

**Adam Falkner, Ph.D. | Curriculum Vitae**  
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## Summary

[Dr. Adam Falkner](#) is an educator, author, and equity & inclusion strategist. His research and teaching focus on the use of creativity and the applied arts to facilitate critical diversity education around issues of race, gender, queerness and identity intersectionality. A former high school English teacher in New York City's public schools, Adam's work focuses on understanding how elements of performance, storytelling and technology work to foster empathy in individuals and organizations. Dr. Falkner has held lectureships for preservice and in-service teachers at Vassar College and Columbia University, and holds over a decade of cross-industry experience developing diversity strategies, curricula and cultural programming for clients including Pinterest, the National Park Service, the Pahara Institute, Teach for America, and many others.

## Education

Ph.D., English & Education, Columbia University Teachers College (June 2018)

Dissertation: *A Poet's Room: Troubling Tolerance, Cultural Ruptures & Dialogic Curriculum*

Committee: Ernest Morrell (chair); Yolanda Sealey-Ruiz; Christopher Emdin; Laura Smith; Robert Fullilove.

M.A., English Education, Brooklyn College (2009)

Thesis: *Straddling Act: The Urgency for Multicultural Navigation in the Secondary Classroom.*

B.A., Sociology and Creative Writing, University of Michigan (2007)

Concentration: *Intergroup Dialogue, Racial & LGBTQ Identity Development, Poetry, Creative Nonfiction.*

Professional Teaching Certification, 2008: Secondary English (Endorsed by the State of New York)

## Publications & Scholarship

### Books:

- *The Willies* (Button Poetry, 2020; Winner of the 2021 Forward Indie Gold Medal; Winner of the 2021 Midwestern Independent Book Award).
- *Adoption* (Diode Editions, 2019; Winner of the 2018 Diode Editions Chapbook Award).
- *Ten for Faheem* (Penmanship Books, 2015).

### Selected Articles, Interviews & Chapters:

- (Article) [Race & Voting Rights: The All-Too Familiar Battle for the Ballet](#) for PBS' WORLD Channel (2020).
- (Article) [The Power of Touch: Queer Masculinity & Barbershops](#) for *The Guardian* (2020).
- (Interview) *Poetry, Social Identity & Queer Narratives* for *Scientific Inquirer* (2020).
- (Interview) [Adam Falkner Confronts Queer Shame in "The Willies."](#) for Condé Nast's *them* (2020).
- (Article) [NCTE Verse: This Poet Belongs in Our Classroom](#) for the National Council of the Teachers of English, (2020).
- (Chapter) [Where D.A.P. is Due: Constructing Community Across Difference with the Dialogue Arts Project in Constructivist Education in the Age of Accountability](#), Palgrave Macmillan (2017).
- (Chapter) [Uncommon Core: Contemporary Poems for Living and Learning](#), Read Beard Press (2016).
- (Interview) *Intergroup Dialogue Alumni in a Changing World* for *Dialogue Across Difference: Practice, Research and Theory on Intergroup Dialogue*, Russell Sage Foundation (2014).
- (Interview) [On the Train, at the Laundromat, Your poem begins...Now](#) for *The New York Times* (2013).

### Selected Poems:

- Falkner, Adam (2021). [\*So What If I'm Not Ready to Leave Yet...\*](#). Brooklyn Rail.
- Falkner, Adam (2020). [\*Love Me A Man Who Cries\*](#). Catapult.
- Falkner, Adam (2018). *Men's Ten-Meter Platform* and *Intake*. Diode Poetry Journal.
- Falkner, Adam (2017). [\*Look At Me Now and Intake\*](#). Vinyl. Summer Issue.
- Falkner, Adam (2016). *The Definition of Privilege*, Resisting Arrest (Jacar Press).
- Falkner, Adam (2015). *Six Poems*. Assaracus/Sibling Rivalry Press. Issue #20.
- Falkner, Adam (2015). *Willie Boy & Intake*. Winter Tangerine. May Issue.
- Falkner, Adam (2015). *If You Don't Know*, BreakBeat Poets Anthology (Haymarket Books).
- Falkner, Adam (2014). [\*The Year the Wu-Tang Drops\*](#). Thrush Poetry Journal. September Issue.
- Falkner, Adam & Gómez, Carlos Andrés (2013). *3AM. Man Up: Cracking the Code to Modern Manhood* (Penguin Group, 2013).
- Falkner, Adam (2012). [\*Connor Everywhere But...\*](#) Painted Bride Quarterly. Issue #87.

