omprakash Wefacilitate relationships dialogue learning between socie change agents around the world.

SPOILER: not a flashy solution, not a widget to end poverty, not a buzzwordy facade, not a neocolonial impulse, not a voluntourist trap.

He is Omprakash.

In 2004, he inspired us to believe that positive social change begins with simple human relationships.

Since 2004, we have been dedicated to building mutually beneficial & educational relationships between grassroots social impact organizations -a.k.a. our Partners-

24.261

and volunteers, donors & classrooms around the world who can learn from & support their work.



Our network by the numbers: 44

167

\$12,629,538.02

The Challenge:

'Voluntourism' is a multi-billion dollar industry, but it is ethically- and pedagogically-bankrupt, shaped by distorted incentives, ethnocentric assumptions, and limited emphasis on substantive learning, reflection, and dialogue.





Annually, **voluntourism** is **1.6 million people** spending **\$2 billion USD**

NPR 2014

Analagous activities often not factored into those numbers:

-Gap Years -Service-Learning

-Volunteering Abroad -Int'l Service Trips

A Broken Industry

In the dominant paradigm, middlemen sell expensive 'placements' or

chaperoned tours – an inefficient & disempowering way of matching needs with assets. An

St John's - Receive Goldwary Con Refer Friends. Get \$10" 9-Day African Volunteering Trip and Safari -Zambia and Botswana 9-Day, 8-Night All-Inclusive Volunteering Trip in Zambia with Victoria Falls Getaways Officedor Buy! \$2,000 \$3,500 43% \$1,500 Buy it for a friend! Time Left To Buy 8 days 16:44:28 Over 30 bought imited quantity available The deal is on! on's getting personal. Send Elke 405 Click the hearts below to tell us the types of deals you W Asinchesive W Far & Away W Do-Good

Featured Deal All Deals Now! Deals

GROUPON

9-Day African Volunteering Trip and Safari

Students, universities, and parents struggle to gain or enable 'global experiences' in a way that is ethical, affordable & academically robust. And social change organizations in the

overemphasis is placed on 'making a difference' & 'changing the world.'

Grassroots Zambian Volunteering with Cultural and Nature What You Get 'Global South' struggle to retain their autonomy and mission coherence.

Misaligned **Stakeholders**

Omprakash **redefines this industry** through a variety of channels that engage all of those stakeholders:



Our network of curated Partners in 40+ countries are real social change orgs doing real social change work in their communities.



Omprakash EdGE is our state-of-theart, mobile-ready online learning platform for custom curricula, mentorship & critical dialogue.

