

# ADAM B. TYNER

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## FORMAL EDUCATION

### University of California, San Diego

Ph.D. in Political Science, 2014

Dissertation: “The Effect of Rural Factors on Migrant Integration in China: Beyond the Household Registration System”

### University of Oklahoma

B.A. in International Studies, 2006

## RESEARCH EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE

### Oklahoma Center for Education Policy, University of Oklahoma

Executive Director, 2025 – present

### Thomas B. Fordham Institute

National Research Director, 2017 – 2025

### Hanover Research

Senior Education Analyst, Quantitative, 2015 – 2017

## TEACHING EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE

### University of California, San Diego

Instructor – Modern Chinese Political Thought; Ethics and Society, 2013 – 2014

Designed course, delivered lectures, held office hours, graded all assignments, and administered grades

### University of California, San Diego

Teaching Assistant – Introduction to Comparative Politics (Prof. Karre Strom); Ethics and Society (Prof. Sam Rickless); Introduction to Political Science Methodology (Prof. Scott Desposato), 2009 – 2011

Led discussions in weekly discussion sections, held office hours, graded all assignments, and administered grades

### University of California, San Diego

Reader – American Political Thought from Revolution to Civil War (Prof. Alan Houston); Sovereigns, Subjects, and the Modern State (Prof. Fonna Forman); Political Thought from Kant to Nietzsche (Prof. David Forman-Barzilai); Power and Justice (Prof. Tracy Strong); Political Thought from Thucydides to Augustine (Prof. Harvey Goldman); American Political Thought from Civil War to Civil Rights (Prof. David Leitch); The Chinese Revolution (Prof. Germaine Houston); European Political Development (Prof. Victor Magagna); Politics of Immigration (Prof. Kimber Quinney); East Asian Thought in Comparative Perspective (Prof. Victor Magagna), 2007 – 2012

Held office hours, graded all assignments, and administered grades

### University of California, San Diego - Extension

English Instructor, 2008

Taught English as a second language

### William’s English School (Xi’an, People’s Republic of China)

English Instructor, 2007

Taught English as a second language

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS, BOOK CHAPTERS, AND RESEARCH REPORTS

- “’Equitable’ Grading Through the Eyes of Teachers,” with David Griffith, Thomas B. Fordham, Institute, 2025  
Media coverage: *Wall Street Journal*, *Forbes*, *Education Week*, *Chalkbeat*, *The 74*, *WVXU Cincinnati*, *Washington Times*, *NJ Education Report*

