

## Alexander Bolton

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### Education

Ph.D., Politics, Princeton University, 2015

M.A., Politics, Princeton University, 2012

B.A., Political Science, University of Pennsylvania, 2010  
*Magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa*

### Academic Appointments

Emory University

- Associate Professor of Political Science, 2022-present
- Assistant Professor of Political Science, 2016-22

Duke University

- Postdoctoral Associate, Social Science Research Institute, 2015-16

### Book

**Bolton, Alexander** and Sharece Thrower. 2022. *Checks in the Balance: Legislative Capacity and the Dynamics of Executive Power*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press [Princeton Studies in American Politics: Historical, International, and Comparative Perspectives].

### Peer-Reviewed Articles

**Bolton, Alexander** and Sharece Thrower. Forthcoming. "Studying Bureaucracy in a Diverse Democracy." *Congress & the Presidency* [special issue on New Perspectives in Legislative Studies].

**Bolton, Alexander**. 2022. "Gridlock, Bureaucratic Control, and Nonstatutory Policymaking in Congress." *American Journal of Political Science* 66(1):238-254.

**Bolton, Alexander** and Sharece Thrower. 2022. "Legislative Constraints, Ideological Conflict, and the Timing of Executive Unilateralism." *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 47(1):3-36.

**Bolton, Alexander**, John M. de Figueiredo, and David E. Lewis. 2021. "Elections, Ideology, and Turnover in the U.S. Federal Government." *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory* 31(2):451-466.

**Bolton, Alexander**. 2021. "Ideology, Unionization, and Personnel Politics in the Federal Budget Process." *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory* 31(1):38-55.

**Bolton, Alexander** and Sharece Thrower. 2019. “The Constraining Power of the Purse: Executive Discretion and Legislative Appropriations.” *Journal of Politics* 81(4):1266-1281.

Barber, Michael, **Alexander Bolton**, and Sharece Thrower. 2018. “Legislative Constraints on Executive Unilateralism in Separation of Powers Systems.” *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 44(3):515-548.

Barrientos, Andrés, **Alexander Bolton**, Tom Balmat, Jerry Reiter, John de Figueiredo, Ashwin Machanavajjhala, Yan Chen, Charley Kneifel, and Mark DeLong. 2018. “Providing Access to Confidential Research Data through Synthesis and Verification: An Application to Data on Employees of the U.S. Federal Government.” *Annals of Applied Statistics* 12(2):1124--1156.

**Bolton, Alexander** and Sharece Thrower. 2016. “Legislative Capacity and Executive Unilateralism.” *American Journal of Political Science* 60(3):649-663.

**Bolton, Alexander**, Rachel Augustine Potter, and Sharece Thrower. 2016. “Organizational Capacity, Regulatory Review, and the Limits of Political Control.” *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization* 32(2):242-271.

### **Book Reviews**

**Bolton, Alexander**. 2022. Review of *The Unorthodox Presidency of Donald J. Trump* (Paul E. Rutledge and Chapman Rackaway, ed.). *Perspectives on Politics* 20(2):737-739.

**Bolton, Alexander**. 2020. Review of *Bending the Rules: Procedural Politicking in the Bureaucracy* (Rachel Augustine Potter) and *Rule Breaking and Political Imagination* (Kenneth A. Shepsle). *Perspectives on Politics* 18(1): 262-264.

**Bolton, Alexander**. 2015. Review of *Rethinking the Administrative Presidency: Trust, Intellectual Capital, and Appointee-Careerist Relations in the George W. Bush Administration* (William G. Resh). *Journal of Politics* 79(2): e37-e38.

### **Other Writing**

“Will Federal Employees Work for a President They Disagree With?” *Harvard Business Review*, February 10, 2017 (with John M. de Figueiredo and David E. Lewis).

### **Available Working Papers/Under Review**

“A Foot Out the Door: What Drives Bureaucratic Exit into Lobbying Careers?” (with Josh McCrain), *invited to revise and resubmit*

“Winning Without Bargaining: Unionization and the Federal Workforce” (with Rachel Augustine Potter)

“Brain Drain on Capitol Hill: Representation and Human Capital in Congress” (with Hans Hassell and Josh McCrain)

“Measuring Bureaucratic Responsiveness Using Text from the Appropriations Process” (with Michael Hanley)

### **Works in Progress/Under Revision**

“Measuring Gubernatorial Power in the American States” (with Sharece Thrower)

“Administrative Law and Administrative Action” (with Sharece Thrower)

“Consequences of Congressional Staff Diversity on Policy Outcomes in the Federal Appropriations Process” (with Sharece Thrower)

“Measuring and Explaining the Gender Wage Gap in the US Federal Government (with John M. de Figueiredo)

### **Grants**

Russell Sage Foundation (Future of Work), “Winning Without Bargaining: Unionization & the Federal Workforce,” \$41,194 (co-PI), 2023-25

New Perspectives in Studies of American Governance (American University, Purdue University, and the Hewlett Foundation’s US Democracy program), “Understanding the Causes and Consequences of Congressional Staff Diversity,” \$17,500 (co-PI), 2022-23

### **Awards and Honors**

**Alan Rosenthal Prize** for work that examines issues of importance to legislators and legislative staff and potentially can be applied to strengthening the practice of representative democracy for *Checks in the Balance*, with Sharece Thrower, from the American Political Science Association’s Legislative Studies Section (2022).

**Jewell-Loewenberg Award** for best article on subnational politics published in *Legislative Studies Quarterly* for “Legislative Constraints on Executive Unilateralism in Separation of Powers Systems,” with Michael Barber and Sharece Thrower, from the American Political Science Association's Legislative Studies Section (2020).