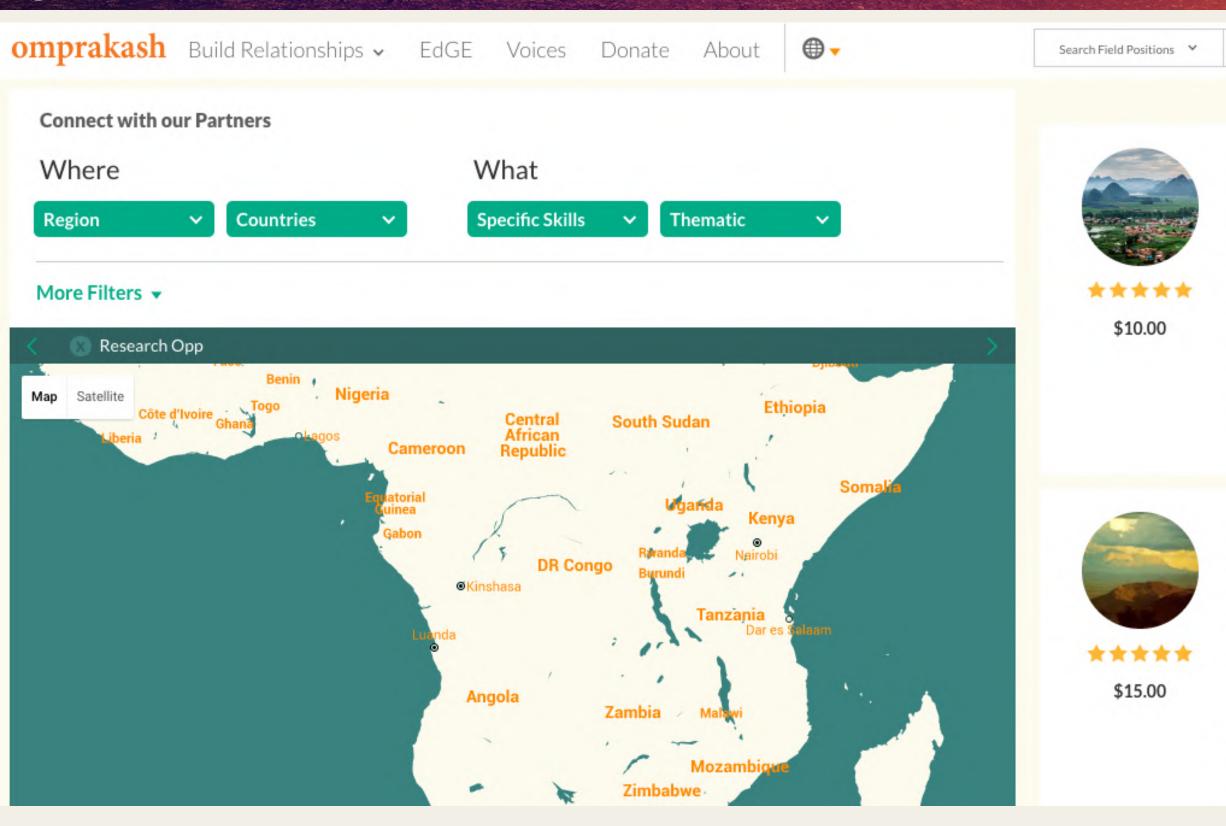


Global Dialogue is a professional forum for global dev and social change stakeholders. The Blog is an open mic for voices across the network.





Crowdfunding via Omprakash allows our Partners and EdGE volunteers to raise money and raise consciousness among a global donor base. **Our vetted Partners maintain** their own profiles on our site, and anybody can apply for their positions. We do not 'place' people. Partners autonomously decide which applicants to accept. The result = healthy relationships grounded in real dialogue rather than in a middleman's quest to sell 'placements.'



Location or Keyword



12 Results

Bright Generation Community Foundation

Zomba, Malawi



Umunthu Volunteer **Education Program Coordinator** Summer Camp Coordinator

+2 More

Art & Global Health Center Africa

Kumasi, Ghana



Development Volunteer Art Teachers Videographers

+3 More

Prayasam strongly believes that success is ultimately about connection, not perfection. **Omprakash has helped us to connect and amplify our VOICES** to various friends and supporters.

– Amlan

Profile of an Omprakash Partner:

Founded: 1996 Joined Omprakash: 2012 Average Daily Cost: \$22.50 Raised through Omprakash: \$105,138 EdGE volunteers hosted since 2013: 4

> Mission: To organise and develop the children of slum areas as empowered change agents by forming groups and sustainable advocacy on health education, environment and livelihood within their community.