### Selected Lectures & Presentations:

- *Engaging Inclusion* for Pinterest's global employee network. Virtual. (2021).
- *Allyship & Inclusive Leadership* for Hearst Media's global employee network. Virtual. (2021).
- *Introduction to Inclusion* for Children's Hospital for Atlanta employee network. Virtual. (2021).
- *Remixing the Culturally Responsive Curriculum* for the International School of Lausanne. Lausanne, Switzerland (2021).
- [\*PEN to Paper: Embracing Incongruity\*](#) for PEN America World Voices Festival, New York, NY. (2020).
- *Teaching While White & The Pursuit of the Progressive Self* for the Progressive Teaching Institute at the Ethical Culture Fieldston School. New York, NY. (2020).
- *Teaching Toward Intersectional Identities* for Arts Inside Out Institute at Nkosi's Haven. Johannesburg, South Africa (2019).
- *Constructivist Education in the Age of Accountability*, for the Annual Conference for the Association for Constructivist Teaching. Columbia, SC. (2019).
- *Creating Poets' Rooms: Cultivating Community Across Difference*, for SUNY Geneseo's "Cultivating Community" speaker series. Geneseo, NY. (2019)
- *Performance and Public Scholarship: Poetry, Poetics, Academia and Activism* for the Annual Meeting for the American Studies Association (ASA). Atlanta, GA. (2018)
- *Building a Social Justice Curriculum in the Age of Black Lives Matter* for the Annual Meeting for the Association of Writing and Writing Programs (AWP). Tampa, FL. (2018)
- *Performing the Process* for Greens Farms Academy. Greens Farms, CT. (2017)
- *Queering Racial Pedagogies with the Dialogue Arts Project* for Pratt Institute's Black Lives Matter Teach-In. Brooklyn, NY. (2017)
- *Reimagining Diversity Education: The Dialogue Arts Project* for Carleton College's Winter Convocation. Northfield, MN. (2016)
- *The Creative Challenge of Diversity* for Northfield Mount Hermon School. Gill, MA. (2016)
- *Reinventing Diversity Education: The Dialogue Arts Project* for the Annual Convention for the National Council of Teachers of English. Washington, D.C. (2016)
- *Reimagining Culturally Responsive Teaching* for the National Race and Pedagogy Conference at the University of Puget Sound. Tacoma, WA. (2015)
- [\*TEDxNJIT: The Story Under Your Nose\*](#). Lecture for the New Jersey Institute for Technology's TEDx Conference Series. Newark, NJ. (2014)

### Selected Readings & Performances:

- Featured Poet, Columbia University (2019); Georgia State University (2019); Princeton University (2018), New York University (2018); Carleton College (2017); Sarah Lawrence College (2017);

- University of Washington (2016); University of California (2016); Wesleyan University (2015), and many more.
- Featured Poet w/ Dr. Cornel West, Teachers College Columbia University (New York 2016).
- Featured Poet w/ Evie Shockley, Center for Book Arts' Broadside Series (New York 2016).
- Featured Poet w/ US Poet Laureate Philip Levine, Bowery Poetry Club' (New York, NY 2012).
- Featured Poet, President Obama's Grassroots Ball, 2009 Presidential Inauguration (Washington, DC, 2009).

#### Selected Performances

- [\*You Are Who I Love\*](#) (*The Willies* Book Release, 2020; New York City)
- [\*The Whitest Thing\*](#) (National Poetry Slam, 2015; Oakland, CA)
- [\*My Father A Mansion\*](#) (The Brooklyn Fire House, 2014; Brooklyn NY)

#### **Teaching & Related Employment**

##### *Inclusion & Diversity Program Manager, Pinterest (2021-present)*

Oversaw the development of innovative diversity, equity and inclusion programming for Pinterest's global employee base.

- Supported content development for the company's "Introduction to Inclusion" workshop; facilitated learning for thousands of employees.
- Designed digital archives and resource guides to enable individualized, self-paced employee education around critical DEI issues and themes.
- Recruited, trained and managed teams of facilitators to scale inclusion initiatives to the company's international offices.

