

Alexander R. Kirss

1011 First Street SE Apt. #1010
Washington, DC 20003
arvk717@gmail.com
781-534-8451

EDUCATION:

George Washington University, Washington, D.C.

PhD Student in Political Science

Projected 2021

Major Field: International Relations | Minor Field: Research Methods

University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

M.A. in International Relations w/ Honors

2014

- M.A. Thesis: “King COIN?: Military Narratives and the Future of Armed-State Building,”
Advisor: John J. Mearsheimer

Williams College, Williamstown, MA

B.A. Magna Cum Laude, Political Science (International Relations)—Triple Major 2013

- Other Majors: Religion and Sociology with concentration in Leadership Studies (American Foreign Policy)
- B.A. Thesis: “The Dark Side of Post-Structuralism: Academic Relativism and the Rise of Religious Terrorism,” Advisors: William Darrow and Robert Jackall

WORK EXPERIENCE:

Booz Allen Hamilton, *Senior Consultant*

Sep. 2014-Present

Charged Affairs, *Senior Staff Writer*

Aug. 2016-Present

Center for the National Interest, *Resident Junior Fellow*

Nov. 2015-May 2016

International Center for Defence Studies, *Research Assistant*

Mar. 2014-Sep. 2014

Cato Institute, *Foreign Policy and Defense Intern*

Jun. 2014-Aug. 2014

Williams College Political Science Department, *Research Assistant*

Sep. 2012- Jun. 2013

WORKING PAPERS:

“Re-Estimating the Effect of Nuclear Weapons on Conflict Using a Generalized Synthetic Control Method,” to be presented at ISA 2018

“Bringing the Legislators Back In: Political Ambition, Foreign Policy Signaling, and State Behavior”

“Presidential Dreaming, Legislative Scheming: Senatorial Ambition and Foreign Policy Committee Membership,” with Colin Emrich

SELECTED POLICY COMMENTARY/PUBLICATIONS:

“Why Damage Limitation Isn’t the Answer to the North Korean Threat,” *War on the Rocks*, September 19, 2017.

“Precept, Aspiration, and the Foreign Policy Debate Under Trump,” *Charged Affairs*, August 7, 2017.

“Trump Can’t Have His Deterrence Cake and Eat It Too,” *Charged Affairs*, April 23, 2017.

"Readiness Gap? What Readiness Gap?," *Charged Affairs*, September 19, 2016.

"The Political Forests and Technocratic Trees of Acquisition Reform," *Real Clear Defense*, June 20, 2016. With Matthew Fay

“Donald Trump Will Not Save Realism From Itself,” *War On The Rocks*, May 16, 2016.

“Congressman Thornberry's Acquisition Problems,” *Real Clear Defense*, March 30, 2016. With Matthew Fay

“The U.S. Army’s Armories: A Thing of the Past?” *The National Interest* (online), December 2, 2015.

“Is More 'Jointness' the Answer to DoD Acquisition Waste?” *The National Interest* (online), December 1, 2015.

PRESENTATIONS:

“The Institutionalization of Irregular Warfare Capabilities in the U.S. Military: A Joint Capabilities Integration and Development Systems (JCIDS) Case Study,” Williams College (Williamstown, MA), April 2015.

“A Signal of Strength: Practical Strategies of Deterrence for the Baltic States Following the Annexation of Crimea,” BALTDEFCOL Conference on European Security, Baltic Defence College (Tartu, Estonia), June 2014.

FELLOWSHIPS/GRANTS:

Graduate Fellowship, George Washington University, September 2016-May 2021, \$16k annually

TA Fellowship, George Washington University, September 2017, \$6.5k

RA Fellowship, Institute for Security and Conflict Studies, September 2016, \$6.5k

The Center for the National Interest, Resident Junior Fellowship, October 2015, \$20k

University of Chicago Graduate Council Travel Grant, June 2014, \$500

AWARDS/ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Finalist for Fulbright Grant (Estonia) 2013-14
- Ursula J. Prescott Prize in Political Science (Best Essay in International Relations or Comparative Politics), Williams College June 2013
- NESAC All Academic Team (Varsity Diving) Winter 2010-11, 2012-13 seasons