Amlan Ganguly Prayasam Founder & Director

Prayasam Kolkata, India

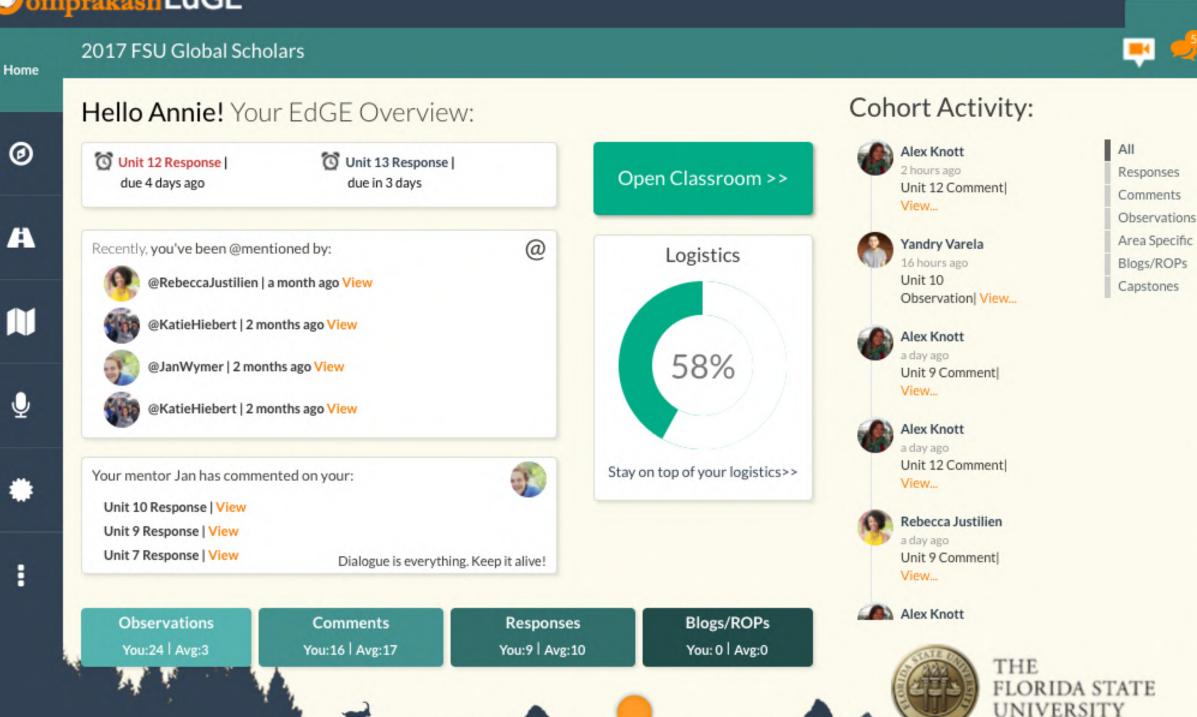
omprakash

Education through Global Engagement

In 2012, we launched EdGE to provide robust training, mentorship, and critical consciousness to those wanting to serve across gaps of culture & power within the Omprakash network of international Partner organizations. TODAY, EdGE fulfills this vision and much more as an award-winning and highly customizable online learning platform for over a dozen programs working within and beyond the Omprakash network.

The EdGE online platform supports student learning before, during, and after their international experiences. Universities and other providers can customize EdGE for their own student cohorts, or individuals can enroll directly in a public Omprakash EdGE cohort.

OmprakashEdGE



2017 FSU Global Scholars

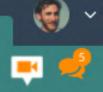
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	Kim Reid Admin			
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	Sabrina Mate Student	þ		0
1	Emily Holme Student	s		0
0	Michelle Le Student			0
	Commenter IV.			-

EdGE students choose a mentor from within the Omprakash team to receive ongoing feedback and support before, during and after their field position. Our mentorship team is comprised of a diverse group of young professionals with a vast array of experience in fields related to int'l development.

omprakashEdGE 2017 FSU Global Scholars Mentor Preferences Your Logistics To Do List: Global Engagement Grant Ø due 4 months ago Concentration . due 4 months ago Please select at least 3 mentors: Tyrell Kahan A Flights ~ ~ Payment . 10 Questions to Ask due 2 months ago . Visa Pre-Survey due a month ago Ų STEP Confirmation . due a month ago Deselect . Emergency Info due a month ago . Visa due 11 days ago . Field Position Confirmation • Passport . Waiver Your Selections ~ Health History Tyrell Kahan . Mentor

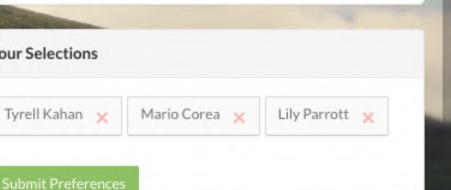
2017 FSU Global Scholars



FLORIDA STATE

INIV'ERSITY





We have 50+ EdGE Mentors. Here are 4:



Alexis Kallen

Rhodes Scholar

Stanford's 127th Convocation Speaker

Researches accessibility in the registration process in Greek refugee camps



Marc Anthony Branch

Served in Peace Corps (Peru) for 4 years

Emory University Master's in Development Practice ('19)

Studied social movements and human rights in Argentina



Tyrell Kahan

USAID Fellow in Bureau for Food Security

Doctor of Veterinary Medicine

Emory University Master's in Development Practice ('16)



