

Troy Bickham, D.Phil., FRHistS

**Department of History
Texas A&M University
College Station, Texas 77843-4236**

tbickham@tamu.edu

ACADEMIC FACULTY POSITIONS HELD

Professor of History, Texas A&M University, 2013-present

Associate Professor of History (with tenure), Texas A&M University, 2009-13
College of Liberal Arts Rothrock '77 Fellow, 2009-13

Assistant Professor of History, Texas A&M University, 2003-9

Assistant Professor of History, Southeast Missouri State University, 2001-3

Research Editor [faculty appointment], *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, Oxford University, 2000-1

ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATIVE POSITIONS HELD

Assistant Dean for Academic and Student Services, Texas A&M University at Qatar, 2015-18
Reporting areas included: Admissions, Student Affairs, Academic Advising, Study Abroad, Student Academic Success Center, and Student Records

Inaugural Executive Director, Center for Teaching and Learning, Texas A&M University at Qatar, 2017-18

Chair, STEAM (STEM + Liberal Arts) initiative, Texas A&M University at Qatar, 2013-15

Chair, Liberal Arts Program, Texas A&M University at Qatar, 2012-15
Administrative chair of the social science, arts and humanities faculty

ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS

Oxford University, D.Phil. in Modern History, 2001

Oxford University, M.Phil. in Economic and Social History, 1997

William Jewell College, 1995
B.A., *magna cum laude*, with honors in history

PRIMARY TEACHING FIELDS (GRADUATE AND UNDERGRADUATE)

British Isles and empire, early modern through nineteenth centuries

Colonial North America and the United States before 1815

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

Books (single-authored)

Eating the Empire: Food and Society in Eighteenth-Century Britain (London: Reaktion Books, 2020). Japanese translation, Tokyo: Hara Shobo Co., 2022. The North American distributor is University of Chicago Press.

Selected reviews

“This is a well-researched, original study . . . If there were any shred of doubt, this book demonstrates that we are what we eat, but with the caveat that what we know about it is shaped by official policies and protocols of food’s procurement.” — *Print Quarterly*

“Everyone is wondering what the corona pandemic can teach us about ourselves and the world we live in. Maybe the answer is in a new . . . book on British food habits in the 17th and 18th centuries . . . Although Troy Bickham had no idea about the virus when he wrote his book, he draws a vivid and suddenly up-to-date picture of how people's everyday lives intertwine across worlds and time zones, when goods are constantly crossing borders.” — *Politiken, Denmark*

“The study is well written and very engaging . . . For its insight into the motivations for and the causes of change, this book would interest not only cultural historians of the British Empire and globalization, but also social and economic historians, sociologists and anthropologists. Bickham has successfully described the link between Britain and its empire through food.” — *Food & History*

“Entertainingly written, with blessedly little historiographical jargon, amusingly illustrated with a wealth of contemporary caricatures, this book allows you to ponder the interpenetration of consumption and social action. Great stuff.” — *Asian Affairs*

“His book is a model study of the subject, as he uses cuisine and the sociocultural elements surrounding it to detail the many ways in which the British Empire was present in the everyday lives of 18th-century Britons . . . Bickham's insightful analysis of such a wide-ranging subject makes his book a highly recommended addition to all libraries with concentrations in early modern British history, British imperial history, and the history of consumerism.” — *Choice*

“Well crafted and painstakingly researched, in the hands of this authoritative scholar, readers will find Troy Bickham's *Eating the Empire* approachable and informative. Clearly, Bickham’s work suggests the trajectory of food studies and is an important contribution to the fields of political and culinary histories. There is much to learn from Bickham’s scholarship and, moreover, *Eating the Empire* is an enormously enjoyable read. This reviewer is eager to see where his research leads and awaits a second helping.” — *Reviews in History*

“Well researched and a highly enjoyable read, *Eating the Empire* is a good place to start for those seeking an introduction to Britain’s commodity culture, its imperial dimensions, and the range of stimulating products that increasingly came to define the practices of “civilized” consumption in the British Isles over the long eighteenth century.” — *Journal of British Studies*

“Wide in scope and pacily written, the book successfully pulls together a diverse body of scholarship and poses challenging arguments for the broad readership at which it is aimed. . . . To scholars of empire and the Atlantic World – and all those studying the social and cultural history of the long eighteenth century – *Eating the Empire* presents an energetic case for taking greater heed of the gustatory dimensions of British expansion. Especially now, it is unsettling to consider how a country’s imperial history can be tracked through the everyday.” — *Cultural and Social History*

The Weight of Vengeance: The United States, the British Empire and the War of 1812 (Oxford University Press, 2012). Audio 2014. Paperback 2017.

