

## ALEXANDER B. BICK

235 McCormick Road | Charlottesville, VA 22903  
(434) 982-3009 | [jbx6kp@virginia.edu](mailto:jbx6kp@virginia.edu)

### EDUCATION

---

2005–2012	Princeton University, Princeton, NJ <i>PhD</i> , History
2002–2004	London School of Economics and Political Science, London, United Kingdom <i>MSc</i> , Economic History, and <i>Diploma</i> , Economics
1996–1999	University of Chicago, Chicago, IL <i>BA</i> , Political Science
1994–1996	Simon’s Rock College, Great Barrington, MA <i>AA</i> , Social Studies

### EXPERIENCE

---

2024–	University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA <i>Associate Professor of Practice</i> , Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy
2022–2023	U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC <i>Senior Advisor and Member of the Policy Planning Staff</i> , Office of the Secretary
2021–2022	Executive Office of the President, Washington, DC <i>Director for Strategic Planning</i> , National Security Council Staff
2020–2021	Biden-Harris Transition, Washington, DC <i>Policy Coordinator</i> , Agency Review Team for the National Security Council
2019–2020	Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington, DC <i>Fellow</i> , Middle East Program and the Kennan Institute
2016–2020	Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, Washington, DC <i>Research Scholar</i> , Henry A. Kissinger Center for Global Affairs <i>Associate Director</i> , Henry A. Kissinger Center for Global Affairs <i>Adjunct Lecturer</i> , Development Studies
2014–2016	Executive Office of the President, Washington, DC <i>Director for Syria</i> , National Security Council Staff
2012–2014	U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC <i>Member of the Policy Planning Staff</i> , Office of the Secretary <i>Policy Officer</i> , Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations
2011–2012	The Carter Center, Atlanta, GA <i>Director</i> , Libya Election Observation Mission (Tripoli) <i>Director</i> , Liberia Election Observation Mission (Monrovia)
2010	Barnard College, New York, NY <i>Visiting Professor</i> , History Department
2008–2010	University of Leiden, Leiden, The Netherlands <i>Researcher</i> , Scaliger Institute and the Institute for History
2002–2003	Office of Julia Drown MP, London, United Kingdom <i>Researcher</i> , All-Party Parliamentary Group on Highly-Indebted Poor Countries
2000–2002	The Carter Center, Atlanta, GA <i>Research Assistant</i> , Democracy Program <i>Intern</i> , Conflict Resolution Program
1999	Business and Professional People for the Public Interest, Chicago, IL <i>Intern</i> , Public Education Project

## FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

---

2023	Superior Honor Award, U.S. Department of State
2019–2020	Wilson Center Fellowship, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars
2018	Research Fellowship, Folger Shakespeare Library
2015	Award for Exceptional Service, Executive Office of the President
2014	Meritorious Honor Award, U.S. Department of State
2013	Meritorious Honor Award, U.S. Department of State
2012	Presidential Management Fellowship, U.S. Department of State
2009–2010	Fulbright Fellowship, The Netherlands
2008	Brill Fellowship, The Scaliger Institute
2008	Political Philosophy Grant, Princeton Center for Human Values
2008	Research Grant, Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies
2006	Language Study Grant, Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies
2005–2006	Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship in Humanistic Studies
2005	Young Scholar, History of Economics Society
2004	Robert McKenzie Memorial Prize, London School of Economics and Political Science
1999	Phi Beta Kappa, University of Chicago
1996	Award for Academic Excellence, Division of Social Studies, Simon’s Rock College