Mélissa Godin

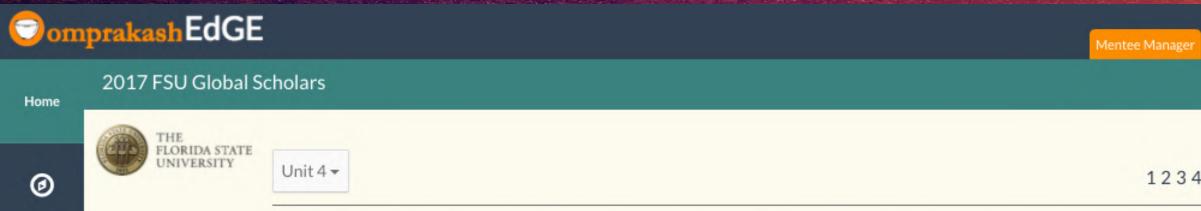
Rhodes Scholar National Geographic Explorer

Multi-media journalist and GroundTruth Project Fellow The EdGE Logistics section provides a customizable list of tasks for students to complete before departing for field positions. Common tasks in the list include uploading a copy of one's passport and visa, entering flight and preventative health information, completing surveys, and more.

om	prakash EdGE			Mentee Manager					
*	2017 FSU Global Scholars								
	Your Logistics To Do List:		Passport						
Ø	Global Engagement Grant due 4 months ago	•	Passports	Passport Info					
	Concentration due 4 months ago	•	Upload a scan/photocopy/photo of your passport.	Please upload a p					
A	Flights	~	We need to see the photo AND signature pages.						
	Payment	~	We should see something like this:						
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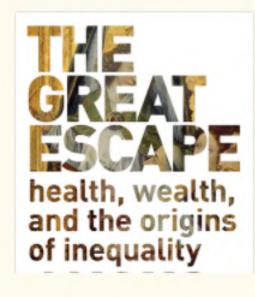


An EdGE classroom provides rich content and space for dialogue between students, mentors, and admins. Our standard pre-departure curriculum is a twelve-week introduction to the history, ethics, and economics of international development, and we offer custom content for different cohorts.



The Great Convergence, The Great Divergence

In an effort to reconcile notions of 'progress' with the stark inequalities that persist in our world, it may be helpful to think about the historical context of modern inequality. Has it always existed? Is it inevitable? To help us with these guestions, we'll first read an excerpt from the introduction of economist Angus Deaton's 2013 book, "The Great Escape: Health, Wealth, and the Origins of Inequality."



Inequality is often a consequence of progress. Not everyone gets rich at the same time, and not everyone gets immediate access to the latest life-saving measures, whether access to clean water, to vaccines, or to new drugs for preventing heart disease. Inequalities in turn affect progress.[...]

Many of the great episodes of human progress, including those that are usually described as being entirely good, have left behind them a legacy of inequality. The Industrial Revolution, beginning in Britain in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, initiated the economic growth that has been responsible for hundreds of millions of people escaping from material deprivation. The other side of the

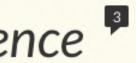
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2017 FSU Global Scholars

