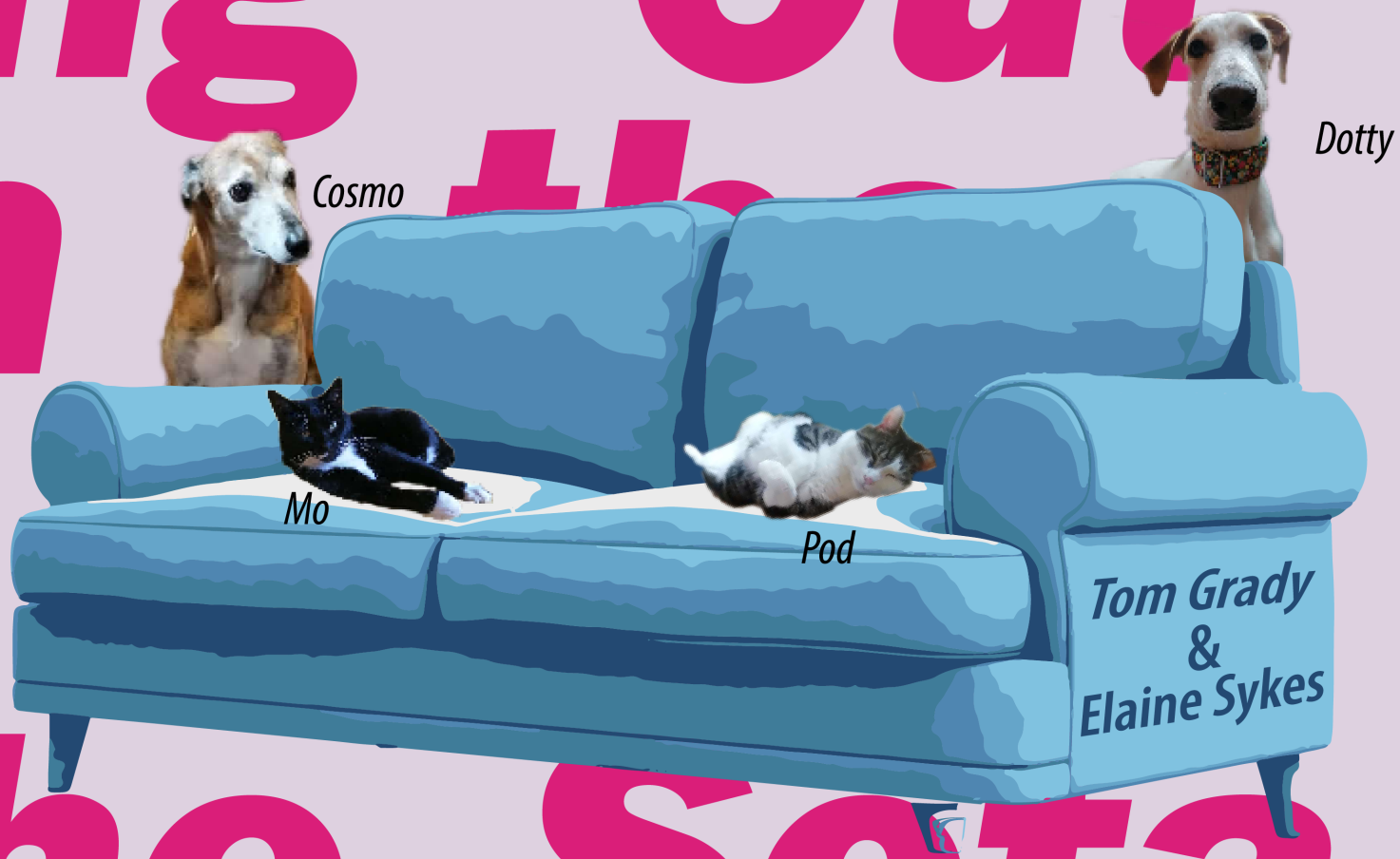
Getting Out From Back of the Sofa



(Or, How Can We Achieve Sustainable Funding for Open Access Books?)

