William Renner

Founder · Builder with Claude · Meditator

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PROFILE

Founder of Volume.chat, an AI video editor I've built over the past year with Claude Code. I don't have a programming background; I learned to build by working with Claude every day, as a collaborator and as the engine of a product. I've practiced Vipassana meditation for nine years, two hours a day without missing a day (6,500+ hours). My background is in philosophy (M.A., Concordia).

RESEARCH

A Retreat for Claude — Research proposal 2026
williamrenner.com/retreat

- Proposes a voluntary meditation retreat for a model, run as an experiment: does a model that freely chooses to practice self-observation become better aligned?
- Built and ran a pilot of the consent stage: Claude Opus 5.5 was asked 60 times in 12 framings alongside control studies, with answers coded by two model judges (91% agreement, κ 0.80). 0 declines of the retreat, and 0% agreement to a pointless control task.

SELECTED WORK

Volume.chat — Founder & Builder 2025 – Present

- AI web app that turns raw recordings into a publishable YouTube edit (outtakes removed, captions, zooms, color, pacing), built end to end with Claude Code and Vercel.
- Designed the LLM pipelines behind it, plus evaluation loops that compare model outputs and keep cost and quality in check per video.
- Self-taught: all of the code was written by working with Claude.

Video production for online educators — Edit City, Skool Magazine, Skool.com 2023 – Present

- Directed and edited recorded sessions for creators on Skool.com, coaching on-camera performance. Edited Skool's official podcast and produced ad creative for its Meta campaigns. This workflow is what Volume.chat now automates.

Meditation Daily — Host & Producer 2022 – 2023

- Weekly podcast on meditation practice and philosophy, interviewing teachers from different traditions.

Worldlings Kids Meditation — Director & Producer 2020 – 2022

- YouTube channel teaching meditation to children, drawn from my own Vipassana practice. Did all of the production myself: puppetry, compositing, color and original music.

EDUCATION

M.A. Philosophy — Concordia University, Montréal 2013

Research paper: *Collective Cognition: An enactive account, via concepts of sympoiesis and super-organisms.* It asks whether the enactive theory of mind can extend to distributed bodies like insect colonies.
williamrenner.com/papers/collective-cognition-renner.pdf

VOLUNTEERING

Authentic Montreal — Leadership team & facilitator

Facilitate live events on authentic relating and vulnerability for a 6,000+ member community.