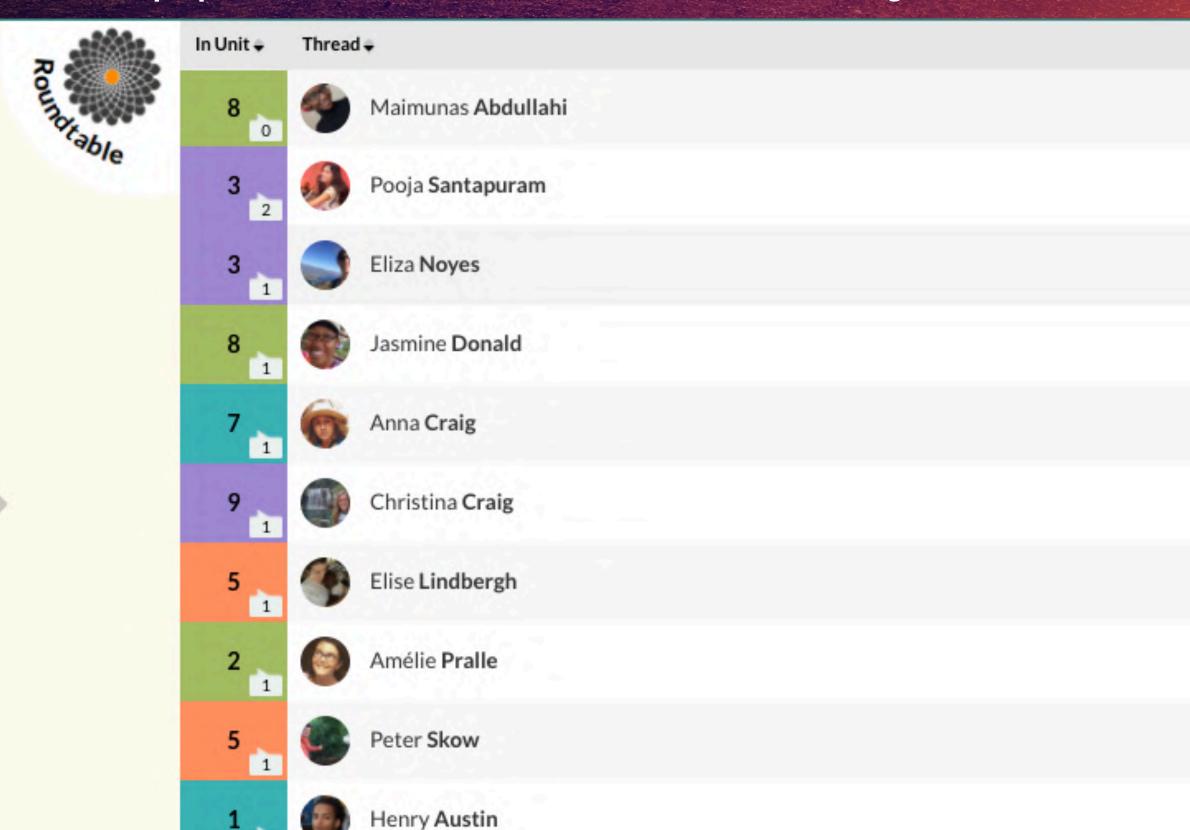


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The EdGE Roundtable is the classroom's forum, providing a space for students and mentors to browse and engage with each other's end-of-unit responses. Unlike most online-learning platforms, EdGE is purpose-built to facilitate authentic user-to-user exchange, rather than uni-directional content delivery.



Thread activity -

Unit 8 Response

Unit 3 Comment Marissa

Unit 3 Comment Willy

Unit 8 Comment Willy

Unit 7 Comment Mayme

Unit 9 Comment Mayme

Unit 5 Comment 🚱 Saliha

Unit 2 Comment Amélie

Unit 3 Comment Laura

Unit 1 Comment



The EdGE Mentee Manager allows program mentors and admins to track student participation, logistics, field position planning, performance evaluations, and more.

Comp	orakash EdGE					Mentee M	lanager 2017 F	SU Global Scholars	۰ 🛞
Home	Mentee Manager								•
Ø	2017 FSU Global Scholars Admin to 48 students	Alexander Alvarado		David Carre		Cameron Canton		Savannah (
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		< Elise Lin 16 days ago	U8 O	Jasmine 16 days ago	U8 R	Maimunas 3 hours ago	U12 R	Eliza 10 hours ago	>

Caitlin Dunn

United States Florida State University

02114

Skills art, fitness and physical wellness, music, psychology / social work / counseling

Languages

English, Spanish

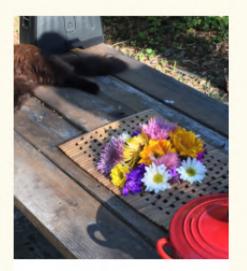


Florida State University,2018, Spanish Major

About Me

My name is Caitlin Dunn, I am 27 years old, and my passion is working with and advocating for people who need support. I have worked in many different fields such as being the head coach of the Tallahassee Synchronized Swimming team (non-profit), I have been a cook for 9 years specializing in sushi and vegan cuisine, and I have volunteered with WWOOF in 2009. I hope to master the Spanish language to help communities here in the United States. I am now currently a student at Florida State University majoring in Spanish and minoring in social work, and plan to apply for the Peace Corps when I graduate. I am committed, hard-working.

