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## Dr. Richard Heinzl

Founder, Doctors Without Borders Canada  
Lessons from Abroad: The Opportunities of a  
Borderless World

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In 1988, just out of medical school, Richard Heinzl founded Doctors Without Borders Canada, the Nobel Prize-winning humanitarian organization. Shortly thereafter he became its first field volunteer, spending an extraordinary year in remote Cambodia. (These experiences are movingly captured in his new memoir, *Cambodia Calling*.) Hundreds of volunteers have since followed in his footsteps, bringing their healing skills to help many of the world's most vulnerable people. For his work, Heinzl has been named one of the "Hundred People Who Make a Difference in Canada," and was included on Report on Business' Top 40 Under 40 list. He is also a renowned speaker, sharing his stories of ordinary people doing extraordinary things in the midst of war and other challenges.

Richard Heinzl crafts a unique message for each group he speaks with. With perspective and humility, he shares lessons from his experiences at the far corners of the world: major moments, like working through a humanitarian crisis during the Iraq War, or witnessing South Africa's first democratic elections. He also captures the quieter, no less wondrous moments. Like seeing how a simple Frisbee, given to a group of kids at the frontlines, can bring joy half the world away. Or how, in most places he went, the Internet had beat him there, shrinking the globe. (Still, in other places, the 'Net was absent -- developing in him a visceral need for something like it to come along.)

Heinzl takes us past the expected sphere of humanitarian aid stories to reveal a remarkable world with universal lessons and incredible human stories (beginning with the story of how his experiences changed his life.) Zooming out, he points to the exponential change in our borderless world. Why, for instance, it is more important than ever for individuals and organizations to have a non-conventional approach to problem solving. We need to embrace this change, he says, and to see what is truly valuable in our world--and how we are all connected in it.