

**Michelle L. O'Brien**  
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### **Research Interests**

Political Conflict, Migration, Demography, Quantitative Methods

### **Current Position**

2018-Present    Postdoctoral Researcher  
                      Mershon Center for International Security Studies  
                      The Ohio State University  
                      Columbus, OH

### **Education**

2018              Ph.D., Sociology  
                      University of Washington, Seattle  
                      Dissertation: *The Long Shadow: The Long-Term Consequences of Armed Conflict for Population Change in Tajikistan*

2014              M.A., Sociology  
                      University of Washington, Seattle  
                      Thesis: *Migration as an Adaptive Response to Ethnic Nationalism in Russia*  
                      Winner – Outstanding Performance for the Master of Arts Degree

2007              B.A., Sociology  
                      University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

### **Publications**

**O'Brien, Michelle L.** 2018. "Migration as an Adaptive Response to Ethnic Nationalism in Russia." *Migration Studies*. 6(2): 187-204.

Groeneveld, Jürgen, Anna Klabunde, **Michelle L. O'Brien**, and André Grow. 2016. "How to Describe Agent-Based Models in Population Studies?" Pp. 237-54 in *Agent-Based Modelling in Population Studies*, vol. 41, *The Springer Series on Demographic Methods and Population Analysis*, edited by A. Grow and J. Van Bavel. Switzerland: Springer International Publishing.

Williams, Nathalie E., **Michelle L. O'Brien**, and Xiaozheng Yao. 2016. "Using Survey Data for Agent-Based Modeling: Design and Challenges in a Model of Armed Conflict and Population Change." Pp. 159-84 in *Agent-Based Modelling in Population Studies*, vol. 41, *The Springer Series on Demographic Methods and Population Analysis*, edited by A. Grow and J. Van Bavel. Switzerland: Springer International Publishing.

### **Manuscripts Under Review**

**O'Brien, Michelle L.** "The Long-Term Consequences of Armed Conflict for Migration: The Case of Tajikistan." Under review.

**O'Brien, Michelle L.** "Disruption and Decline: The Gendered Consequences of Civil War and Political Transition for Education in Tajikistan." Under review.

Nyseth Brehm, Hollie, **Michelle L. O'Brien** and James Wahutu. "The Problem with Binary Categories in the Study of Collective Violence." Under review.

### **Manuscripts in Preparation (drafts available)**

**O'Brien, Michelle L.** "Abortion and Miscarriage in the Aftermath of the Tajikistani Civil War"

**O'Brien, Michelle L.** "Beyond Displacement: A New Perspective on the Relationship between Violence and Migration"

Williams, Nathalie, **Michelle L. O'Brien** and Xiaozheng Yao. "Migration Stocks and Flows during Armed Conflict: New Evidence from an Agent-Based Model in Nepal"

Nyseth Brehm, Hollie and **Michelle L. O'Brien**. "Moving Beyond Perpetrators, Victims, Bystanders, and Upstanders"

### **Book Reviews, Media, and Other Publications**

**O'Brien, Michelle L.** 2019. Review of *Cascades of Violence: War, Crime and Peacebuilding Across South Asia*, by John Braithwaite and Bina D'Costa. *Contemporary Sociology: A Journal of Reviews*. 48(4): 402-404.

**O'Brien, Michelle L.** 2016. "Global Asia: Turning Points in Central Asia, 1900-2016." *The Seattle Times: Newspapers in Education*. November 9.

**O'Brien, Michelle L.** 2016. "The Rise of Neo-Nationalists in Russia." The Ellison Center at the University of Washington. Podcast. October 17. <https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/michelle-obrien-rise-neo-nationalists/id982033420?i=1000376790189&mt=2>

**O'Brien, Michelle L.** 2016. "Tipping Points in Soviet History." The Ellison Center at the University of Washington. Podcast. March 18. <https://itunes.apple.com/us/podcast/michelle-obrien-tipping-points/id982033420?i=1000365087757&mt=2>

### **Selected Presentations and Invited Talks**

"Wartime *Fetal Origins*? The Long-Term Consequences of Exposure to Armed Conflict for Women's Health in Tajikistan"

- *Institute for Population Research Seminar*, Ohio State University, January 29, 2019.

"The Long-Term Social and Demographic Consequences of Conflict"

- *The Mershon Center for International Security Studies*, Ohio State University, January 11, 2019.

"The Long Shadow of Armed Conflict: Individual Disruptions and Institutional Decay"

- *Historical Legacies of War Seminar Series*, University of Michigan, November 5, 2018.

"New Perspectives on Conflict and Migration: Development as a Moderating Factor"

- *Association for the Study of Nationalities Convention*, Harriman Institute, Columbia University, May 4-6, 2018.

"Re-traditionalization? Marriage and Fertility Timing in Post-Conflict Tajikistan."