##### *Senior Consultant, Jennifer Brown Consulting (2019- present)*

Consulted with a wide range of corporate clients across the country on a range of issues, particularly focused on issues of racial equity, and diversity & inclusion.

- Managed end-to-end projects that included program development, curriculum design, digital content development, leadership coaching, research and analysis, audit and report writing.
- Shaped strategy and facilitated programming for clients including Hearst Media, Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, Pinterest, Pella, Toyota, and others.
- Authored original curriculum and accountability roadmaps for advancing racial equity in organizations.

##### *Founding Partner, Dialogue Arts Project (2016- present)*

Founded and managed all aspects of a national diversity consulting firm dedicated to using the creative arts to facilitate dialogue across lines of identity and difference.

- Founded and grew DAP from concept to national nonprofit with an annual revenue of mid-six figures and a team of ~15 employees.
- Facilitated programming for hundreds of partners including the National Park Service, Boston Medical Center, NPR's The Moth, Genius, Teach For America, and many others.
- Authored extensive list of publications and delivered lectures, performances and workshops. Select list below.

##### *Diversity & Inclusion Curriculum Designer, Crescendo (2019-2020)*

Developed and managed learning strategy, content and curriculum for fast-growing early stage global inclusion software company.

- Developed behavior change framework for articulating cultural competence at work; built and maintained content ontology to organize and refine culturally responsive curriculum.
- Designed and implemented virtual learning experiences for employees of Fortune 500 companies across the world.
- Built and leveraged relationships with content creators and cultural influences to bolster brand identity and led international content sourcing and strategy through a period of rapid scale.

Chief Operating Officer, Urban Word NYC (2015-2018)

Led acclaimed youth literary arts organization with an annual impact reach of more than 35,000 NYC teenagers and annual budget of \$1.3M.

- Ushered Urban Word NYC through a period of major expansion growth while leading an org-wide rebranding effort.
- Grew programming to 35 US cities and opened a west coast office. Hired, trained and managed staff to execute programs; developed organizational strategy.
- Cultivated and sustained donor relations and oversaw production of annual performance events including the NYC Youth Poet Laureate Program and the NYC Teen Poetry Slam.

Lecturer, Vassar College & Columbia University (2014-2016)

Facilitated undergraduate courses including “Pedagogies of Difference,” “Supervised Teaching of English” and “The Teaching of English in Diverse Social and Cultural Contexts” for undergrads.

English Teacher, Academy for Young Writers; NYC Department of Education (2007-2014)

Developed/taught curricula for 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> grade English and Creative Writing as part of a dedicated team in preparing students for NYS Regents Exam, received notable recognition from the NYC DoE.

**Service**

- Founding Board Member, New York City Charter School of the Arts, (present)
- Board Member, Fort Greene Park Conservancy (present)
- Board Member, 4 W. 101st Street Residential Cooperative (present)
- Volunteer, Democrats for Pennsylvania, 2020
- Volunteer Instructor, Artists Striving to End Poverty; Johannesburg, South Africa, 2018
- Alumni Advisory Council, Pahara NextGen Fellowship, 2018

**Special Recognitions**

Select Awards & Honors:

- Winner of the Diode Editions Chapbook Prize (2018)
- Three-time Pushcart Prize Nominee (2014, 2013, 2010)
- Segal Education Award, Americorps (2009)

Select Residencies & Fellowships:

- The #BARS Workshop (The Public Theater), 2020
- Next Generation Fellowship (Pahara Institute), 2016-2017
- Arthur Zankel Teaching Fellowship (Teachers College, Columbia University), 2016
- Nuyorican Poets Café, Artist-in-Residence (Nuyorican Poets Cafe), 2013
- New York City Teaching Fellowship (New York City Department of Education), 2012

**Professional Affiliations & Memberships**

- National Council for Teachers of English
- American Educational Research Association
- American Studies Association
- Association of Writing and Writing Programs
- Association of Constructivist Teaching

**Additional Skills & Qualifications**

- Proficient in Spanish
- Proficient in American sign Language
- Fluent in Google Suite, Slack, Microsoft Office Programs, and all major social media platforms.