

# Dr. Alexander Howlett

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Vancouver, BC, Canada

## Summary

Military historian with background in war studies, defence policy and historiography. Researching official history, strategy and leadership, maritime operations, air and seapower, diplomacy and naval policy.

## Education

### [Ph.D., Defence Studies, King's College London](#)

2012 – 2019

Thesis: 'The Royal Naval Air Service and the Evolution of Naval Aviation in Britain, 1914-1918'. Thesis Committee: Dr. Tim Benbow, Professor Andrew Lambert, Dr. Christina Goulter, Professor Eric Grove, Professor Matthew Seligmann.

### [M.A., War Studies, King's College London](#)

2009 – 2010

Thesis: 'The Battle of Virginia Capes, 1781'. Advisors: Dr. Alan James, Professor Andrew Lambert

### [B.A., \(honours\) History, Simon Fraser University](#)

2004 – 2008

Thesis: 'Tsushima: A Technological Assessment'. Advisors: Dr. Andre Gerolymatos, Dr. Janice Matsumura

## Experience

### [Teaching Assistant](#)

Administered 40 - 60 students in multiple tutorial sessions, facilitated discussion, held office hours, graded papers and invigilated exams.

Simon Fraser University, Department of History

2020, Spring term

History 225: 20<sup>th</sup> Century Europe. Prof. Ilya Vinkovetsky

2016, Spring and Fall terms

History 254: China to 1800. Prof. Weiting Guo

History 225: 20<sup>th</sup> Century Europe. Prof. Paul Garfinkel

### [Research Assistant](#)

2006, 2010 - 2011, 2020 - 2021

Worked as part of a team of graduate researchers, compiled dossiers, bibliographies, indexes and glossaries, conducted data analysis, archival and database research, and interviewed clients.

National University of Singapore, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy.  
2021. Project Lead: Prof. M. Ramesh  
Compiled glossary/index for Elgar Dictionary of Public Policy

Ryerson University, Department of Politics & Public Admin.  
2020/1. Project Lead: Dr. Andrea Migone  
Post-doctoral research on naval procurement, focusing on the Canadian Surface Combatant (CSC) program.

Ryerson University, Department of Politics & Public Admin.  
2020. Project Lead: Dr. Bryan Evans  
Post-doctoral research on public policy instrumentation relating to deliberative democracy and participatory governance.

Athabasca University, Department of Political Science.  
2011. Project Lead: Dr. Mark Crawford.  
Publication: Jonathan Craft, et al. 'Assessing Policy Capacity for Climate Change Adaptation: Governance Arrangements, Resource Deployments, and Analytical Skills in Canadian Infrastructure Policy Making' *Review of Policy Research*, Vol. 30, No. 1, January 2013, 42–65

Ryerson University, Department of Politics & Public Admin.  
2010. Project Lead: Dr. Bryan Evans  
Publication: Bryan Evans, et al. 'Assessing Policy Capacity in Canada's Public Services: Perspectives of Deputy and Assistant Deputy Ministers' *Canadian Public Administration*, Vol. 54, No. 2, June 2011, 217–234

Simon Fraser University, Department of Humanities.  
2006. Project Lead: Dr. Robert Menzies  
Compiled bibliography for [historyofmadness.ca](http://historyofmadness.ca)

### Student Tutor

Simon Fraser University, Athletics Department, 2011 – 2015  
Tutored undergraduate groups and individuals in subjects including history, geography, philosophy, and sociology.

## Publications

### Monographs

*The Development of British Naval Aviation, 1914-1918*  
June 2021, Routledge.

History of the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS) based on my PhD research for the Defence Studies Department at King's College London.

### Peer Reviewed Articles

'(Mis)Aligning Politicians and Admirals: Long-Term Procurement and the Canadian Surface Combatant Programme 1994-2021' *Journal of Canadian Public Administration*, coauthored with Andrea Migone (Ryerson) and Michael Howlett (SFU), forthcoming.