Transforming lives through education, health, and community strengthening! Proyecto Horizonte \$150.00 \$20.00 pha



General Post
The Supper Club

2017

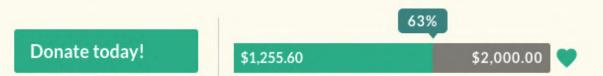
An EdGE student's profile showcases their work for friends, family, & the general public. Omprakash offers blogging and crowdfunding tools to all EdGE students, and student profiles aggregate all blog posts and active crowdfunding campaigns.



Donate to Christina Armes's Campaign

Empowering Women and Strengthening the Community in Ollantaytambo, Peru





This is a Personal Campaign 95% of the money raised will be earmarked for Christina Armes for approved expenses related to their EdGE participation. 5% of the money raised will be earmarked for Awamaki.

Hello, and thank you for stopping by my funding page! I'm deeply honored to be serving with Awamaki in Ollantaytambo this summer as a tour guide practicing and promoting sustainable tourism in addition to empowering women in their local communities. Awamaki provides skills training in knitting, sewing, weaving, and other creative skills, as well as technical and administrative training. In addition, Awamaki promotes sustainable tourism by facilitating valuable cultural experiences for tourists and promoting appreciation for Andean way of life. \$2,000.00

\$1,255.60 RAISED BY 15 PEOPLE IN 759 DAYS

Share this campaign on

Donation history

\$100.00 April 24, 2017

Devin Phandara

Tbh wish I could give you more, but I'm too poor yo.

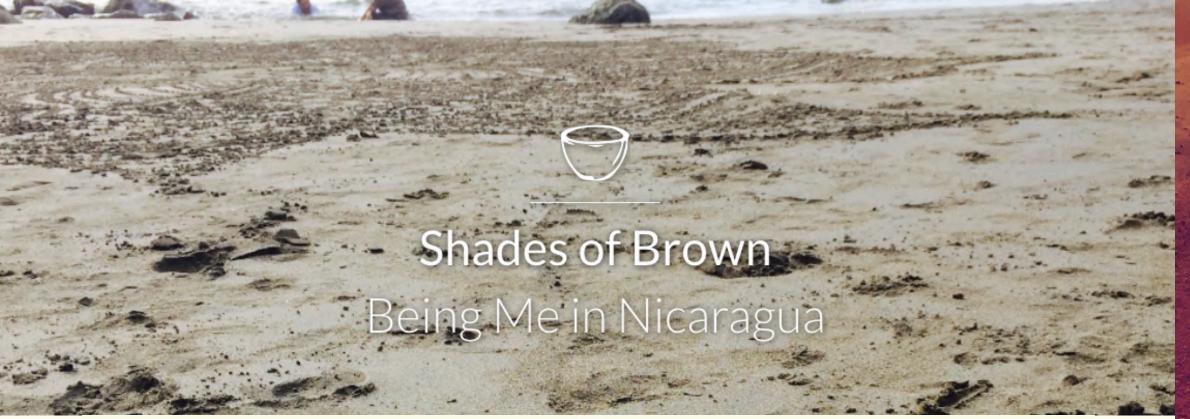
\$5.00

April 23, 2017 Brittany Hope Orlando, United States

egg

EdGE students are able to crowdfund via 'Partner campaigns' in which 100% of the money is earmarked for their host; or 'Personal Campaigns' in which 5% is earmarked for their host and 95% for the student's approved trip-related expenses. **Omprakash Partners** are also able to crowdfund for themselves.







No eres Nicaraguanse? (You're not Nicaraguan?) is one of my favorite phrases to hear. Looking like the majority is a feeling I didn't know that I didn't know. There is a comfort in blending in, in the sense of invisibility when I pass by a loud group of American tourists, when street vendors ignore me, when people on my walk to work look like me. I didn't know that I carried a weight or a self-consciousness until suddenly I don't have it anymore; I'm just a Brown girl in a Brown country. And that's kind of cool.

Blogging via Omprakash gives **EdGE students** a beautiful platform for sharing text, photos, video, audio, quotes, and embedded files. The pre-departure course includes an intro to qualitative research methods which enable students to build a 'Record of Perspectives' — a collection of blogs that feature myriad voices & are the building blocks of EdGE **Capstone Projects.**



Honestly, at the beginning, I wasn't sure whether or not to take EdGE. I'd already spent almost 3 years working in the rainforests of South America, so I thought "what more could this course teach me?" But call it instinct, intuition, or whatever you want to call it, I realized that there is always something new to learn, and to open your mind and heart to. So I enrolled. I can tell you that this was one of the best calls i've made regarding my own education and self-learning process.

