

Emmerich Davies

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Academic Positions

Visiting Scholar, Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Brown University	2022-
Assistant Professor of Education, Harvard Graduate School of Education	2016-2023
Faculty Associate, Center for International Development	2020-2023
Faculty Associate, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs	2016-2023
National Fellow, Hoover Institution, Stanford University	2019-2020
Visiting Scholar, Delhi School of Economics	2018-2021

Education

Ph.D. Political Science, University of Pennsylvania	2016
Dissertation Title: <i>Making Markets: The Political Causes and Consequences of Private Education in India</i>	
Committee: Devesh Kapur (Chair), Tulia Falleti, Guy Grossman.	
M.A. Political Science, University of Pennsylvania,	2011
B.A. Economics & Political Science with Honors, Stanford University,	2007

Research

Publications

2025. Davies, Emmerich. “Absence: Electoral Cycles and Teacher Absenteeism in India.” *British Journal of Political Science*. [pdf](#)

- Press coverage: [Live Mint](#)

2023. Davies, Emmerich. “The Lessons Private Schools Teach: Using a Field Experiment to Understand the Effects of Private Services on Political Behavior.” *Comparative Political Studies*. 56(6): 824-861. [pdf](#)

- Best Article Award. 2023 *Comparative International Education Society* South Asia Special Interest Group.

2021. Davies, Emmerich, Thomas Gift, and Carlos X. Lastra Anadón. “How Global Performance Assessments Shape Attitudes toward Government Decision-Making: Survey Experimental Evidence.” *Governance*. 34(2): 412-433. [pdf](#)

2017. Davies, Emmerich and Tullia G. Falleti. “Poor People’s Participation: Neoliberal Institutions or Left Turn?” *Comparative Political Studies*. 50(12): 1699-1731. [pdf](#)

- Press coverage: [Financial Times](#)

Book Chapters

2025. Davies, Emmerich and Abhinav Ghosh. “Complexity, Resistance, and Forbearance in Private Markets for Primary Education in India.” Chapter in *The Research Handbook on Education Privatization and Marketization* Editors: Clara Fondevila, Huriya Jabbar, Antoni Verger and Adrian Zancajo.

Book Project

Under Cover of Darkness: The Politics of Education Expansion in India

Working Papers

Davies, Emmerich. *Globalization, Performance Indicators, and Demands for Education*. With Thomas Gift and Carlos Lastra-Anadón.

Davies, Emmerich *Bureaucratic Selection and Politics: Evidence from Teachers in Brazil*. With Julia Coyoli, Leslie Finger and Jonathan Phillips.

Davies, Emmerich. *The Changing Demographics of the Teacher Labor: Evidence from Three Decades of Employment Surveys from Brazil and India*.

Davies, Emmerich. *The Impact of COVID-19 on School Choice and Household Education Expenditures: Evidence from India*. With Ashutosh Bhuradia and Fei Yuan.

Davies, Emmerich. *Policy Drift & Layering in Indian Education Policy: From Universalization to Privatization*.

Davies, Emmerich. *Power to the Parents? Parental Participation in Delhi Schools*. With Ashwini Deshpande and Parushya.

Work in Progress

Teacher Socialization and Political Behavior: Evidence from Brazil. With Julia Coyoli, Leslie Finger and Jonathan Phillips.

- Pre-registered at OSF

The Political Effects of Public-Private Partnerships: Evidence from Liberia. With Shelby Carvalho

Teaching the Nation: The Construction of Identity Through Social Science Textbooks in India. With Devika Agrawal, Akshay Dixit, and Blair Read.