Selected reviews

“Authoritative, up-to-date, and readable...Modern scholarship at its very best.” — *The Weekly Standard*

“[Bickham] argues rightly that the war involved a commercial struggle within the Atlantic world as well as a struggle to dominate North America. Behind the ostensible casus belli--e.g., the impressment of sailors from American ships by the Royal Navy--was a clash between America's expansion and Britain's efforts to avenge an earlier defeat by making a former colony a client state.” — *The Wall Street Journal*

“A provocative, behind-the-scenes look at the machinations of empires, this excellent history will appeal to all interested readers.” — *Library Journal*

“Bickham's account of the peace negotiations [is] the best I have read.” — *American Historical Review*

“Bickham’s monograph is one of the best books published on the Anglo-American conflict. He masterfully synthesizes the large body of scholarship on the War of 1812, uses a wide array of primary sources, and successfully weaves together the American, Canadian, British, and British West Indian perspectives. His monograph is up-to-date, carefully researched, well-written, and most of his conclusions will probably become authoritative.” — *Reviews in History*

“Well-researched...Bickham's deft juggling of imperial and national complexities is certain to make *The Weight of Vengeance* an important contribution to the historiography of the War of 1812.” — *Journal of Colonialism and Colonial History*

“one of the most important studies of the war to emerge from the war’s recent bicentennial.” — *British Journal for Military History*

“Based on extensive investigation of primary sources, this book contains pensive theses and provides much context about the salient trans-Atlantic facets of the forgotten War of 1812...This elegantly written book will become a classic in the field.” — *Pennsylvania History*

Making Headlines: The American Revolution Seen Through the British Press (Northern Illinois University Press, 2009).

Selected reviews

“This well-written and carefully researched study is a great contribution to the historiography of the American Revolution.” — *Journal of American History*

“By combining communications and Atlantic history, Troy Bickham has produced an original account of various aspects of the American Revolution. . . . Indeed, a short review hardly does justice to the wealth of insights put forth in the perceptive, well-researched study.” — *Journal of Southern History*

“Bickham has written a readable and thought-provoking study of an important topic.” — *International History Review*

“Making headlines is a lucid, perceptive, and convincing study which makes a valuable and original contribution to the history of eighteenth-century Britain and America. Highly recommended.” — *European Review of History*

“The book is a valuable addition to the historiography on the American Revolution and on Britain in the era of revolutions. . . . The book's applicability to varying audience is a shining achievement.” — *Journal of the Early Republic*

“Rich and ambitious” — *Journal of American Studies*

“Much more than a history lesson, this significant examination of the long-running roots of journalism has important applications today and should be required reading for anyone following the story of the Iraq war.” — *Bloomsbury Review*

“A shining achievement” — *Journal of the Early Republic*

Savages within the Empire: Representations of American Indians in Eighteenth-Century Britain (Oxford University Press, 2005).

Selected reviews

“Bickham does an excellent job of connecting this popular interest in Indians to wider currents in British popular entertainments and literature of this era.” — *Journal of British Studies*

“Informed by the nuanced analysis of a broad array of primary sources and a productive engagement with secondary source materials, *Savages within the Empire* is an insightful and well-written book.” — *Symbiosis*

“As a whole the book deepens one's sense that the Seven Years' War was not so much a war for empire, as a war that made one--emotionally, imaginatively, and, in time, administratively too.” — *William and Mary Quarterly*

Articles in journals (selected)

With Ian Abbey, “‘The greatest encouragement to seamen’: Pay, Families, and the State in Britain during the French Wars, 1793-1815,” *Journal of Social History* (forthcoming Fall 2022).

“Preparing for an Imperial Inheritance: Children, Play, and Empire in Eighteenth-Century Britain,” *Journal of British Studies*, 60 (2021), 658-688.

“Eating the Empire: Intersections of Food, Cookery and Imperialism in Eighteenth-Century Britain,” *Past and Present*, 198 (2008), 71-110.

“Defining Good Food: Cookery Book Illustrations in Britain,” *Journal for Eighteenth Century Studies*, 31 (2008), 473-89.

“‘A conviction of the reality of things’: Material Culture, North American Indians and Empire in Eighteenth-Century Britain,” *Eighteenth-Century Studies*, 39 (2005), 29-47.

“Sympathizing with Sedition? George Washington, the British Press, and British Attitudes during the American War of Independence,” *William and Mary Quarterly*, 59 (2002), 102-22.

Chapters in edited volumes (selected)

“The War of 1812”, in *The Cambridge History of the Napoleonic Wars*, ed. Bruno Colson and Alexander Mikaberidze (forthcoming Cambridge University Press, 2023).

“‘I tremble indeed whenever I take up a late Newspaper’: Why Communication Mattered in the War of 1812,” in *Communicating War from Quills to Tweets: The Evolution of American Wartime Communication Strategies*, ed. Marc Genest, Sally Paine, and Andrea Dew (Georgetown University Press, 2020).

“American Indians in the British Imperial Imagination,” *The American Colonies in the British Empire. Oxford History of the British Empire Companion Series*, ed. Stephen Foster (Oxford University Press, 2014).

“‘I shall tear off their scalps, and make cups of their skulls’” American Indians in the Eighteenth-Century British Press,” in *The Indian Atlantic: Native Americans in Anglo-American Culture, 1750-1850*, eds. Timothy Fulford and Kevin Hutchings (Cambridge University Press, 2009).