



Curriculum Vitae

BRIAN ALEXANDER, Ph. D.

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Associate Professor | Director of W&L Washington Term | Department of Politics
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EDUCATION

- Ph. D. 2015** George Mason University, Political Science
- Major Fields: American Government, International Relations
 - Minor Field: Political Theory
 - Dissertation: “Partisan Ends: The Utilization of Conference Committees in a Polarized Congress”
 - Committee Chair: Dr. Jennifer Victor, School of Policy, Government, and International Affairs
- M.A. 1999** University of Cincinnati, Political Science
- Field: International Relations
 - Thesis: “Rogue Politics? Domestic Politics and U.S. Foreign Policy toward China, Cuba, and Iran”
 - Committee Chair: Dr. Richard Harknett, Department of Political Science
- B. Phil. 1993** Miami University, School of Interdisciplinary Studies
- Major: Cultural Studies

Certificates and Training

- Advanced Legislative Processes and Procedures Training Series for Congressional Members and Staff, 2015-2016, **Congressional Research Service**
- Advanced Seminar on Congress and U.S. Foreign Policy, Fall 2015, **Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS)**
- Certificate in Government Relations, 2012, **Association of Government Relations Professionals**
- Certificate in Intermediate Spanish, 1999, **University of Havana, Cuba**

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- International Center for Jefferson Studies at Monticello. Research Fellowship. 2020.
- American Political Science Association. Congressional Fellowship Program, Review Committee. Washington, DC. February 2018-Present.
- Centennial Center, Washington, DC. Steiger Grant Review Board. Summer 2017-Present.
- Peer reviewer. *Congress and the Presidency*. Fall 2017.



- Centennial Center for Political Science & Public Affairs, Visiting Director, 2017.
- American Political Science Association, Congressional Fellow, 2015-2016.
- Steiger Fellowship, Centennial Center for Political Science & Public Affairs, 2015.
- Adjunct Instructor of Political Science, George Mason University, 2013-2015.

PUBLICATIONS

- **Book** (forthcoming 2025). *The Idea of Congress: Congressional Norms in an Age of Conflict*, edited by Brian Alexander. Washington, DC: Brookings Institution Press.
 - An exhaustive treatment of the subject, this edited volume features essays by thirteen leading congressional scholars and professionals on the types and purposes of legislative norms.
- **Book** (forthcoming 2025). *A Manual of Parliamentary Practice: The Second Edition* by Thomas Jefferson, edited by Brian Alexander. Mt. Pleasant, SC: Arcadia Books.
- **Book**. *A Social Theory of Congress: Legislative Norms in the Twenty-first Century*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2021.
 - Reviewed in *Perspectives on Politics* (Vol. 19, No. 14, Dec. 2021):
 - “In *A Social Theory of Congress*, Brian Alexander provides welcomed insights into our understanding of legislative process in the US Congress... In all, *A Social Theory of Congress* represents a welcomed break from rational choice-centric studies of congressional behavior. Alexander’s insights represent an important contribution that may lead to a paradigm shift in our understanding of legislatures.”
- “Pedagogical Recipe Cards: Tools and Tactics for In-Class Engagement,” with Anne Gillman (American River College) and Brian Harrison (Carleton College). *APSA Educate*. Washington, DC: American Political Science Association, 2022. <https://educate.apsanet.org/teaching-american-politics-small-teaching-exercises>.
- “Jefferson’s *Manual* of 1801: A Bibliographic Inventory of Copies,” with Madison Williams. Research Report and Open Dataset. Robert H. Smith International Center for Jefferson Studies Sponsored Research. Charlottesville: International Center for Jefferson Studies, 2021. <https://tjportal.on.worldcat.org/oclc/1262694401>.
 - Featured in *Fine Books & Collectibles*, “Surveying Jefferson’s *Manual*” by Jeremy Dibbell, Issue 20.2 (Spring 2022), pp. 13-24.
- “Congress could be even worse - Norms of cooperation are alive and (relatively) well.” (Opinion). *Roll Call*. April 1, 2021. <https://www.rollcall.com/2021/04/01/congress-could-be-even-worse-norms-of-cooperation-are-alive-and-relatively-well/>.
- “Jefferson’s *Manual* and the Modern Rules of the U.S. Congress.” Charlottesville, Virginia: Thomas Jefferson’s Monticello, 2020. <https://www.monticello.org/research-education/blog/jefferson-s-manual/>.
- “The House is more courteous than you might imagine.” *Legislative Branch Capacity Working Group*. Washington, DC, July 22, 2019. <https://www.legbranch.org/the-house-is-more-courteous-than-you-might-imagine/>.
- “Why We Should Expect to See More Rule-Breaking in Congress from Now On,” *London School of Economics*. September 27, 2018. <http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/usappblog/2018/09/27/why-we-should-expect-to-see-more-rule-breaking-in-congress-from-now-on/>.
- “Procedural Disobedience: Minority Resistance in the US House of Representatives.” *PS: Political Science and Politics*, Vol. 51, No. 1 (January 2018).