Representation and Participation in Public Institutions: Do Numbers Alone Guarantee Voice? With Parushya and Ashwini Deshpande

Book Reviews

2018. Davies, Emmerich. Review of Derrick Darby & John L. Rury, *The Color of Mind: Why the Origins of the Achievement Gap Matter for Justice*, & Nicholas Tampio, *Common Core: National Education Standards and the Threat to Democracy, Perspectives on Politics*, 16(4): 1146-1148. [Link](#)

Grants, Awards, and Fellowships

Fellowships

W. Glenn Campbell & Rita Ricardo-Campbell National Fellow and the Susan Louise Dyer Peace Fellow	2019-2020
Hoover Institution, Stanford University	
National Academy of Education/Spencer Dissertation Fellowship	2015-2016
Junior Fellowship, American Institute of Indian Studies	2014-2015
Dissertation Completion Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania	2015-2016
Critical Writing Graduate Fellow, University of Pennsylvania	2014-2015
Benjamin Franklin Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania	2009-2014
Judith Rodin Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania (\$5,000)	2011-2012

Awards

Best Article Award. 2023. *Comparative International Education Society* South Asia Special Interest Group for *The Lessons Private Schools Teach: Using a Field Experiment to Understand the Effects of Private Services on Political Behavior*

External Grants

Spencer Foundation Small Research Grants (\$48,843)	2019-2021
LAPOP Data Award, Vanderbilt University	2011

Internal Grants

Lakshmi Mittal Institute Faculty Research Grant (\$14,986)	2023-2024
Medium Faculty Grant, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs (\$22,980)	2022-2023
Stone Inequality Research Grant (\$2,800)	2022-2023

William F. Milton Fund (\$43,000) <i>with Blair Read and Devika Agrawal</i>	2021-2023
Foundations of Human Behavior (\$34,100) <i>with Shelby Carvalho</i>	2020-2022
Lakshmi Mittal Institute Faculty Research Grant (\$14,736)	2019-2020
Harvard Academy Faculty Research Grant (\$7,500)	2018-2019
Medium Faculty Grant, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs (\$19,712) <i>with Thomas Gift & Carlos Lastra Anadón</i>	2017-2019
Harvard Global Institute Planning Grant, Harvard University (\$10,000)	2017-2018
Lemann Brazil Research Fund, Harvard University (\$100,000) <i>with Leslie Finger</i>	2017-2022
Harvard University Asia Center Junior Faculty Research Grants (\$15,000)	2017-2018
Penfield Research Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania (\$8,000)	2013-2014
Browne Center Dissertation Research Grant, University of Pennsylvania (\$4,500)	2012, 2013, 2015
Center for the Advanced Study of India Research Grant, University of Pennsylvania (\$3,250)	2010

Invited Talks & Conferences

Invited Talks

Department of Social Policy, London School of Economics & Political Science	2024
The Research on Improving Systems of Education (RISE) Programme Annual Conference	2023
Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge	2023
Institute of Political Science, Leiden University	2022
The Research on Improving Systems of Education (RISE) Programme Annual Conference	2022
Global Capitalism in the Global South, Watson Institute, Brown University	2022
Teachers College, Columbia University	2021
Lemann Center, Stanford Graduate School of Education	2021
Department of Political Science & Kellogg Institute, University of Notre Dame	2020
Center for Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law, Stanford University	2020
Department of Political Science, University of California, Berkeley	2020
Department of Political Science, Stanford University	2020
Politics of Education Workshop, University College London	2019
Center for the Advanced Study of India, University of Pennsylvania	2018
Politics of Education Workshop, University of Oxford	2018
The Program on Education Policy and Governance (PEPG), Harvard University	2018
Brown-Harvard-MIT Joint Seminar on South Asian Politics	2017
Department of Government, Harvard University	2017
Center for South Asia Studies, University of Wisconsin-Madison	2016
Graduate School of Education, Stanford University	2016
Center for the Advanced Study of India Political Economy Workshop, University of Pennsylvania	2015

Conferences

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting	2023 (x 2), 2022, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2016 (x 2), 2014, 2012
European Political Science Association Annual Meeting	2025
Association for Education Finance and Policy Annual Conference	2023 (x 2), 2022.
Comparative International Education Society	2023, 2022, 2021, 2018
Society for the Advancement of Socio-Economics Annual Conference	2023
American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting	2022, 2020, 2019, 2017, 2016
Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting	2022, 2021, 2020, 2019, 2015, 2014
The Annual Conference on South Asia	2022, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management	2018
Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference	2017
North-East Workshop in Empirical Political Science (NEWEPS)	2015
Red de Economía Política de America Latina (REPAL)	2015
Northeastern Political Science Association Annual Meeting	2011

