

ALEXANDER B. BICK

235 McCormick Road
Charlottesville, VA 22903
jbx6kp@virginia.edu

EDUCATION

2012	PhD, History, Princeton University
2004	MSc, Economic History, London School of Economics and Political Science
2003	Diploma, Economics, London School of Economics and Political Science
1999	BA, Political Science, University of Chicago
1996	AA, Social Studies, Simon's Rock College

EXPERIENCE

2024–	University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA Associate Professor of Practice, Frank Batten School of Leadership & Public Policy Senior Faculty Fellow, The Miller Center
2024–	Stanford University, Stanford, CA Visiting Fellow, Hoover Institution
2022–2023	U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC Senior Advisor and Member of the Secretary's Policy Planning Staff
2021–2022	Executive Office of the President, Washington, DC Director for Strategic Planning, National Security Council Staff
2019–2020	Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington, DC Fellow, Middle East Program and the Kennan Institute
2018	Folger Shakespeare Library, Washington, DC Short-Term Research Fellow
2016–2020	Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, Washington, DC Research Scholar, Henry A. Kissinger Center for Global Affairs Associate Director, Henry A. Kissinger Center for Global Affairs Adjunct Lecturer, Development Studies/Conflict Management/Strategic Studies
2014–2016	Executive Office of the President, Washington, DC Director for Syria, National Security Council Staff
2012–2014	U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC Member of the Secretary's Policy Planning Staff Policy Officer, Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations
2011–2012	The Carter Center, Atlanta, GA Director, Libya Election Observation Mission (Tripoli) Director, Liberia Election Observation Mission (Monrovia)
2010	Barnard College, New York, NY Visiting Professor, History Department
2008–2010	University of Leiden, Leiden, The Netherlands Graduate Student Researcher
2000–2005	The Carter Center, Atlanta, GA Acting Field Office Director, Liberia Election Observation Mission (Monrovia)

	Coordinator, Sierra Leone Election Observation Mission (Freetown)
	Research Assistant, Democracy Program
	Research Assistant, Conflict Resolution Program
	Intern, Conflict Resolution Program
2002–2003	Office of Julia Drown MP, London, United Kingdom
	Researcher, All-Party Parliamentary Group on Highly-Indebted Poor Countries
1999	Business and Professional People for the Public Interest, Chicago, IL
	Intern, Public Education Project

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

2023	Superior Honor Award, U.S. Department of State
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	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	Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship in Humanistic Studies
2005	Young Scholar, History of Economics Society
2004	Robert McKenzie Memorial Prize, London School of Economics & 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> (New York: Oxford University Press).
2025	“Leveraging Foresight in a Volatile World: The State Department’s New Policy Risk and Opportunity Planning Group.” <i>Studies in Intelligence</i> , vol. 69, no. 1 (with Matan Chorev and Jeff Graham).
2025	“ The Dutch West India Company and the Peace of Münster, Revisited .” <i>Ibero-Dutch Entanglements in the 17th Century: Geopolitical Shifts in Global Perspective</i> , edited by Silvia Mitchell and Erica Heinsen-Roach (New York: Palgrave MacMillan).
2024	“ Why Assad’s Fall Took the World by Surprise .” <i>Engelsberg Ideas</i> .
2024	“ Planning for the Worst: The Russia-Ukraine ‘Tiger Team’ .” <i>War in Ukraine: Conflict, Strategy, and the Return of a Fractured World</i> , edited by Hal Brands (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press).
2020	“A New Cold War in the Middle East?” Re-engaging the Middle East: A New Vision for U.S. Policy , edited by Dafna Rand and Andrew Miller (Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press).
2020	“ Assad the Spoiler: Russia’s Challenge in Syria .” <i>Viewpoints</i> , Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

- 2018 [“Could U.S. Withdrawal from Syria Lead to Conflict Between Russia and Turkey?”](#) *Just Security*.
- 2018 [“Trump Should Work with Putin to Develop a New Framework for Syria.”](#) *Foreign Policy* (with Brian Katulis).
- 2017 [“Strategic Dimensions of Forced Migration in Syria.”](#) *SAIS Review of International Affairs*, vol. 38, no. 1 (Summer/Fall), 25-32.
- 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).
- 2011 “Introduction: The Atlantic Ocean and the WIC.” *Comprehensive Atlas of the Dutch West India Company*, edited by Bea Brommer and Henk den Heijer (Voorburg: Asia Major Publishers).
- 2009 [“Johannes de Laet’s History of the Westindische Compagnie.”](#) *Omslag*, vol. 7, no. 1, 1-2.
- 2008 [“Bernard Mandeville and the ‘Economy’ of the Dutch.”](#) *Erasmus Journal for Philosophy and Economics*, vol. 1, no. 1, 87-106.
- 2007 “Foreword” to *When I Wished I Was Here: Dispatches from Fallujah* (New York: The Crumpled Press).

REPORTS AND WORKING PAPERS

- 2020 “Westphalia: Beyond the Myth.” [After Disruption: Historical Perspectives on the Future of International Order](#), Center for Strategic and International Studies.
- 2018 [“Seizing the Diplomatic Initiative in Syria.”](#) Center for American Progress (with Brian Katulis, Daniel Benaim, and Peter Juul).
- 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.

PRESENTATIONS

- 2025 “What History Can Tell Us About Taiwan.” International Policy Scholars Consortium and Network, Washington, DC.
- 2024 “Ukraine: Could It Have Been Different?” America in the World Consortium, Washington, DC.
- 2024 “Foresight and Planning for Russia-Ukraine Contingencies.” Nuclear Security Enterprise Strategic Foresight Community of Practice Talks (virtual).
- 2024 “Credibility Across Commitments: Syria.” International Policy Scholars Consortium and Network, Minnowbrook, NY.
- 2024 “Autocracy, Adversary Alignment, and the Fight for the Global Order.” Secretary’s Open Forum, U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC.
- 2024 “World Order and the War in Ukraine.” Ax:son Johnson Institute for Statecraft and Diplomacy, Halewell, United Kingdom.

- 2024 “Planning for the Worst: The Russia-Ukraine Tiger Team.” America and the World Consortium, Washington, DC.
- 2024 “A Global Inflection Point?” [Two Years into the Ukraine War](#), The Miller Center, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA.
- 2023 Panelist, U.S. book launch for Iskander Rehman, “Planning for Protraction: A Historically Informed Approach to Great-power War and Sino-US Competition.” International Institute for Strategic Studies, Washington, DC.
- 2023 “Inside the Strategic Guidance.” Workshop on Strategic Competition, Foreign Service Institute, U.S. Department of State, Washington, DC.
- 2023 “Three Phases in U.S. Policy Towards Russia’s Full-Scale Invasion of Ukraine.” Ukraine War Room, 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 WIC 400 Years Ago. Koninklijk Zeeuwsch Genootschap, Middelburg, The Netherlands (virtual).
- 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 Lecture Series, 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 Asad 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, 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 Micro-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 th 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.

CAMPAIGN EXPERIENCE

2024	Senior Advisor, Harris-Walz Transition, Washington, DC
2020–2021	NSC Agency Review Team, Biden-Harris Transition, Washington, DC
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

OTHER EXPERIENCE

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
2010	Volunteer, Syracuse University Department of Archaeology, Komenda, Ghana
2002–2004	Co-Founder and Director, LSE Africa Forum, London, United Kingdom
2003	Volunteer, Bail for Immigration Detainees, Atlanta, GA
1999	Volunteer, Turimiquiré Foundation, Cumaná, Venezuela

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 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 and Spanish (conversational); Portuguese (beginner)