## PUBLICATIONS

---

<i>Forthcoming</i>	<i>Minutes of Empire: Dutch West India Company Politics, 1618-1648</i> (Book manuscript under contract with Oxford University Press).
<i>Forthcoming</i>	“The Dutch West India Company and the Peace of Münster, Revisited.” In <i>Ibero-Dutch Entanglements in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century: Conflict and Collaboration in Global Perspective</i> , edited by Silvia Mitchell and Erica Heinsen-Roach (New York: Palgrave MacMillan).
2024	“Planning for the Worst: The Russia-Ukraine ‘Tiger Team.’” In <a href="#">War in Ukraine: Conflict, Strategy, and the Return of a Fractured World</a> , edited by Hal Brands (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press).
2020	“A New Cold War in the Middle East?” In <a href="#">Re-engaging the Middle East: A New Vision for U.S. Policy</a> , edited by Dafna Rand and Andrew Miller (Washington, DC: Brookings Press).
2018	“ <a href="#">Strategic Dimensions of Forced Migration in Syria</a> ,” <i>SAIS Review of International Affairs</i> , Vol. 38, No. 1 (Summer/Fall 2017), 25-32.
2011	“Introduction: The Atlantic Ocean and the WIC.” In <i>Comprehensive Atlas of the Dutch West India Company</i> , edited by Bea Brommer and Henk den Heijer (Voorburg: Asia Maior Publishers). (With Jaap Jacobs and Henk den Heijer)
2009	“ <a href="#">Johannes de Laet’s History of the Westindische Compagnie</a> ,” <i>Omslag</i> , Vol. 7, No. 1, 1-2.
2008	“ <a href="#">Bernard Mandeville and the ‘Economy’ of the Dutch</a> ,” <i>Erasmus Journal for Philosophy and Economics</i> , Vol. 1, No. 1, 87-106.
2007	“Foreword” to <i>When I Wished I Was Here: Dispatches from Fallujah</i> . (New York: The Crumpled Press.)

## POLICY PAPERS

---

2020	“Westphalia: Beyond the Myth.” <a href="#">After Disruption: Historical Perspectives on the Future of International Order</a> , Center for Strategic and International Studies.
2020	“ <a href="#">Assad the Spoiler: Russia’s Challenge in Syria</a> ,” <i>Viewpoints</i> , Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.
2018	“ <a href="#">Could U.S. Withdrawal from Syria Lead to Conflict Between Russia and Turkey?</a> ” <i>Just Security</i> .

- 2018 [“Trump Should Work with Putin to Develop a New Framework for Syria,”](#) *Foreign Policy*. (With Brian Katulis)
- 2018 [“Seizing the Diplomatic Initiative in Syria,”](#) Center for American Progress. (With Brian Katulis, Daniel Benaim, and Peter Juul)
- 2017 [“Syria Is Sliding Towards Partition,”](#) *War on the Rocks*.
- 2017 [“It’s Time for a New Syria Peace Process,”](#) *Foreign Policy*. (With Lisa Roman)
- 2017 [“Trump’s National Security Strategy: A New Brand of Mercantilism,”](#) Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. (With Salman Ahmed)
- 2013 [“General National Congress Elections in Libya: Final Report,”](#) The Carter Center.
- 2012 [“National Elections in Liberia: Final Report,”](#) The Carter Center.
- 2004 “Liberia: Political and Economic Forecast,” *Economist Intelligence Unit*.

