



OPPORTUNITY COLLABORATION

convene / connect / catalyze

2016 Syllabus

In a very busy world, time is a resource. There are only so many minutes in a day, so many days in a lifetime. Because of how power is distributed, those who have access to systematic power (due to race, class, gender, ability, age etc.) often are accorded more time. This shows up in who speaks longer and more often, who is expected to only speak when allowed, who is invited to speak, who isn't. It shows up in obvious and subtle ways. We ask you to pay attention to this dynamic in your time with us.

At Opportunity Collaboration, no one's voice or story is more (or less) valuable, necessary or important than anyone else's. This is why we don't have keynotes or "panels of experts." We know that in order to eradicate poverty we will need everyone, and no single one of us (or group of us) has the key. In our week together, you will have many opportunities to bring your story and thinking to the table, and to hear from many others. We hope that you will leave enriched by the conversations you will have with a multiplicity of leaders from all over the world.

In support of your learning and contributing, here are some readings and videos to spark your thinking and begin your experience at Opportunity Collaboration. They are intended to inform the conversations you will have while attending – perhaps in your Colloquium, your Conversations for Change, your Cluster-Forks or as you simply lie by the pool with fellow Delegates. They are offered in alphabetical order, in that they are all valuable, but none is more or less important than any of the others. We hope that they stimulate your thinking and open your heart.

Readings/Videos

[Aid, Africa, Corruption and Colonialism: An Honest Conversation](#) | Njoroge Kabugu, Jennifer Lentfer, Godifri Mutindi, Dr. Chris Etuka Obinawa, and Dr. Tererai Trent

[Being Counted – Funding for People with Disabilities](#) | Diana Samarasan

[Can we Shop to End Poverty?](#) | Ananya Roy

[Heropreneurship](#) | Daniela Papi

[How 26 Tweets Broke My Filter Bubble](#) | B.J. May

[Listenership: The Unfinished Social Entrepreneur](#) | Jonathan Lewis

[The Most Important Thing, and It's Almost a Secret](#) | Nicholas Kristof

[The Reductive Seduction of Other People's Problems](#) | Courtney Martin

[The Thriving World, The Wilting World and You](#) (on [video](#)) | Anand Giridharadas

Quotes

If you are coming to help us, you are wasting your time. If you are coming because you know that your liberation is bound up with ours - then let us work together.

– Achuar Tribe

In a country well governed, poverty is something to be ashamed of. In a country poorly governed, wealth is something to be ashamed of.

– Confucius

There is a vitality, a life force, an energy, a quickening, that is translated through you into action. And because there is only one of you in all time, this expression is unique. If you block it, it will never exist through any other medium and will be lost. The world will not have it. It is not your business to determine how good it is, nor how it compares with other expressions. It is your business to keep the channel open.

– Martha Graham

Leadership is the capacity to respond to what's needed in the moment.

– Mary McCleod Bethune

I slept and I dreamed that life is all joy. I woke and I saw that life is all service. I served and I saw that service is joy.

– Mother Teresa

Once poverty is gone, we'll need to build museums to display its horrors to future generations. They'll wonder why poverty continued so long in human society - how a few people could live in luxury while billions dwelt in misery, deprivation and despair.

– Muhammad Yunus

My leadership, as well as the leadership of other native women, is measured in the value it has for others in our communities, its relevance for whom it works. So words like community and concepts like “kinship” “grandma” and “aunt” are not antithetical to words like “leadership” and “power.” In fact, in our communities, I believe these words are the equivalent of it. Power belongs to those who give. Power belongs to those who give it away.

– Rayna Green