**Herbert Kaufman Best Paper Award** for “Elections, Ideology, and Turnover in the U.S. Federal Government,” with John de Figueiredo and David Lewis, from the American Political Science Association's Public Administration Section (2017).

**Best Poster on Public Policy Award** for “Collegial Leadership Structures, Ideological Diversity, and Policymaking in the United States,” from the American Political Science Association's Public Policy Section (2016).

### **Conference and Invited Presentations (since 2020; full history available on request)**

“A Foot Out the Door: What Drives Bureaucratic Exit Into Lobbying Careers” with Josh McCrain. Invited talk at University of California-San Diego Department of Political Science, March 2023.

“Checks in the Balance: Legislative Capacity and the Dynamics of Executive Power” with Sharece Thrower. Invited talk at University of Southern California Sol Price School of Public Policy, November 2022.

“A Foot Out the Door: What Drives Bureaucratic Exit into Lobbying Careers?” with Josh McCrain. Paper presented at the Evolving Executive Conference, Nashville, TN, September 2022.

“Checks in the Balance: Legislative Capacity and the Dynamics of Executive Power” with Sharece Thrower. Invited keynote address at Annual Meeting of Association of Centers for the Study of Congress, May 2022.

“Checks in the Balance: Legislative Capacity and the Dynamics of Executive Power” with Sharece Thrower. Invited talk at Vanderbilt University New Perspectives on Presidential Power event, April 2022.

“Checks in the Balance: Legislative Capacity and the Dynamics of Executive Power” with Sharece Thrower. Invited talk at University of Georgia (Russell Library), April 2022.

“The Presidency, Separation of Powers, and the Administrative State.” Panelist at the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

“Winning Without Bargaining: Unionization and the Federal Workplace,” with Rachel Potter. Paper presented at the 2022 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

“Checks in the Balance: Legislative Capacity and the Dynamics of Executive Power” with Sharece Thrower. Invited talk at Seminary Co-op Bookstore and Center for Effective Government (University of Chicago), December 2021.

“Checks in the Balance: Legislative Capacity and the Dynamics of Executive Power” with Sharece Thrower. Invited talk at George Washington University Department of Political Science, April 2021.

“Checks in the Balance: Legislative Capacity and the Dynamics of Executive Power” with Sharece Thrower. Invited talk at Georgetown University Department of Government, January 2021.

“State of the Field: Politics and Administration in the Trump Era.” Panelist at the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, San Juan, PR.

“Ideological Fragmentation and Congressional Oversight of the Executive Branch,” Paper presented at the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, San Juan, PR.

## Teaching

*Note: F = fall, S = spring, SU = summer*

Undergraduate:

- Congressional Politics (S17, S18, F21, F22)
- Executive Branch Governance (F17, S21)
- Political Organizations (F19)
- National Politics of the United States (SU23)
- Intermediate American Politics (S18, S19, S20)

Graduate:

- American National Government (S19, S20, S21, S22, S23)
- Bureaucracy (F16, F18)

Emory College Teaching Enhancement Fellow, 2018-19

## Advising

*Undergraduate Honors Theses:* Hannah Hewitt (2016-17, Advisor); Ada Dovell (2017-18, Advisor); Tommy Archibald (2018-19, Advisor); Matthew Ribel (2018-2019, Committee); Xuetao Wang (2018-19, Committee); Justin Cohen (2019-20, Committee, Economics); Charlotte Keeley (2019-20, Committee, Middle Eastern and South Asian Studies); Julia Glickman (2019-20, Committee, Environmental Sciences); Cindy Cheng (2020-21, Committee), Jasmine Cui (2020-21, Committee, Economics); Grace Gerenday (2021-22, Committee, Political Science); Andrew Taber (2021-22, Committee, Economics); Lauren Huiet (2022-23, Advisor); Spencer Moore (2022-23, Advisor); Will Olsen (2022-23, Committee)

*Second Year Paper Advising:* Josh McCrain (2016-17)

*MA Thesis Committee:* Gray Barrett (2019)

*Dissertation Committees:* Sara Heridia (in progress); Michael Hanley (completed 2022; Department of State); Josh McCrain (completed 2020; University of Utah); Elizabeth Wiener (completed 2020; Occidental College)

## Department Service

- Director of Experiential Learning (2022-present)
- Undergraduate Policy Committee (2021-present)
- Undergraduate Honors Committee (2016-17, 2018-present)
- Faculty Search Committees: International Relations (2017); American Politics (2019)

## Emory College Service

- Dean's Achievement Scholars Selection Committee (2017, 2019)
- Scholar's Finalist Week Lecture (2021, 2022)
- Bobby Jones Scholarship Interview Committee (2023)

## Emory University Service

- Emory Votes Initiative: Steering Committee Member (2019-present)

- Emory Liaison for ALL IN Campus Democracy Challenge (2019-present)
- Emory Center for Civic and Community Engagement Faculty Award (2021)

### **External Service**

- APSA Legislative Studies Alan Rosenthal Prize Committee (chair), 2023
- APSA Legislative Studies Emerging Scholar Award Committee, 2020-21
- Mentoring faculty in residence for 2019 EITM Summer Institute
- SPSA Nominations Committee, 2018-19
- APSA PEP Founders Award Committee, 2018-19
- APSA PEP Legacy Award Committee, 2016-17
- Ad hoc referee: *American Journal of Political Science*, *American Political Science Review*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *Congress & the Presidency*, CQ Press, *Governance*, *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*, *Journal of Political Institutions and Political Economy*, *Journal of Politics*, *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*, *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Political Science Quarterly*, *PS: Political Science and Politics*, *Political Studies*, *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, *Public Administration Review*, *Public Personnel Management*, *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*, *Regulation & Governance*, University of Michigan Press