

Dr. Alexander Howlett

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Vancouver, BC, Canada

Summary

Naval and military historian with background in war studies, defence policy, international relations, political science, and historiography.

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

Teaching

Sessional

Administered 30-40 students in multiple seminar sessions, presented lectures, assigned readings, facilitated discussion, held office hours, graded papers and invigilated exams.

University Canada West, Department of History

2023, Winter, Spring, & Fall terms

2022, Summer & Fall terms

History 305: Canadian Urban History

Teaching Assistant

Simon Fraser University, Department of History

2020, Spring term

History 225: 20th Century Europe. Prof. Ilya Vinkovetsky

2016, Spring & Fall terms

History 254: China to 1800. Prof. Weiting Guo

History 225: 20th Century Europe. Prof. Paul Garfinkel

Student Tutor

Simon Fraser University, Athletics Department, 2011 – 2015

Tutored undergraduate groups and individual student athletes in subjects including history, geography, philosophy, and sociology.

Editing

Research Assistant, Editor

2006, 2010 - 2011, 2020 - 2024

Worked as part of a team of post-graduate researchers, compiled dossiers, bibliographies, indexes and glossaries. Conducted data analysis, archival and database research, and interviewed clients. Edited manuscripts and articles for clients and journals.

The Naval Review, Assistant Editor

2022-4. Project Lead: Michael Beardall

Assisted the senior editor and CEO with the production of *The Naval Review* journal, met with executive committee to plan issues, copyedited articles for journal publication, solicited article from authors.

Simon Fraser University, School of Public Administration

2024. Project Lead: Michael Howlett

Compiled glossary and index for Elgar, *Dictionary of Policy Tools*

University of Victoria, School of Public Administration

2022. Project Lead: Evert Lindquist

Compiled index for the Oxford University Press, *Policy Success in Canada: Cases, Lessons, Challenges*

Simon Fraser University, School of Public Administration

2022. Project Lead: Michael Howlett

Compiled index for the Routledge, *The Routledge Handbook of Policy Tools*

Toronto Metropolitan University, Department of Politics & Public Admin.

2020-22. Project Lead: Dr. Andrea Migone

Post-doctoral research on naval procurement, focusing on the Canadian Surface Combatant (CSC) program and the Australian *Hunter*-class procurement. Included SSHRC grant applications, journal publications and editorial work.

Simon Fraser University, Department of Political Science

2021. Project Lead: Prof. Laurent Dobuzinskis,

Edited manuscript, compiled bibliography, and created graphics for the first volume of Professor Dobuzinskis' monograph, *Moral Discourse in the History of Political Thought*

National University of Singapore, Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy.

2021. Project Lead: Prof. M. Ramesh

Compiled glossary and index for Elgar, *Dictionary of Public Policy*

Toronto Metropolitan 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. Focused on climate change research.

Athabasca University, Department of Political Science.

2011. Project Lead: Dr. Mark Crawford.

Graduate research investigating climate change related ENGOs in Canada.

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

Toronto Metropolitan University, Department of Politics & Public Admin.

2010. Project Lead: Dr. Bryan Evans

Graduate work compiling database of Canadian deputy ministers as part of investigation into policy capacity at the provincial level.

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 the website historyofmadness.ca

Publications

Books

Twelve Days in October: The Fate of the Grenadian Revolution

History of the Grenadian Revolution and the invasion of Grenada, 1979-1983, based on *Canadian War Studies Association* and Society for Military History research. Forthcoming, 2025, Bloomsbury

Procurement and Politics: Strategies of Defence Acquisition in Canada and Australia

Comparison of *Type 26* frigate and F35 procurement in Canada and Australia. Coauthored with Andrea Migone and Michael Howlett. Palgrave Macmillan, Open Access, 2023.

The Development of British Naval Aviation, 1914-1918

History of the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS) based on my PhD research for the Defence Studies Department at King's College London. Routledge, 2021.