copim

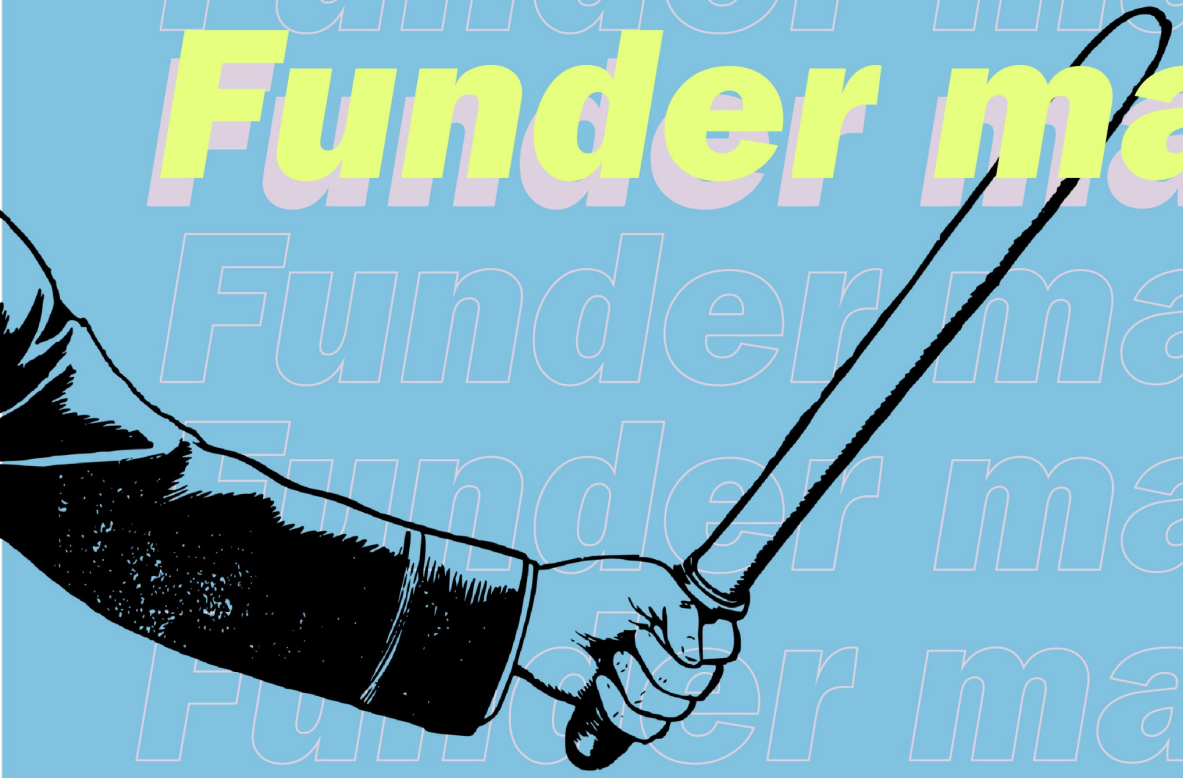
Community-led Open Publication Infrastructures for Monographs