Chair

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting	2023, 2021, 2020
Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting	2022 (x 2), 2019
The Annual Conference on South Asia	2022, 2018

Discussant

Comparative International Education Society	2023, 2022
Southwestern Social Science Association Annual Conference	2023
American Political Science Association Annual Meeting	2020
Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting	2022 (x 2), 2020, 2019
California Workshop in Empirical Political Science (CALIWEPS)	2019
North-East Workshop in Empirical Political Science (NEWEPS)	2015, 2014

Teaching

Harvard Graduate School of Education

The Politics of Education in the Developing World	Fall 2023, Spring 2023, Fall 2021, Fall 2020, Fall 2018, Fall 2017, Spring 2017
Data & International Development	Fall 2023, Spring 2023, Spring 2022
Global, International, and Comparative Education Proseminar	Fall 2021 & Spring 2022
Children, Schools, and Communities in Low- and Middle-Income Countries After COVID	Spring 2021
Cultures, Institutions, and Society Core Seminar	Spring 2019, Spring 2018

Education and International Development

Spring 2019, Spring 2018, Spring 2017

Advising

Julia Coyoli, Harvard Government	2024
Placement: Assistant Professor, University of Strathclyde	
Fei Yuan, Harvard Graduate School of Education	2024
Charles Gale, Harvard Graduate School of Education (Chair)	2022
Placement: Maryland Department of Education	
Blair Read, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Political Science	2022
Placement: Office of Evaluation Sciences and Code for America	
Vish Srivastava, Masters in Design Engineering	2019
Abhinav Ghosh, Harvard Graduate School of Education	Pre-Candidacy (Secondary Advisor)

Service & Professional Activities

Reviewer: *American Political Science Review*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *Cambridge University Press*, *Comparative Education Review*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Comparative Politics*, *Democracy and Education*, *Development in Practice*, *Education Economics*, *European Journal of Political Economy*, *Governance*, *India Review*, *International Journal of Comparative Sociology*, *Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis*, *Journal of Development Studies*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *The Journal of Educational Change*, *The Review of Economics and Statistics*, *Social Science & Medicine*, *The Urban Review*, *World Development*

Member, American Political Science Association	2010-
Member, European Political Science Association	2025-
Member, Association for Education Policy and Finance	2018-
Member, Comparative and International Education Society	2016-
Communications Officer, Organized Section on Education Politics and Policy Section of the American Political Science Association	2020-2023
Steering Committee Member, The Lakshmi Mittal South Asia Institute	2018-2021
Co-Director: Brown-Harvard-MIT Joint Seminar on South Asian Politics	2017-2023

Writing in Popular Press

2023. Davies, Emmerich & Patricia Raub. "A fully-funded RIPTA puts RI on the road to a safer, better life." *The Providence Journal*. May 13, 2023. [Link](#).
2023. Davies, Emmerich "The Silence of Reforms for Quality." *The Research on Improving Systems of Education (RISE) Programme*. March 27, 2023. [Link](#).
2018. Davies, Emmerich "Time to fix the school-to-work transition." *The Hindu Business Line*. December 18, 2018. [Link](#).

2017. Boyd, Wesley J. & Emmerich Davies. 2017. “The Urgent Need to Recognize and Value Academic Labor.” *Nature Jobs*. December 11, 2017. [Link](#).

Professional & Research Experience

Centre for Microfinance & Poverty Action Lab, Research Associate, Professors Erica Field & Rohini Pande, Kolkata, India, 2007-2009

Additional Information

Languages: English & Spanish (Native), Bengali, French, Hindi, & Portuguese (Beginner)

Computer Skills: Stata, R, Python (Beginner), SQL (Beginner), Qualtrics, CPro, Git, & \LaTeX

Field Research Experience: West Bengal (2007-2009), Tamil Nadu (2010), Rajasthan (2010), Delhi (2011-2012, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2022), Andhra Pradesh (2013), Gujarat (2017), São Paulo (2020), Brasilia (2022), Liberia (2023).

Nationality: Panama, U.S. Permanent Resident

Last updated: April 2025