## **PRESENTATIONS**

---

- 2024 “A Global Inflection Point?” *Two Years into the Ukraine War*, The Miller Center, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA
- 2023 “History and Government.” *Workshop on the Future of History*, San Diego, CA
- 2023 “A Plan for Uncertainty.” Ax:son Johnson Institute for Statecraft and Diplomacy, Washington, DC
- 2022 “War in Ukraine: What Have We Learned So Far?” International Policy Scholars Consortium and Network, Minnowbrook, NY
- 2021 “‘Securing This State’: Rethinking Success and Failure in the History of the WIC.” *New Perspectives on the Establishment and Functioning of the Dutch West India Company 400 Years Ago*. Koninklijk Zeeuwsch Genootschap, Middelburg, The Netherlands
- 2020 “U.S. and the Middle East: Lessons from the Obama and Trump Administrations.” Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Washington, DC
- 2020 “After Disruption: Historical Perspectives on the Future of International Order.” Center for Strategic and International Studies, Washington, DC
- 2020 “History and Policymaking: A Case Study.” Summer Institute on Conducting Archival Research, CSIS and the Wilson Center, Washington, DC
- 2020 “The Growing Conflict between Syria, Turkey, and Russia and Implications for U.S. Policy.” Briefing for Members of Congress, Aspen Institute Congressional Program, Washington, DC
- 2020 “The Diplomatic Landscape in Syria.” U.S.-Israel Working Group on Russia in the Middle East, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington, DC
- 2019 “What Did the United States Get Wrong About Russia in Syria?” Academic Exchange Annual Alumni Retreat, Lake George, NY
- 2018 “Obstacles to Russia’s Goals in Syria.” Analytical Exchange on *Russia’s Endgame in Syria*, Bureau of Intelligence and Research, U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC
- 2018 “Policy Memo Master Class.” American University, Washington, DC
- 2017 “In Service of the State: The Uses of History for Policy” and “The War in Syria: What Does It Mean for Assad to Win?” University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA
- 2017 “Turkey and Syria.” *Workshop on Turkey’s Foreign Policy*, RAND Corporation, Arlington, VA
- 2017 “Roads to Raqqa: U.S. Strategy to Defeat the Islamic State.” DACOR, Washington, DC
- 2017 “Syria: A View from the White House.” *Inside Washington During the Obama Years*, Kendal, Lexington, VA

- 2016 “Strategic Challenges for the New Trump Administration in Syria.” Amherst College, MA
- 2016 “President Obama’s Approach in Syria.” U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD
- 2015 “U.S. Strategy in Syria.” *The Implications of Assad Holding On*, Washington Institute on Near East Policy, Washington, DC
- 2012 “Imaginary Economies: Dutch Efforts to Calculate the Value of the New World, 1635–1645.” Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture, *The Political Arithmetic of Empires in the Early Modern World*, University of Maryland College Park, MD
- 2012 “Free Trade and African Slavery.” Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
- 2011 “‘We Dare Not Stick Our Noses Outside the Fort’: Commercial Intelligence, State Policy, and the 1645 Revolt in Dutch Brazil.” *The Global Dimensions of European Knowledge*, Birkbeck College, London
- 2011 “Monopoly Politics: The Debate Over Free Trade to Brazil, 1636-38.” *The Low Countries and Beyond*, Columbia University, New York, NY
- 2010 “The Costs of Conquest: The Dutch West India Company and the Crisis of Imperial Administration, 1643-46.” Early Modern History Workshop, Princeton University, NJ
- 2010 “Brazil, the Dutch Atlantic, and Early Modern Globalization.” *Globalization and De-Globalization*, European University Institute, Florence, Italy
- 2010 “In the Service of Merchants: Tensions within the Dutch Elite over the Selection of a New President and High Council for Recife, 1643-45.” Sixteenth Century Studies Conference, Montreal, Canada
- 2010 “The Joint-Stock Company and the State: Competing Drafts for the Charter of the Dutch West India Company, 1618-1621.” History of Economics Society, Syracuse University, NY
- 2010 “A Council of the Indies for the Dutch Republic? The Heren XIX and the Politics of Imperial Administration, 1618-1645.” Financial History Working Group, University of Utrecht, The Netherlands
- 2010 “The Boardroom and the Empire: A Mirco-History of the Dutch West India Company.” Workshop in Early Modern European History, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
- 2009 “Manifold Gifts, Daily Bribes: Evidence for Changing Patterns of Exchange at Dutch Forts on the Gold Coast, 1640-1665.” Syracuse University, NY
- 2009 “Gifting Empire? Presents, Bribes, and Dutch Power on the Gold Coast, 1640-1665.” *Africa, Europe, and America, 1500-1700*, Omohundro Institute of Early American History and Culture, Accra, Ghana
- 2009 “History Counts: the Dutch West India Company and the Rhetoric of Numbers.” Workshop in Early Modern European History, Princeton University, NJ
- 2008 “Writing Mercantile History: Johannes de Laet and the Dutch West India Company.” *Brill Lecture at the Scaliger Instituut*, Leiden, The Netherlands
- 2008 “Notes on Print and Printing in the Digital Age.” Center for the Study of Books and Media Princeton University, NJ
- 2008 “Africa: Old World, or New?” Workshop in Early Modern European History, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
- 2007 “Sir William Temple and the Politics of Observation.” Seminar in the History of Economic Thought, Tinbergen Institute, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands
- 2007 “Political Economy in the Anglo-Dutch Moment: the Long(er) Durée,” Princeton-Yale British Studies Workshop, New Haven, CT
- 2007 “False Gold or None at All: Limits to European Imperialism in West Africa in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century.” Annual New York Area African History Workshop, Princeton University, NJ

