIslam2015](https://twitter.com/BrIslam2015)

Questions?