Daniel Couceiro



Case Study: Global Scholars @ Florida State

Fall: FSU chooses their "Global Scholars" cohort. Many lowincome and first-generation college students are able to take part due to our low-cost model and financial aid.

Winter: The cohort gets enrolled in EdGE. Students independently research our Partners and apply to their favorites. Over the course of several weeks, they dialogue with our Partners and confirm field positions in the network.

Spring: Students engage in our **one-of-a-kind EdGE online** classroom, learning from each other and their EdGE Mentors. Students begin developing ideas for their Capstone Projects.

Summer: Students spend at least 2 months at their field **position**. They use the Omprakash platform to blog and post Capstone Project updates.

Fall: Students return to campus and join a post-trip EdGE classroom to reflect and workshop Capstones before final submission and dissemination of Capstone Projects.

Inam Sakinah FSU'18





The insights EdGE offered, but more importantly, the questions it asked, for so many of us, opened life-altering doors of reflection, dialogue, and action. To me, these doors represent just how formative and transformative the experience has been from the very first week of EdGE to now.



Case Study: Bailey Scholars @ UIUC



In this collaboration with UIUC, EdGE increases students' learning, impact, and accountability within an externally funded universitybased grant program aimed at promoting service and action.

The best part of my overall EdGE experience was the curriculum and the mentorship. The curriculum was incredibly thought out, which I felt prepared me to go abroad as a trained volunteer rather than just a student. The mentorship opportunity provided me with support throughout the curriculum and with an ally that I can utilize throughout my time abroad, and hopefully further in the future.

> Madisen Hockett UIUC '20

Every unit taught me something. I never would have thought about some things this course brought up, and I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to take this course knowing I would like to travel a lot of my life. I will use this information for the rest of my life no matter where I travel to, and I think everyone should take a course like this because it really opens up your mind about the world.

> Vanessa Cahill UIUC '22





Case Study: Global Service Fellows @ Stanford

Based out of the Haas Center for Public Service

15-20 students engage in the EdGE curriculum during spring quarter (receiving 1-unit of credit)

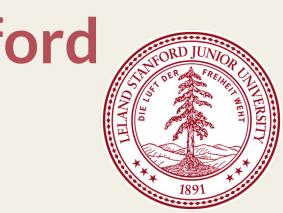
Students work 1-on-1 with an EdGE Mentor

Students have the option of finding a service position inside or outside of the Omprakash network during the summer for 9+ weeks

My mentor Melissa was incredibly accessible and had so much to offer from her own work, which I greatly appreciated.

The classroom I've found to be enormously enlightening. This classroom does a wonderful job of forcing its students to engage with questions of enormous importance that they would not deal with in any other context.

> Rodolfo Isaac Arocha Stanford '21



Isabela Bumanlag Stanford '19





Some of the universities currently running accredited EdGE-based programs with us:

Stanford University

CLAREMONT Mckenna - C O L L E G E -

WILLIAM & MARY

CHARTERED 1693

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Colby



FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY





UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON

Dear Donor,

I have so many reasons to say thank you! Taking the EdGE course has been a transformative experience, and I'm humbled to know that your donation helped me reach the person I am...Thanks to Omprakash, and thanks to you, I spent two and a half months in Peru, working with an organization called Seeds of Hope...I'm going to college in just under two weeks, and though I'm a little disappointed that I can't take a second gap year, I'm hopeful that my future will involve more travel and more of Omprakash!