2005	“A Pattern to Others: Bernard Mandeville and the Economy of the Dutch.” History of Economics Society, University of Puget Sound, Tacoma, WA
2004	“Sudan: An Inside and Out View.” Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY
2002	“The Role of International Observers in the 2003 Liberian Election Process.” Movement for Democratic Change Conference, Silver Spring, MD
2001	“Conflict Resolution and U.S. Policy Toward Africa.” Foreign Policy Association Lecture Series, Anderson, SC
2001	“Mediating Proxy War: The Case of Sudan and Uganda.” Mendel Family Lecture Series, Dunwoody, GA
1999	“The Logic of Local Politics in Liberia: 1989-1998.” Illinois State University Conference for Students of Political Science, Normal, IL

## **CONSULTANCIES AND VOLUNTEER WORK**

---

2020–	Senior Scholar, International Policy Scholars Consortium and Network
2020	Senior Advisor, Crisis Management Initiative, Helsinki, Finland
2016–2020	Consultant, The Carter Center, Atlanta, GA
2018	Consultant, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Washington, DC
2017–2018	Associate, National Intelligence Council, Washington, DC
2012	Consultant, The Carter Center, Freetown, Sierra Leone
2010	Volunteer, Syracuse University Department of Archaeology, Komenda, Ghana
2003–2005	Consultant, The Carter Center, Monrovia, Liberia
2003	Volunteer, Bail for Immigration Detainees, Atlanta, GA
2002	Consultant, The Carter Center, Freetown, Sierra Leone
2002–2004	Co-Founder and Director, LSE Africa Forum, London, United Kingdom
1999	Volunteer, Turimiquiré Foundation, Cumaná, Venezuela

## **CAMPAIGN EXPERIENCE**

---

2020	Middle East Working Group, Biden for President
2020	Volunteer/Fundraiser, Sara Tindall-Ghazal for Georgia State House
2018	Volunteer, Andy Kim for Congress, Marlton, NJ
2016	Middle East Working Group and Volunteer, Hillary for America, Philadelphia, PA
2012	Volunteer, Barack Obama for President, Columbus, OH
2008	Volunteer, Barack Obama for President, Fairfax, VA

## **EDITING AND PUBLISHING**

---

2012–2015	Associate Editor, <i>Itinerario: A Journal of the History of European Expansion</i>
2011–2012	Manuscript Reviewer, <i>Erasmus Journal of Philosophy and Economics</i>
2004–2012	Manuscript Reviewer, <i>African Studies Review</i>
2004–2011	Founding Editor and Publisher, <i>The Crumpled Press</i>
2006–2008	Graduate Student Editor, <i>The Princeton Report on Knowledge</i>

## **MEDIA EXPERIENCE**

---

Interviews for print, radio, or television, including AP, BBC, CBC, CNN, Defense One, The Economist, The Financial Times, Fortune, France-Inter, The Guardian, al-Hura, al-Jazeera, al-Monitor, Mother Jones, The National Interest, The New York Times, PBS, Politico, Reuters, Voice of America, War on the Rocks, and The Washington Post

## **LANGUAGES**

---

English (native); Dutch (advanced); French (conversational); Spanish (conversational); Portuguese (beginner)