- “A Framework for Congressional Staffing: A Few Thoughts from Management Consulting.” *Legislative Branch Capacity Working Group*. Washington, DC, June 28, 2016. <https://www.legbranch.org/2016-6-28-a-framework-for-congressional-staffing-a-few-thoughts-from-management-consulting/>.
- “Toward a Social Theory of Congress.” *PS: Political Science & Politics*. Vol. 49, No. 1 (Jan. 2016).
- “A Real Cuba Breakthrough Is Tied to Congressional Action,” *The New West: Official Blog of the Western Political Science Association*. Dec. 19, 2014.
- *Tactical Nuclear Weapons: Emergent Threats in an Evolving Security Environment*, with Alistair Millar (eds.). Washington, DC: Brassey’s, 2004.
- “Structural Quiescence and the Failure of IC21 and Intelligence Reform,” with Abraham Miller. *International Journal of Intelligence and Counterintelligence*, Vol. 14, No. 2 (Summer 2001), pp. 234-261.
- Opinion pieces on U.S.-Cuba relations, economic sanctions, and nuclear nonproliferation published in leading national press such as *Christian Science Monitor*, *USA Today*, *Chicago-Sun Times*, *the Baltimore Sun*, and others.

UNDER REVIEW AND IN PROGRESS

- “The Mischiefs of Too Many Factions and the Challenge to American Institutions” *Working Paper*, 2024.
- “No ‘mere compilation’: Jefferson’s *Manual* and Its Legacy.” *Working Paper*, in progress.
- “Organized Interests, Ethnicity, and Networks: Symbolic Politics and Substantive Policy,” with Suzanne M. Robbins (University of Florida). *Working Paper*.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Washington and Lee University (2017-present):

- Introduction to American Government; American Political Institutions (Congress, Presidency, Interest Groups); U.S. Foreign Policy; Seminar on Thomas Jefferson; Environmental Studies Reading Group; W&L Washington Term; Senior Honors Theses;

Former Institutions:

- George Mason University: Introduction to American Government; American Foreign Policy, 2012-2016.
- University of Cincinnati, Introduction to Comparative Politics (Teaching Assistant), 1998-99.

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS, MEDIA APPEARANCES, AND PUBLIC SPEAKING

- “Pedagogy & Practice: Designing Internship and Intern Seminars for Student Success,” presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA, September 5, 2024.



- “Unorganized Interests: Coalition Politics, Social Media, and Group Influence,” presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA, September 6, 2024.
- “APSA Congressional Fellowship Mini-Conference: Lessons from Working in Congress for Teaching and Research,” presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA, September 7, 2024.
- “Thomas Jefferson and the Foundations of American Parliamentary Law,” presented at the Virginia State Association of Parliamentarians, Thomas Jefferson's Monticello, Charlottesville, Virginia. April 19, 2024.
- “Hyperpluralism: The Mischiefs of Too Many Factions and the Challenge to American Institutions,” presented at Southern Political Science Association, St. Pete Beach, Florida. January 2023.
- “Congress and Norms: Fresh Perspectives in an Age of Conflict,” Panel Organizer, featuring research of five congressional scholars, Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, April 7, 2022.
- “Truth, Opinion & the News Media: What Is Happening to American Politics?” Invited Talk. Harte Center Alumni Reunion, Washington and Lee University. March 17, 2022.
- “Running for Congress: Who Runs, Who Wins, and Why It Should Be You.” Sorensen High School Leaders Program. Virtual. Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service. University of Virginia, Charlottesville. July 17, 2021.
- “Congressional Norms in an Era of Conflict.” Panel Discussion hosted by Brian Alexander, featuring Julia Azari (Marquette), Matt Green (Catholic), Jennifer Lawless (UVA), Don Wolfensberger (Wilson Center), Honorable Rob Woodall (Ret., Georgia 7th District). Washington and Lee University. Lexington, VA. April 8, 2021. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4mwulxodzhA>.
- “Lobbying, Advocacy, and Influence: What It Takes to Get Your Voice Heard in American Politics.” Sorensen High School Leaders Program. Virtual. Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service. University of Virginia, Charlottesville. July 31, 2020.
- “Who Will Be the Next President?” Krueger Foundation Lectureship. Virginia Beach, Virginia. October 23, 2019.
- With Elizabeth Saunders (Brookings). “What Is the Role of Big Ideas in U.S. Foreign Policy?” Centennial Center on the Hill. U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Washington, DC. 11 April 2017.
- “Social Movements and Interest Groups.” Guest Lecture. George Washington University Department of Sociology, Washington, DC. 22 March 2017.
- “Is Congress Like the Textbooks?” George Mason University Capitol Hill Day for MPA Students. Guest Lecture. Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC. 17 February 2017.
- With Frances Lee (University of Maryland). “What Can Congress Learn from Political Science? What Can Political Science Learn from Congress? An Opening Dialogue,” Centennial Center on the Hill. U.S. Capitol Visitor Center, Washington, DC. 16 December 2016.