Articles

'The politics of military megaprojects: discursive struggles in Canadian and Australian naval shipbuilding strategies' coauthored with Andrea Migone and Michael Howlett, in *Policy and Society*, 2023, vol 42, no 2, p 226-44.

‘The politics of military procurement: the F-35 purchasing process in Canada and Australia compared’ coauthored with Andrea Migone and Michael Howlett, in *Defence Studies*, vol 23, no 2, 2023, p 292-312.

‘Naval Shipbuilding Strategies: The Canadian and Australian *Type 26* Frigate Case Compared’ coauthored with Andrea Migone and Michael Howlett, in *The Naval Review*, vol. 110, no. 4, Winter 2022.

‘(Mis)Aligning Politicians and Admirals: Long-Term Procurement and the Canadian Surface Combatant Programme 1994-2021’ coauthored with Andrea Migone (Toronto Metropolitan) and Michael Howlett (SFU), in *Journal of Canadian Public Administration*, vol. 65, no. 1, March 2022, 28-51.

‘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

‘The Royal Navy and the Origins of Strategic Bombing, 1917-1918’ in *Seapower by Other Means*, ed. J. Overton, Nomos, The Kiel Seapower Series, 2023, 157-88

‘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 (2024)

Book Reviews

‘Pavelec, Sterling Michael. *Airpower over Gallipoli, 1915-1916*. Naval Institute Press, Annapolis, 2020’ *First World War Studies* (2024)

‘Whiteside, Robin, ed., *Breaking Through: HMS Dreadnought at the North Pole, 2023*’ *Naval Review*.

‘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

‘Rome, Carthage and the History of the First Punic War’ *Canadian War Studies Association* article focusing the political and military events that led to the decisive battle of Aegates Islands (241 BC)

‘Between Politics and Procurement: Canada’s F-35 Odyssey’ coauthored with Andrea Migone and Michael Howlett, in *The Naval Review*, published online

‘New documents raise questions about Canada’s lengthy naval shipbuilding delays’ *The Hill Times*, 19 October 2022

‘Ukraine war highlights the Canadian military’s urgent need for a lifeline’ with Andrea Migone, *The Conversation*, 12 April 2022

‘Howlett: Navy, Air Force need to sell Canadian on their desperate need for new equipment’ *Ottawa Citizen*, 13 December 2021

‘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](#)

‘Canadian Naval Policy, 1945-2000’ Monograph proposal for SSHRC grant application post-doctoral research on the Royal Canadian Navy as a component of national defence policy.

‘Victorian Naval Policy, 1837 – 1901’ Monograph proposal for SSHRC grant application post-doctoral research on the political and administrative history of the Royal Navy during the 19th 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. Presented at the 2021 McMullen naval history symposium.

‘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.

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

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

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

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

‘Cyril Newall, 1st Baron Newall’ proposed *Canadian War Studies Association* article focusing on Chief of the Air Staff Newall and his underappreciated 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’ proposed *Canadian War Studies Association* article focusing on Agrippa’s command influence at the Battle of Actium, 31 BC.

‘Decius and the Battle of Arbutus, 251 AD’ proposed *Canadian War Studies Association* article examining the Crisis of the Third Century and the disaster that befell Emperor Decius in battle against the Goths.

‘Air War Vietnam’ forthcoming *Canadian War Studies Association* article on the Rolling Thunder bombing campaign and the use of air power during the Vietnam War, 1964-1968

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) 9th 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 87th Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, 30 April – 3 May 2020 [approved; conference cancelled]. Presented at the SMH 88th 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 17th 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 16th 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 89th Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, 23-26 March 2023.

Society for Military History 86th 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.

19th 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 Blogs

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

[cawarstudies.wordpress.com](#)

[airspacehistorian.wordpress.com](#)

2014 - present

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

Grants & Funding

Social Science and Humanities Research Council, Insight Development Grant
2023

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