‘The Royal Naval Air Service & Anti-Submarine Warfare in the North Sea, 1917-1918’ *British Journal for Military History*, Vol. 4, No. 2, 2018, 32-50.

### Book Chapters

‘Royal Navy Trade Defence in the English Channel, 1914 – 1918’ in *The Channel Islands in Anglo-French Maritime Relations, 1689-1918* eds. Andrew Lambert, Jean de Prenuef, and Colin Partridge, Boydell and Brewer (Summer 2021)

### Book Reviews

‘Manstan, Roy R. *The Listeners: U-boat Hunters during the Great War*. Middletown, CT: Wesleyan University Press, 2018’ *Michigan War Studies Review*, July 2019.

‘Gough, Barry. *Britannia’s Navy on the West Coast of North America, 1812-1914*. Victoria: Heritage House, 2016’ *BC Studies*, No. 196, Winter 2017.

‘Stahel, David. *Operation Typhoon: Hitler’s March on Moscow, October 1941*. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2013; and Youssef Aboul-Enein and Basil Aboul-Enein. *The Secret War for the Middle East: The Influence of Axis and Allied Intelligence Operations during World War II*. Annapolis, MD: Naval Institute Press, 2013’ *Journal of Military and Strategic Studies*, Vol. 16, No. 3, 2015.

‘Krupar, Shiloh. *Hotspotter’s Report: Military Fables of Toxic Waste*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2013’ in *Journal of Ecocriticism*, Vol. 4, No. 1, Spring 2014.

### Digital Media

‘Canada cannot claim Arctic sovereignty unless we find the political will to replace our submarines’ *The Globe and Mail*, 23 July 2021

‘Phormio, the Athenians, and the origins of the Peloponnesian War’ *Canadian War Studies Association*, July 2021.

‘After Trafalgar: The Royal Navy, 1806 – 1816’ *Canadian War Studies Association*, September 2020.

‘Operation Anaconda: Victory and Defeat in Afghanistan, March 2002’ *Canadian War Studies Association*, July 2020.

‘McMullen Naval History Symposium 2019: Conference Report’ *Canadian War Studies Association*, September 2019.

‘Unrestricted Submarine Warfare, 1917 - 1918’ *Canadian War Studies Association*, July 2019.

‘England and the Closing of the Middle Ages: The Battle of Bosworth, 22 August 1485’ *Canadian War Studies Association*, 2019.

‘Operation Urgent Fury, Cold War Crisis in Grenada, October – November 1983’ *Canadian War Studies Association*, 2018.

‘Master of the Seas of the Two Indies: The Naval Career of Admiral Sir George Pocock’ *Canadian War Studies Association*, 2018.

‘Captain Charles Middleton and the Seven Years’ War’ *Canadian War Studies Association*, 2017.

‘Reflections on the 2017 McMullen Naval History Symposium’ *Canadian War Studies Association*, 2017.

‘Keeping the Genie in the Bottle: RNAS Anti-Submarine Warfare, 1912-1916’ *Defence-in-Depth*, 2016.

‘Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve: The Air Campaign, Effectiveness, Part III’ *Canadian War Studies Association*, 2016.

‘Combined Joint Task Force – Operation Inherent Resolve: The Air Campaign, Effectiveness, Part II’ *Canadian War Studies Association*, 2016.

‘The Effectiveness of Air Power against the Islamic State: Operation Inherent Resolve’ *Canadian War Studies Association*, 2015.

‘Armour Tactics at the Battle of 73 Easting, 26 February 1991’ *Canadian War Studies Association*, 2015.

‘Bunker Hill, 17 June 1775: Amphibious and Infantry Operations’ *Canadian War Studies Association*, 2015.

‘Infantry Tactics at the Battle of Crecy, 1346’ *Canadian War Studies Association*, 2015.

‘NATO’s Interim Spearhead Force’ *Airspace Historian*, 2014.

‘Any Other Name: The Origin of HMS Dreadnought (SSN, S101)’ *Airspace Historian*, 2014.

‘Russian Operational Art of War in Crimea, March 2014’ *Airspace Historian*, 2014.