Boop

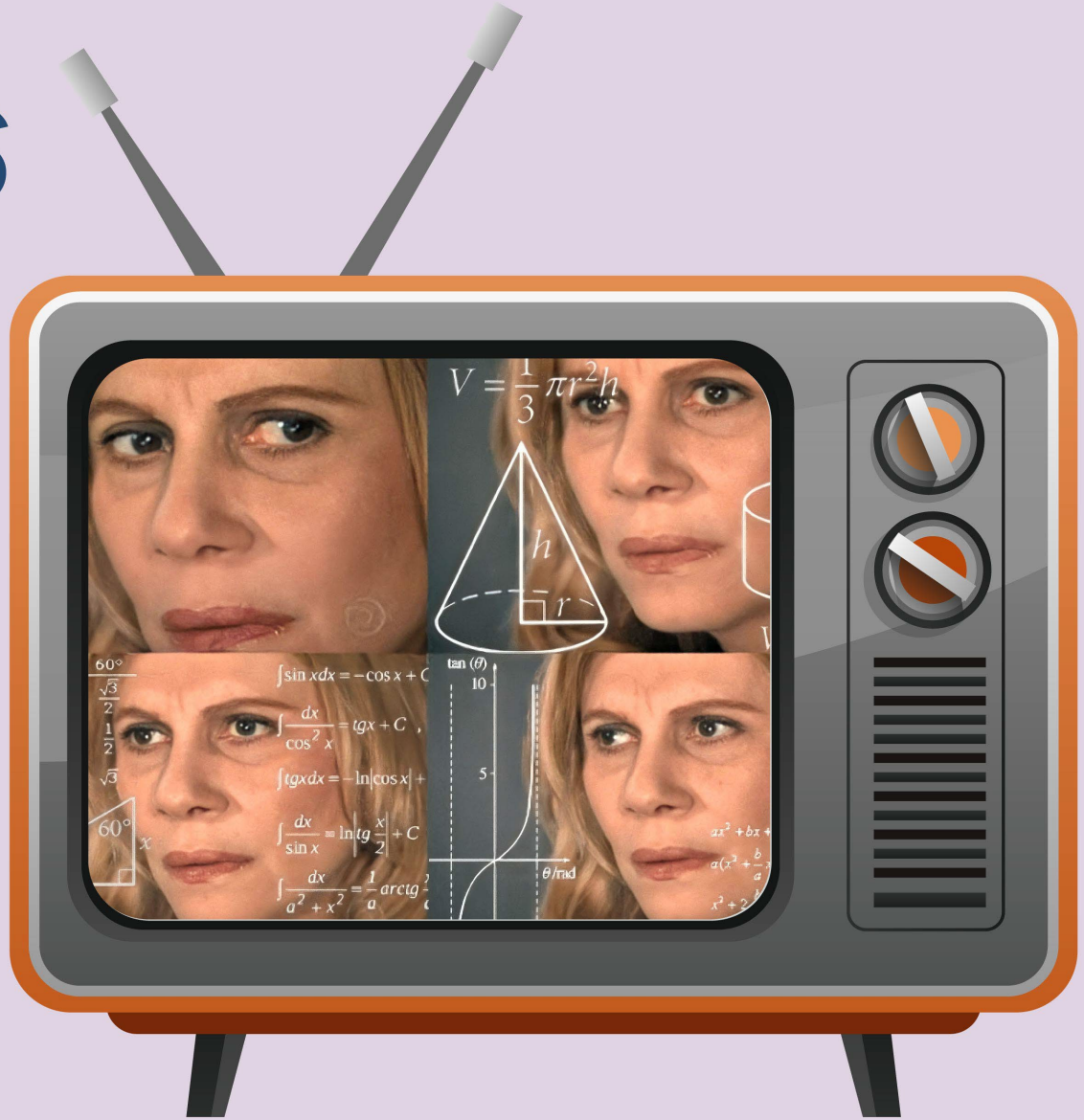
WHY OA FOR MONOGRAPHS?

Korky

Funder mandates



Funding monographs with BPCs alone...



$1.06 billion in publication fees to 5 publishers between 2015 and 2018

Quantitative Science Studies,
Vol 4 Issue 4, 2023,
MIT Press Direct

BILLIONAIRE

Audience Poll

What can you buy with $1.06 billion USD?