- “Calculus or Statistics: Does it Matter?,” with Matt Giani and Franchesca Lyra, Thomas B. Fordham Institute, 2025 Media coverage: *Education Week*, *Forbes*, *K-12 Dive*, *Chalkbeat*, *Columbus Dispatch*, *Austin American-Statesman*, *Marshall Memo*
- “The Broken Pipeline: Advanced Education Policies at the Local Level,” Thomas B. Fordham Institute, 2024 Media coverage: *District Administration*, *K-12 Dive*
- “Think Again: Does ‘equitable’ grading benefit students?,” with Meredith Coffey, Thomas B. Fordham Institute, 2024 Media coverage: *Education Week*, *Washington Post*, *Dallas Morning News*, *Chalkboard News*, *RealClearInvestigations*, *Bloomberg*
- “Making the grade: The effect of teacher grading standards on student outcomes,” with Seth Gershenson and Stephen Holt, *Contemporary Economic Policy*, 2023
- “Excellence Gaps by Race and Socioeconomic Status,” Thomas B. Fordham Institute, 2023
- “Think Again: Is education funding in America still unequal?,” Thomas B. Fordham Institute, 2023 Media coverage: *Education Next*, *National Review*, *National Affairs*
- “Think Again: ‘College Admissions Exams Drive Higher Education Inequities,’” Thomas B. Fordham Institute, 2023 Media coverage: *The Hill*, *Forbes*, *The 74*, *Inside Higher Ed*
- “Parents and the Politics of Social-Emotional Learning,” Thomas B. Fordham Institute, 2021 Media coverage: *NBC News*, *Education Week*, *Idaho EdNews*, *Hechinger Report*, *Inside SEL* (blog), *Indianapolis Star*, *Brown Political Review*, *School Administrator*, *Journal-Constitution* (Atlanta), *Psychology Today* (blog), *Edutopia* #1 Most Impactful Education Study of 2021
- “How Social Studies Improves Elementary Literacy,” with Sarah Kabourek, *Social Education*, 2021
- “Social Studies Instruction and Reading Comprehension: Evidence from the Early Childhood Longitudinal Survey,” with Sarah Kabourek, Thomas B. Fordham Institute, 2020 Media coverage: *Washington Post*, *Forbes*, *Education Week*, *Chalkbeat*, *Hechinger Report*, *The International Educator*, *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, *Martinsville Bulletin*, *Indianapolis Business Journal*, *Gainesville Sun*, *Orlando Sentinel*
- “The Relationship between School Funding and Student Outcomes,” in Hess, F. and B. Wright, *Getting the Most Bang for the Education Buck*, Columbia Teachers College Press, 2020
- “Conceptualizing Grade Inflation,” with Seth Gershenson, *Economics of Education Review*, 2020 Media coverage: *The 74*
- “Are U.S. Schools Closing the ‘Gifted Gap’ ? Analyzing Elementary and Middle Schools’ Gifted Participation and Representation Trends (2012–2016),” with Christopher Yaluma, *Journal of Advanced Academics*, 2020
- “Afterword: A more productive Idaho workforce,” with Amber Northern, in “Idaho’s Education Earnings Gap,” Thomas B. Fordham Institute, 2020
- “End-of-Course Exams and Student Outcomes,” with Matthew Larsen, Thomas B. Fordham Institute, 2019 Media coverage: *Education Week*, *The 74*, *Education Next*, *Education Dive*, WFAE (Charlotte, NC), *Clarion-Ledger* (Jackson, MS), *Journal-Constitution* (Atlanta)
- “School Discipline Reform through the Eyes of Teachers,” with David Griffith, Thomas B. Fordham Institute, 2019 Media coverage: *Forbes*, *Education Week*, *New York Post*, *Seattle Times*, *Philadelphia Inquirer*, *Chalkbeat*, *The 74*, *Wisconsin Examiner*
- “State and District Variation in Credit Recovery Participation Rates,” with Nicholas Munyan-Penney, Thomas B. Fordham Institute, 2018 Media coverage: *Economist*, *Education Week*, *New York Post*, *The 74*, *L.A. School Report*, *World Magazine*
- “The Case for Holding Students Accountable,” with Michael Petrilli, *Education Next*, Summer 2018 Media coverage: *BBC*, *WWL New Orleans*, *West Virginia MetroNews*

- “The Gifted Gap: Gifted Education in High-Poverty Schools,” with Christopher Yaluma, Thomas B. Fordham Institute, 2018  
Media coverage: *New York Times*, *Forbes*, *Hechinger Report*, *Seattle Times*, *News and Observer* (Raleigh, NC), *Charlotte Observer*, *Denver Post*, *Minnesota Post*, *New Jersey Monthly*
- “The Hukou System, Rural Institutions, and Migrant Integration in China,” with Ren Yuan, *Journal of East Asian Studies*, 2016

## WORKING PAPERS

- “Variation in teacher pay across U.S. metro areas”
- “Policy-based Variation in Social Polarization’s Effects on Attitudes: The Case of Social and Emotional Learning,” with Deven Carlson and Noah Wolff

## GUEST LECTURES

- “Student Motivation in Education Policy.” University of Arkansas. Fayetteville, Arkansas (presented virtually). February 2025. Instructor: Jonathan Wai.
- “Policy Career Pathways.” University of Oklahoma. Norman, Oklahoma. October 2024. Instructor: Deven Carlson.
- “Using Logic and Evidence in Political Science Writing.” School of International Relations and Pacific Studies. La Jolla, California. October 2013. Instructor: Barbara Walter.
- “Internal Migration in a Comparative Perspective.” University of California, San Diego. La Jolla, California. May 2012. Instructor: Kimber Quinney.
- “The Political Economy of China in the Reform Era.” University of California, San Diego. La Jolla, California. May 2012. Instructor: Devesh Tiwari.

## INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- Invited Lecture: “Is the Calculus Pathway Overrated? Evaluating the Postsecondary and Career Impact of High School Calculus vs. Statistics Courses.” THRIVE at the University of Oklahoma (presented virtually). February 2025.
- “Advanced education policies in America’s school districts.” National Association for Gifted Children Leadership and Advocacy Conference (presented virtually). April 2024.
- Invited Lecture: “Effective Policies for Advanced Education.” Gadsden Elementary School District (San Luis, Arizona). January 2024.
- Invited Lecture: “The Politics of ‘Social and Emotional Learning’.” Wallace Foundation Quarterly Partner Meeting (presented virtually). September 2022.
- Invited Lecture: “The Impact of Social Studies on Elementary Reading Comprehension.” National Council for the Social Studies Annual Conference (presented virtually). February 2022.
- Invited Lecture: “Parent Views of SEL.” Engler Center for Charter Schools at Central Michigan University (presented virtually). February 2022.
- Invited Lecture: “America’s Best and Worst Metros for School Quality.” Policy Innovators in Education (presented virtually). December 2021.
- Invited Panelist: “Communicating Effectively about SEL.” Thomas B. Fordham Institute. September 2021.
- Invited Panelist: “The Case for Elementary Social Studies Part I: The Social Studies ELA Connection.” National Council for the Social Studies Webinar. October 2020.
- Invited Panelist: “CCSSO Social Studies Webinar - Social Studies Instruction and Reading Comprehension.” Council of Chief State School Officers Social Studies Collaborative Webinar. October 2020.

- Moderator: “Leading in Uncertain Times: How School Leaders are Meeting Students’ Academic and Social Needs.” National Association of Elementary School Principals Webinar. August 2020.
- Invited Lecture: “End-of-Course Exams and Student Accountability.” Hunt Institute (Durham, NC). The Intersection (online webinar). November 2019.
- Moderator: “What Do Teachers of Color and in Low-Income Schools Think of Discipline Reform?.” Grant-makers for Education Annual Meeting. New Orleans, Louisiana. October 2019.
- Invited Panelist: “Getting the most bang for the education buck.” America Enterprise Institute. Washington, D.C. October 2019.
- Moderator: “Ensuring second chances aren’t second rate: Credit Recovery in American High Schools.” American Enterprise Institute. Washington, D.C. June 2019.
- Invited Lecture: “Credit Recovery Programs in U.S. High Schools.” Hunt Institute (Durham, NC). The Intersection (online webinar). January 2019.
- Invited Panelist: “Inflated Grades: What Happens When Report Cards Lie.” Thomas B. Fordham Institute. Washington, D.C. November 2018.
- Invited Lecture: “Migrant Integration and the Challenges of Increased Urbanization in China.” Sub-forum on Asian Cities, Shanghai Forum. Shanghai, People’s Republic of China. May 2014.
- “问卷调查实验：理论与应用” [ “Survey Experiments: Theory and Applications.” ] Society and Economics Working Group, School of Social Development and Public Policy, Fudan University. Shanghai, People’s Republic of China. May 2013.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- “High School Math Pathways: New evidence from Texas.” National Council of Teachers of Mathematics Annual Meeting. October 2025.
- “Is Calculus Overrated?” NACAC Guiding the Way to Impact. Atlanta, GA. July 2025.
- “What do teachers say about ‘equitable’ grading?” Association for Education Finance and Policy Annual Meeting. Washington, D.C. March 2025.
- “Advanced Education Policies in the U.S.: Findings from a New Survey of School Districts.” National Association for Gifted Children Annual Convention. Seattle, WA. November 2024.
- “Parent Engagement on SEL.” American Educational Research Association. Philadelphia, PA. April 2024.
- “AP Calculus and AP Statistics Evaluation.” Association for Education Finance and Policy Annual Meeting. Baltimore, MD. March 2024.
- “Partisanship and Parent Views on Teaching Non-Cognitive Skills.” Association for Education Finance and Policy Annual Meeting. Denver, Colorado. March 2022.
- “Do elementary students read better when exposed to more social studies and science?” Association for Education Finance and Policy Annual Meeting. (Conference held virtually due to 2020 Coronavirus pandemic.) March 2020.
- “End-of-Course Exams as Accountability Tools.” Association for Education Finance and Policy Annual Meeting. Kansas City, Missouri. March 2019.
- “Active Citizenship in 21st Century China.” Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting. San Diego, California. March 2016.
- “Migrant Integration and Social Power in China.” Fudan - UC Young Scholars’ Conference on China. San Diego, California. May 2014.
- “Variation in Migration Policies across Chinese Cities: A Political Economy Explanation.” Poster Presentation. Midwest Political Science Association Conference. Chicago, Illinois. April 2014.