‘The Development of the Tank in Britain’ *Airspace Historian*, 2014.

‘Thomas Cochrane and the Battle of the Basque Roads, April 1809’ *Airspace Historian*, 2014.

‘Breaking the Line: Cavalry Tactics at Balaklava’ *Airspace Historian*, 2013.

‘Nelson’s Touch: Lord Exmouth and the Bombardment of Algiers, 1816’ *Airspace Historian*, 2013.

‘HMS Inflexible: Scion of the Mediterranean Fleet’ *Airspace Historian*, 2013.

‘Sea Harrier FRS1: Operation Corporate’ *Airspace Historian*, 2013.

‘Hawker Sea Fury, Korean Operations’ *Airspace Historian*, 2013.

### Working Papers

‘Thucydides, Official Historian or IR Prophet?’ Journal article discussing trends in recent military history and political science publications on Thucydides.

‘Victorian Naval Policy, 1837 – 1901’ Monograph proposal for post-doctoral research on the political and administrative history of the Royal Navy during the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

‘The Air Division of the Naval Staff’ Journal article draft based on unpublished archival research on the Air Division of the Naval Staff of the Royal Navy, 1918 – 1919.

‘Richard Phillimore and the Flying Squadron of the Grand Fleet’ Journal article draft based on archival research on Admiral Commanding Aircraft (ACA) Richard Phillimore, CO of the Flying Squadron of the Grand Fleet, 1918.

‘The Naval Policy of Lord Salisbury’ Journal article based on historiographical research on the late Victorian naval and imperial defence policy of Lord Salisbury, Unionist PM, 1885 – 1902.

‘Firepower and the Origins of Modern Warfare’ Journal article based on archival and historiographical research on the development of firepower intensive warfare between 1900 – 1920.

‘Global Hegemony in the Nuclear Era’ Proposal for monograph length international relations and global diplomacy project examining the application of military power after 1945.

‘Murray Sueter and the Development of the Tank in Britain’ Journal article draft based on archival research presented at the 17th Annual Graduate Strategic Studies Conference, 2015, University of Calgary.

‘The correspondence of Lady Fisher’ Journal article proposal based on archival research including the correspondence between Admiral Sir John Fisher and Lady Fisher.

‘The Fairey Flycatcher’ forthcoming *Airspace Historian* article on the development of the Royal Air Force’s Fairey Flycatcher aircraft.

‘Joint Force Harrier’ forthcoming *Airspace Historian* article on the formation, operations, and dismantling of the Royal Air Force and Royal Navy’s Joint Force Harrier concept.

‘Cyril Newall, 1<sup>st</sup> Baron Newall’ forthcoming *Canadian War Studies Association* article focusing on Chief of the Air Staff Newall and his command during the Battle of Britain.

‘Maritime Operations of the Nine Years War’ forthcoming *Canadian War Studies Association* article narrating the naval and amphibious operations of the Nine Years War, 1688 – 1697.

‘Marcus Agrippa’ forthcoming *Canadian War Studies Association* article focusing on Agrippa’s command influence at the Battle of Actium, 31 BC.

‘The Battle of Arbutus, 251 AD’ forthcoming *Canadian War Studies Association* article

‘Canadian Naval Policy, 1910-1935’ forthcoming *Canadian War Studies Association* article.

‘The Armada Campaign’ forthcoming *Canadian War Studies Association* article.

‘Operation Mercury, May - June 1941’ forthcoming *Canadian War Studies Association* article

‘The Battle of the Coral Sea, 4-8 May 1942’ forthcoming *Canadian War Studies Association* article

## Conferences

### Presentations

‘The Royal Navy, the Air Ministry, and the Air Division of the Naval Staff, 1918-1919’ for the McMullen Naval History Symposium, 23-24 September 2021

‘Aligning Politicians and Admirals: The Problems of Long-Term Procurement in The Canadian Surface Combatant Programme, 1994-2021’ with Andrea Migone, for the 2021 International Conference on Public Policy (ICPP5), 5-9 July 2021