Ethical Global Engagement Grants Re-Est. 2016

83 Volunteer Grant Recipients \$30k in Travel Grants \$40k in EdGE Scholarships \$12k in Crowdfund Matching

Maeve Bremmer Keene Valley, NY



Omprakash's expertise supporting Partners' goals in areas such as:

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Web Presence Monitoring & Improvement Evaluation



Showcasing Impact



Accessing External Grants



Org Strategy & Systems Thinking

The PDG was helpful in that it clarified how our organization should structure its grants, donors and other partners within its strategy. It was very helpful with strategic planning. We are very grateful for having awarded our organization this grant!

rants such as:



Curriculum Development



-Chewe Konkola Sani Foundation Zambia

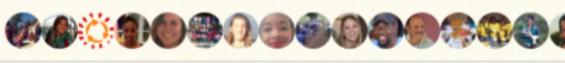
Global Dialogue

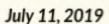
< Back to GD Home

Omprakash

Seattle, United States

In this dialogue:





@Omprakash created: "We Just Want to Feel Useful" -Making Sense of Student Frustration as an Outcome of Critical Service-Learning Experiences

It's About Time: Making Sense of Volunteers' Timerelated Frustrations

Of all the exciting, disorienting, and jarring differences volunteers may perceive in a new place, one of the hardest to understand -- yet also perhaps one of the most profound -- is how people diverge in their perceptions and experiences of time. Even seasoned travelers find themselves irked by differences in timekeeping or changes of pace, and

Partner

A 'South'-facing space for reflection, collaboration, resource sharing & action planning for people — teachers, students, activists, professionals & organizations — involved in global development, social change & critical pedagogy.

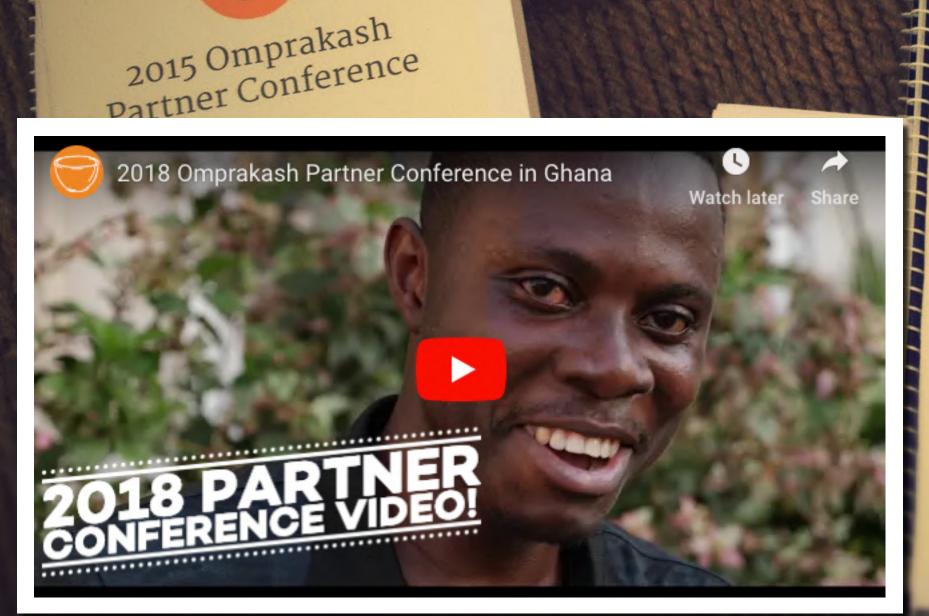


Related GD Posts:

@PhilDarko created: Reflection on Storytelling and Positive Influence

@MadresDeportadas created: Immigration Issues by Amy Morales

We also host conferences for our Partners, on their turf.





2015 Omprakash Partner Conference

New Delhi, India

December 4-6, 2015

Conference Guidebook

Omprakash in Press

The New York Eimes **PBS NEWSHOUR** INSIDE HIGHER ED



Slate

theguardian

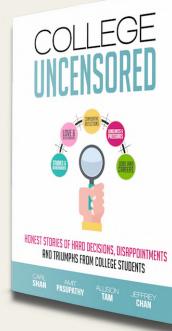
#1 BESTSELLING AUTHORS OF HALF THE SKY NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF and SHERYL WUDUNN

A PATH APPEARS

Transforming Lives, Creating Opportunity



And change lives for the better, including your own The New York Times Book Review



It's such an incredible resource for

organizations and for individual volunteers. Firstly, Omprakash is about fostering educational experiences.

-College Uncensored

Contact: Willy Oppenheim, Ph.D Founder & Director willy@omprakash.org +1-203-554-0350



Omprakash

omprakash.org

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