- “Voluntary Marginalization in Urban China: The effects of Rural Policies on Migrants’ Decision-making.” Poster Presentation. American Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Chicago, Illinois. August 2013.
- “Variation in Urban Policies towards China’s Internal Migrants: Theories and Evidence.” Poster Presentation. Research Postgraduate Conference in the Social Sciences. University of Hong Kong. Hong Kong, People’s Republic of China. June 2013.
- “中国外来工在城市里的融合：实证与理论方向” [ “Migrant Integration in Urban China: New Empirical and Theoretical Trends.” ] Social Connections in East Asia Conference. Zhejiang University. Hangzhou, People’s Republic of China. April 2013.
- “Migrants’ Incentives for Household Registration Transfer in China: Unmet Expectations from Reform.” South-west Social Science Association Annual Meeting. San Diego, California, USA. April 2012.

#### ARTICLES IN MASS FORMAT (SELECTED)

- “Unintended Effects of ‘Equitable’ Grading,” *School Administrator*, December 2024
- “Listening to Parent Voices About SEL,” *School Administrator*, May 2022
- “The (new) truth about school funding: Have funding gaps between schools serving rich and poor been closed?” *New York Daily News*, November 2021
- “Has DC learned from its graduation scandals?,” *Washington Post*, February 2019 (with Nicholas Munyan-Penney)
- “We have spelling bees; why not reading bees?,” *Orlando Sentinel*, July 2021
- “Can Test-Obsessed China Change?,” *The Diplomat*, September 2017

#### AWARDS

- Research Grant, “To Study the Impact of Different High School Pathways,” Barr Foundation, \$193,000, 2023 (Co-PI with Matt Giani)
- Research Grant, “Advancing Excellence in Education to Foster Opportunity,” Smith Richardson Foundation, \$400,000, 2021 (Co-PI with Michael Petrilli and Brandon Wright)
- Edutopia #1 Most Impactful Education Research Study of 2021
- Edutopia Top 10 Most Impactful Education Research Study of 2020
- Research Grant, “End-of-Course Exams Study,” Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation, \$130,000, 2018
- Travel Support, City of Shanghai, 2014
- Hayek Fund for Scholars Award, Institute for Humane Studies, 2013
- Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship, Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange, \$15,000, 2013
- Political Science Departmental Fellowship, Department of Political Science, UCSD, 2012
- Mandarin Enrichment Scholarship, Ministry of Education, Taiwan, 2009
- Edmund G. Brown Sr. Fellowship, Department of Political Science, UCSD, 2007
- Thomas W. Adams Award for best research paper on conflict resolution in the Mediterranean region, School of International and Area Studies, University of Oklahoma, 2006

#### Disciplinary Service

- Editorial Board Member- Oklahoma Education Journal

- Reviewer- Journal of School Choice, Journal of East Asian Studies, Political Research Quarterly, Social Science Quarterly, American Studies in Scandinavia, Economics of Education Review, Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis

#### **OTHER SERVICE**

- International School Choice and Reform Conference, Best Paper Prize Judge, 2018
- Cesar Chavez Public Charter Schools for Public Policy, Volunteer Tutor, 2015
- Xiao Chen Hotline (NGO assisting migrant workers in Qingdao, People's Republic of China) Intern, 2011

#### **LANGUAGES**

- English –native speaker
- Mandarin Chinese –speak and read with high proficiency
- Spanish –speak and read with high proficiency
- Portuguese –read with basic competence