



OPPORTUNITY COLLABORATION

convene / connect / catalyze

2017 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 walk on the beach 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

[Design Education's Big Gap: Understanding the Role of Power](#) | George Aye

[Economics is a Form of Brain Damage](#) *video* | David Suzuki

[Excommunicate Me from the Church of Social Justice](#) | Frances Lee

[Global Extreme Poverty](#) | Esteban Ortiz-Ospina & Max Roser

[I've worked in foreign aid for 50 years – Trump is right to end it, even if his reasons are wrong](#) | Tom Dichter

[Let's Talk About My Money](#) | Sasha Rabsey

[The Nonprofit Starvation Cycle](#) | Ann Goggins Gregory & Don Howard

[Parables of Leadership](#) | W. Chan Kim & Renee Mauborgne

[The Prudent Woman](#) | Kelley Buhles & Leslie Christian

[When Families Lead Themselves Out of Poverty](#) | David Bornstein & Mauricio Lim Miller

Quotes

If you have come here to help me, you are wasting your time. But if you have come because you know that your liberation is bound up with mine - then let us work together.
– Lilla Watson

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

Overcoming poverty is not a task of charity, it is an act of justice. Like Slavery and Apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is man-made and it can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings.
– Nelson Mandela

In the choppy and sometimes horrifying seas that we now find ourselves in, it is humbling to realize that everything we may do brings forward or leaves behind the hopes, the hard work and “the brilliance of our ancestors.” And, that’s just about the part of our story that reaches back to the past. For we are the ancestors of our descendants, whether they be our biological progeny or just the generations that follow us. What we are willing to do and to be in these most perilous of times to find the tiny speck of land that is our collective humanity...well. Someday, epic stories will be told.
– Norma Wong Roshi

How concentrated has wealth become in the globalized modern world? Here’s one answer: just eight of the richest people on earth own as much combined wealth as half the human race. That’s a notable change from last year, when it was reckoned to take 62 of the superrich to match the assets of the 3.6 billion people in the poorer half of mankind. It is obscene for so much wealth to be held in the hands of so few when 1 in 10 people survive on less than \$2 a day. Inequality is trapping hundreds of millions in poverty; it is fracturing our societies and undermining democracy.
– Oxfam 2017 Briefing

True generosity is an offering; given freely and out of pure love. No strings attached. No expectations. Time and love are the most valuable possession you can share.
– Suze Orman