Other media appearances include: Television: CNN-fn, FoxNews, NBC-TV, Voice of America; Radio: National Public Radio, BBC; Print: *New York Times*, *Washington Post*,



Los Angeles Times, Wall Street Journal, Miami Herald, Business Week, Christian Science Monitor, Financial Times, National Journal, Associated Press, Reuters and Agence France Press; among others.

Public speaking engagements include: the Americas Society in New York; the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR); the Elcano Royal Institute in Madrid; the Congressional Black Caucus; the Heritage Foundation in Washington, DC; Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) headquarters in Langley, Virginia; testimony before the California State Senate; public debates against the Cuban American National Foundation; other appearances.

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Office of U.S. Senator Jack Reed | APSA Congressional Fellow – 2015-2016

Issue portfolio includes renewable energy, environment, and disaster resilience & mitigation, performing all staff duties such as public policy research, constituent support, writing remarks, bill drafting & introduction, building bipartisan cosponsorship, developing outside coalitions, and daily issue management.

Higher Education, Teaching, and Student Advising

Instructor of political science at George Mason University, 2012-2016. Sole recipient among 120 faculty of the 2014 Career Connections Faculty Award. Undergraduate Academic Advisor at the School of Policy, Government, and International Affairs 2013-2014. Numerous research publications, conference presentations, and research fellowships. Frequent guest lecturer at area universities and organizations.

Management Consulting for the Executive Branch and Commercial Clients

Support commercial clients and Federal agency programs at Departments of Homeland Security, Defense, Commerce, Treasury, and State.

Key skills: Project Management; Organizational Design; Program Review; Strategic Communications.

Highlights: Fortune 50 commercial clients; Immigration reform policy review and program development at CBP, ICE, and USCIS; Infrastructure protection programs at DHS and FEMA; Environmental stewardship at Department of Defense; \$4 billion broadband technology grants program for Department of Commerce;

- **Legislative Analytics Workshop | Strategy Consultant** – June 2013-August 2015
- **IBM | Managing Consultant** – January 2013 – June 2013
- **Wittenberg Weiner Consulting | Lead Analyst** – Oct 2011 – Dec 2012
- **Booz Allen Hamilton | Associate** – Oct 2006 – Oct 2011

Public Policy, Non-Profits Management, & Political Campaigns

On behalf of public policy non-profits and state and national political candidates I have worked local and national public relations, legislative strategy campaigns, grassroots, voter mobilization, and media outreach. Issue expertise includes U.S. foreign policy, Latino politics, immigration, voter registration, smart growth and the environment, consumer protection, predatory lending, and more.



- **Bendixen & Amandi (Miami) | Political Analyst** – 2005 – 2006
- **Brandon and Associates | Public Relations Director** – 2003 – 2005
- **Democratic National Committee | Policy Coordinator** – Jan – Nov 2004
- **Cuba Policy Foundation | Executive Director/Trustee** – 2002 – 2015
- **Fourth Freedom Forum | Research Analyst** – 2000 – 2002
- **Democratic Party Field Coordinator | Ted Celeste for Senate (Ohio)** – 1999 – 2000

As an avid photographer, I am delighted to see my photograph featured on the cover of *PS: Political Science & Politics*, Vol. 51, No. 1 (Jan. 2018), the same issue in which my article “Procedural Disobedience: Minority Resistance in the U.S. House of Representatives” is published.



Representative John Lewis of Georgia braces Representative Jim Clyburn of South Carolina as he addresses supporters and press on the East front of the Capitol following the Democratic gun control sit-in on the House floor, June 23, 2016. Photo credit: Brian Alexander.

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