1. Private island in Bahamas

3. Space station holiday

2. Balmoral Castle

4. The White House

BILLIONAIRE

Audience Poll

ANSWERS

1. Private island in Bahamas

3. Space station holiday

2. Balmoral Castle

4. The White House

A proliferation of Funding Models

three (sort of) strata

Boots

copim

Highlighting two models

OpenBook Collective

OPENING

THE FUTURE

Paying £11,000 for a single BPC

Paying £350 for a year's access to 50 books

OTF

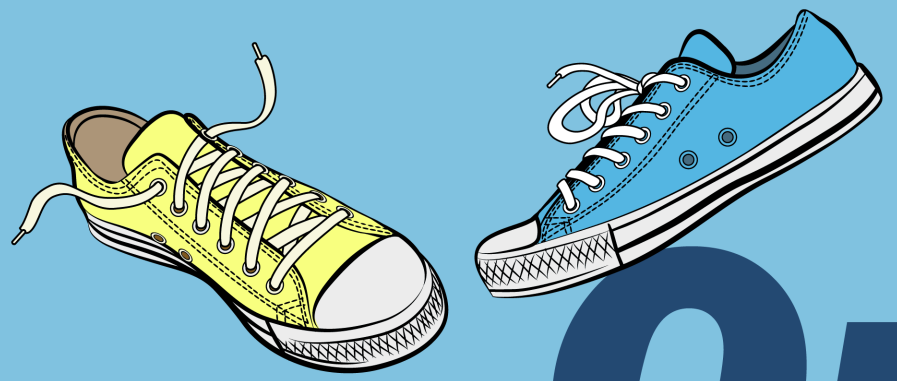
Paying £11,000 for a single BPC

Paying £350 for a year's access to 50 books

OTF

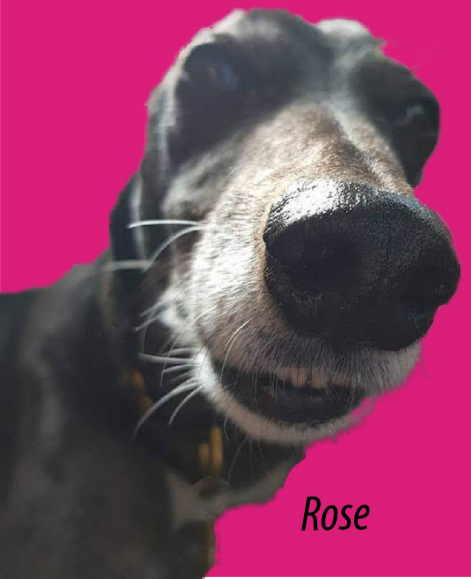
Perpetual access to those 50 books while simultaneously funding new OA books to be published

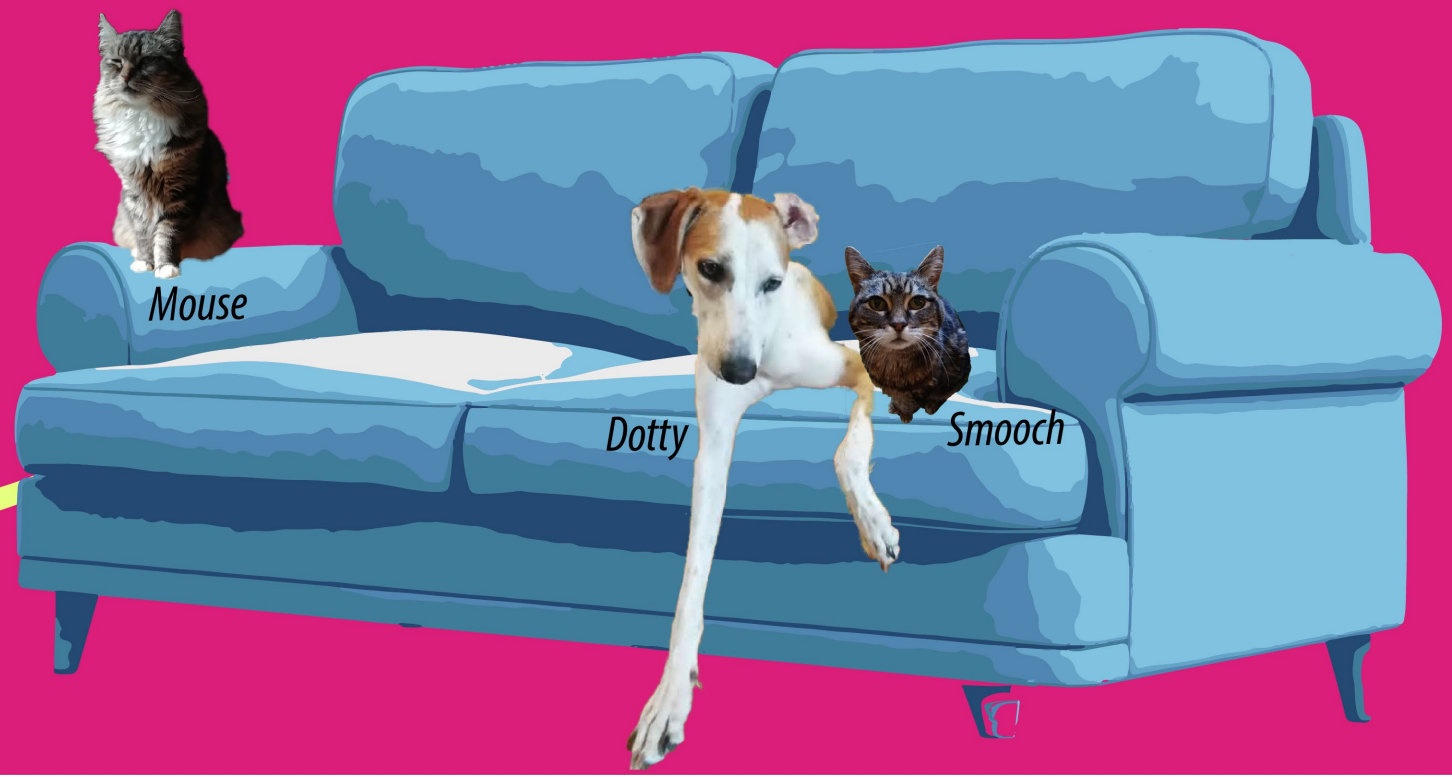
OTF



One size won’t fit all

So, how do we make OA monograph funding sustainable?