‘Strategy and Delivery: The (Mis?)Alignment of Doctrine and Government Goals in the 2000-2020 Canadian Frigate Programme’ with Andrea Migone, for the Canadian Association of Programs in Public Administration (CAPPA) 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, 2-4 June 2021, & the Canadian Political Science Association (CPSA) Annual Conference, 7-10 June 2021

‘Twelve Days in October: Planning Operation Urgent Fury’ for the Society for Military History 87<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, 30 April – 3 May 2020 [approved; conference cancelled]. Presented at the SMH 88<sup>th</sup> conference, 20 – 23 May 2021

‘Naval Aviation and the Grand Fleet, from Airships to Aircraft Carriers’ for the McMullen Naval History Symposium, 19-20 September 2019

‘Defending the Channel in War Time, 1914-1918’ for the Henry Euler Memorial Trust Anglo-French International Symposium, Alderney, 5-6 September 2019

‘RNAS Anti-Submarine Warfare, 1917-1918’ for the McMullen Naval History Symposium, 14-15 September 2017.

‘Warfare in Three Dimensions: RNAS anti-submarine warfare, 1912-1916’ for the First World War at Sea conference, National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, UK, June 2016

‘Air Power in Transition: The Military Education and Training Establishment of the RAF, 1918-1925’ for the Military Education and Empire, 1854-1948 conference, Royal Military College, Kingston, 5 & 6 November 2015

‘From Jutland to Tondern: The Grand Fleet’s Naval Aviation Revolution, 1916-1918’ for the McMullen Naval History Symposium, United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, 17 & 18 September 2015

‘Murray Sueter and the Development of the Tank: A Cautionary Note’ for the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Graduate Strategic Studies Conference, University of Calgary, 6 & 7 March 2015

‘Take to the Air: The Doctrinal Development of Britain’s First Fleet Air Arm, 1914-18’ for the Third Annual Defence Studies Department PhD Student Research conference, Joint Services Command & Staff College, Shrivenham, UK, 21-23 July 2014.

‘Carriers for the Grand Fleet: Richard Phillimore and the development of the Flying Squadron’ for the 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Graduate Strategic Studies Conference: Security, Strategy, and Defence, University of Calgary, 27 February to 1 March 2014.

‘British First World War Naval Aviation Doctrine’ for the Second Annual Defence Studies Department PhD Student Research Conference, Joint Services Command & Staff College, Shrivenham, UK, 22 & 23 July 2013.

### [In Attendance](#)

Society for Military History 86<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, Columbus, OH, 9-12 May, 2019.

Maritime Security Challenges Conference, Victoria, BC, 15-16 October 2018.

Vimy 2017: From Both Sides of the Ridge, University of Calgary, 20-22 April, 2017.

19<sup>th</sup> Annual Graduate Strategic Studies Conference, University of Calgary, 16-17 March 2017.

The Anglo-German Naval Arms Race and the First World War at Sea, National Museum of the Royal Navy, Portsmouth, UK, 16-18 July 2014.

## Research

[Founder: Canadian War Studies Association & Airspace Historian](#)

[cawarstudies.wordpress.com](http://cawarstudies.wordpress.com)

[airspacehistorian.wordpress.com](http://airspacehistorian.wordpress.com)

2013/4 - present

Interdisciplinary war studies research blog, publishes long-form research projects focusing on official military and naval history.

## Grants

Graduate School Conference Fund, King's College London  
2016

School of Social Science and Public Policy Small Bursary, King's College London  
2014, 2016

Defence Studies Department PhD Student Research Fund, King's College London  
2013, 2016

Birks Family Foundation Bursary, Simon Fraser University  
2006

Summit Scholarship, Simon Fraser University  
2004

## Associations

The Society for Nautical Research  
2019 – Present

US Naval Institute  
2018 – 2019

*The Naval Review*  
2018 – Present

Society for Military History  
2017 – Present

*Cross & Cockade International*  
2017 – Present

Navy Records Society  
2015 – Present

Corbett Centre for Maritime Policy Studies  
2013 - Present