

Tanner S Eastmond

CONTACT INFORMATION

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2024-Present Visiting Assistant Professor, Brigham Young University

EDUCATION

2024 PhD in Economics, University of California, San Diego
2018 BA in Economics and Mathematics, Brigham Young University

WORKING PAPERS

“Welfare Added? Optimal Teacher Assignment with Value-Added Measures” (with Nathan Mather, Michael Ricks, and Julian Betts)

Abstract: We study how teacher “value added” should inform optimal teacher-assignment policy. Our welfare-theoretic framework illustrates (1) how theoretically optimal assignments leverage variation in teachers’ impacts both across student types and across different outcomes, and (2) how empirically optimal assignments trade off improved targeting from estimating richer student heterogeneity against a growing winner’s curse. In practice, optimal assignments use limited student types (only lagged achievement) and multiple outcomes (not just math). Even after correcting for policy overfitting, assignments raise average present-value earnings by \$3,000 and increase lower-achieving students’ earnings by 66–142% more than benchmark policies using homogeneous effects, single-subject heterogeneity, or teacher deselection.

“Broader Horizons: The Long-Run Impacts of Exposure to New Places” (with Michael Ricks)

Abstract: We study how volunteering in different cultural environments shapes individuals’ long-term views and behaviors using variation from the location assignments of volunteer missionaries for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Administering an original survey to former volunteers, we find large effects of exposure to different places on long-run attitudes and behavior. For example, we find evidence that exposure to places with high Black or Latino populations engenders positive sentiment towards these groups and induces behaviors like residing in more diverse zip codes and supporting social justice causes. Additionally, we find that exposure to locations with more conservative politics improves sentiment towards Republicans and reduces donations to Democratic causes. We find no effects on attitudes about gender roles. Mechanism analyses suggest that whereas racial attitudes are moved by contact, political attitudes seem to be affected through social learning; furthermore, it seems that the effects are particularly pronounced for volunteers assigned to places that differ significantly from their upbringing. Ultimately our results suggest that people’s views and behaviors change in the long run via exposure to distinct place characteristics and experiences.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

“Meeting Every Qualification: Job Ad Content and Applicant Diversity” (with Amanda Bonheur)

“What are the Pecuniary Returns to Foreign Language Acquisition?” (with Alison Doxey and Michael Ricks)

“The Impact of Generative AI on Labor-Market Matching” (with David Arnold)

“The Long-Run Impact of Prejudice: Evidence from WWI Casualties” (with Joe Price, Dan Rees, and Kerin Charles)

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, HONORS, AND AWARDS

2026	BYU Economics Department Teaching Award
2026	Russell Sage Foundation Presidential Grant, joint with Amanda Bonheur
2025	MEG Research Grant, BYU
2025	Martin B. Hickman Excellence in Teaching by a Visiting Faculty Award, BYU
2024	W.E. Upjohn Institute Early Career Research Award, joint with Michael Ricks
2023	Clive Granger Research Fellowship, UCSD
2023	Economics Department TA Excellence Award, UCSD
2023	Russel Sage Foundation Dissertation Research Grant, joint with Amanda Bonheur
2023	Jacobs Social Impact Fellowship, UCSD, joint with Amanda Bonheur
2023	Yankelovich Graduate Research Award, UCSD, joint with Amanda Bonheur
2022	Diversity Research Fellowship, UCSD, joint with Amanda Bonheur
2022	Departmental Research Grant, University of Michigan, joint with Michael Ricks
2021	Departmental Research Grant, UCSD, joint with Michael Ricks
2021-2022	Advancement to Candidacy Fellowship, UCSD
2020	Departmental Research Grant, University of Michigan, joint with Michael Ricks
2020	Graduate Summer Research Fellowship, UCSD
2019-2020	Regents Fellowship, UCSD
2019	Graduate Summer Research Fellowship, UCSD
2018-2023	National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship
2017	Office of Research and Creative Activities Grant, BYU
2016-2018	Jack R. and Mary Louis Wheatley Endowed Leadership Scholarship, BYU
2016	Office of Research and Creative Activities Grant, BYU

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Presentations

2026	NBER Public Economics Spring Meeting
2025	NBER Economics of Education Spring Meeting
2024	Southern Economic Association Annual Meeting
2024	American Economic Association Annual Meeting
2023	UCSD/UCLA/CIFAR Conference on Economic Development, Political Economy and Culture
2023	All California Labor Economics Conference (ACLEC)
2023	WEAI Graduate Student Workshop
2022	Rising Scholars Conference
2022	All California Labor Economics Conference (ACLEC)

Referee

Journal of Political Economy Microeconomics

Service

2022 Organizing Committee – Southern California Graduate Conference in Applied Economics (SOCAE)

Mentorship

2022 Founder and Participant – UCSD Graduate Undergraduate Research Lab
 - Organized large-scale initiative to pair graduate students with undergrad RAs
 - The lab has had around 600 undergraduates work with 50 graduate students
 - Worked personally with 43 undergraduate RAs

2021 Mentor – ECONnected

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Intro to Econometrics, Brigham Young University

OTHER INFORMATION

Citizenship: United States

Languages: English (native), Dutch (advanced), Spanish (intermediate)