A closer look at some models

The only way is ethics

Prestige ECRs Trailblazers

Thank you for listening!

Questions?

Stay in touch

e.sykes4@lancaster.ac.uk

t.grady@bbk.ac.uk

@scholtom.bsky.social

@openingthefuture.bsky.social

@openbookcollective.bsky.social

@copim.bsky.social

@Thoth_metadata@hcommons.social

copim

Open Book Futures

Image credits

Blue sofa by Rawpixel.com

TV set & Fist both designed by Freepik.com

Who Wants to Be a Millionaire template, free to use, by Slide Chef

Sneakers & Gold Bars by macrovector on Freepik.com

Drake meme by imgflip.com

Diamond by pch.vector on Freepik.com

Clover by Starline on Freepik.com

Delorean flame trail by pngkey.com

Welcome to Essex by Ashley Dace on geograph.org.uk, CC BY-SA 2.0

All others from PowerPoint or Public Domain sources on Rawpixel.com

Cats & Dogs from private collection (Grady), used with permission

Relevant links for further reading/sources cited in the talks

https://copim.ac.uk

https://copim.pubpub.org/

The landmark 'Crossick Report', commissioned by the UK Government in 2015, has a very useful - and still relevant - section on scholarly monograph supply and demand in Section 3.3, p.21. See Crossick, G (2015). Monographs and open access. A report to HEFCE, http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/rereports/year/2015/monographs/

'Worst sellers: warning of existential crisis for academic books' Times Higher Ed, June 16, 2017
https://www.timeshighereducation.com/news/worst-sellers-warning-existential-crisis-academic-books

Lucraft, M. 2021, March 3, 'Open Access to academic books creates larger, more diverse and more equitable readerships', LSE Impact Blog

For a list of funder policies and mandates see Annex A: Overview of existing OA book policies of a subset of cOAlition S organisations
https://www.coalition-s.org/coalition-s-statement-on-open-access-for-academic-books/#Annex_A_Overview_of_existing_OA_book_policies_of_a_subset_of_cOAlition_S_organisations

A live QMU UCU page of all the redundancies, restructures, reorganisations, and closures taking place across the UK HEI sector at the moment https://qmucu.org/qmul-transformation/uk-he-shrinking/

On inequalities of the BPC model see: 'Open Access Monographs, Myths, Truths and Implications in the Wake of UKRI Open Access Policy' LIBER Quarterly, Vol 32, No. 1 (2022) https://liberquarterly.eu/article/view/11068

The future of humanities research work and OA monographs: Open access for books and monographs in the humanities is a difficult economic problem to solve. Professor Martin Eve in WonkHE, November 2020
https://wonkhe.com/blogs/the-future-of-humanities-research-work-and-oa-mongraphs/

Relevant links for further reading/sources cited in the talks

'The oligopoly's shift to open access: How the big five academic publishers profit from article processing charges' Quantitative Science Studies, MIT Press Direct, Vol 4 Issue 4, 2023: https://doi.org/10.1162/qss_a_00272

"10 Things $1 Billion Could Buy You" Nov. 28, 2023. Reader's Digest https://www.rd.com/list/what-can-a-billion-dollars-buy-you/

SPARC Unbundling Resource. This profile series seeks to support libraries that may consider unbundling from a journal package (or cancelling altogether) by sharing the increasing depth of experience that institutions have in pursuing this path. https://sparcopen.org/our-work/big-deal-knowledge-base/unbundling-profiles/

OA Books Toolkit: www.oabooks-toolkit.org/lifecycle/10944589-planning-funding/article/10432084-business-models-for-open-access-book-publishing

Jisc blog 'Balancing the Books' Nov 2022 https://research.jiscinvolve.org/wp/2022/11/29/balancing-the-books-part-1/

https://openbookcollective.org/

https://openingthefuture.net/

https://thoth.pub/

Lancaster University Library, Tom Morley, 'Making it possible and making it easy - Research Culture and Open Access Monographs' https://www.slideshare.net/slideshow/uksg-2024-making-it-possible-and-making-it-easy-research-culture-and-open-access-monographspdf/267265211

Lancaster University Library 'Trailblazers' initiative: https://portal.lancaster.ac.uk/ask/study/library/open-research/open-access/trailblazers-an-open-access-monograph-and-book-initiative-for-ecrs/