- Session: Population Processes. *American Sociological Association*, August 12-15, 2017.
- *Institute for the Study of Religion, Economics and Society Graduate Student Conference*, Chapman University, June 1-4, 2017.

“Weak Institutions and International Migration after Armed Conflict in Tajikistan.”

- *Association for the Study of Nationalities Convention*, Harriman Institute, Columbia University, May 4-6, 2017.
- *Population Association of America Annual Meeting*, April 27-29, 2017.

“Measuring Anti-Immigrant Sentiment Using Big Data Techniques.”

- *Graduate Trainee Spotlight*, Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology, University of Washington, March 10, 2017. *Note: Best Poster Winner.*

“Familiar Adversaries, New Minorities, and the Legacy of the Soviet Union in Central Asia.”

- Global Asia: Turning Points in Modern Asian History. *Newspapers in Education*. Hosted by *The Seattle Times*. October 18, 2016. *Note: Invited Speaker.*
- *Washington State Council for the Social Studies Spring Conference*, March 11-13, 2016.

“Gender, Violence, and Migration in Contemporary Russia.”

- Session: Social Movements, Conflict, and Population Dynamics. *American Sociological Association*, August 20-23, 2016.
- *Association for the Study of Ethnicity and Nationalism Conference*, London School of Economics, April 19-21, 2016.
- Session: Migration Dynamics Between Central Asia and Russia. *Association for the Study of Nationalities Convention*, Harriman Institute, Columbia University, April 14-16, 2016.

“Migration as an Adaptive Response to Ethnonationalism in Russia.”

- Session: Ethnic Conflict. *American Sociological Association*, August 22-25, 2015.
- Poster session on Migration and Urbanization. *Population Association of America Annual Meeting*, April 30-May 2, 2015. *Note: Best Poster Winner*
- Session: Migration Policy. *Association for the Study of Nationalities Convention*, Harriman Institute, Columbia University, New York, NY. April 22-25, 2015.

“Understanding Central Asian Migration to Russia.”

- *Migration and Refugees: Peril and Hope*, a Community College Master Teaching Institute hosted by the Ellison Center for Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies at the University of Washington. July 2015. *Note: Invited speaker.*

“An Agent-Based Model of Armed Conflict and Population Dynamics: Developing Demographic Methods for Survey Based Agent-Based Model Design.” (with Nathalie Williams and Xiaozheng Yao)

- *Recent Developments in Agent-Based Modeling for Population Studies*, KU Leuven, Belgium, September 18-19, 2014.

### **Courses Taught**

Research Methods in Sociology (SOC 300)  
War (SOC 301)

*Study Abroad (Assistant Resident Director)*  
Genocide and its Aftermath in Rwanda (SOCIOLOGY 3798:03)

### **Selected Fellowships and Awards**

- 2019 “The Long-Term Social and Demographic Effects of Mass Violence: Rwanda, Tajikistan, and Nicaragua.” Seed grant from the Department of Sociology, The Ohio State University. with Kammi Schmeer and Hollie Nyseth Brehm (\$25,000)
- 2019 “Religious Change in the Aftermath of Genocide.” Research seed grant from the Mershon Center for International Security Studies, The Ohio State University (\$600)
- 2019 Travel grant, Institute for Population Research, The Ohio State University (\$1100)
- 2018 “Moving Subjects,” multidisciplinary seed grant funded by the Migration, Mobility & Immobility Initiative at The Ohio State University (\$1000)
- 2017 Boba Research Fellowship, Ellison Center for Russian, East European, and Central Asian Studies, University of Washington (\$2000)
- 2015-2016 Training Fellowship, Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology, University of Washington (NIH-funded stipend)
- 2015 Award for Outstanding Performance for the Master of Arts Degree, Department of Sociology, University of Washington
- 2015 Nomination to the Distinguished Thesis Award, University of Washington
- 2015 Best Poster, Migration and Urbanization Session, Population Association of America Annual Meeting
- 2015 Travel Grant, East-West Center, Honolulu, HI (\$300)
- 2014 Travel grant, Center for Statistics and the Social Sciences, University of Washington (\$1,000)
- 2013 Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, Russian, University of Washington (\$7,500)

### **Professional Service**

#### *Service*

2019-present

Member, Emerging Scholars Forum, *Global Perspectives*

Member, Outstanding Paper Award committee, Ethnicity, Nationalism, & Migration Studies section of the International Studies Association

2018-present

Member, Board of Directors, Lifting Hands International

2016-2017

Volunteer, International Conference on Social Informatics (SocInfo), eScience Institute, University of Washington

2015-2016

Graduate Student Assistant, Annual Meeting of the International Migration Section of the American Sociological Association

2014-2015

Graduate Student Grant Coordinator, Mellon Foundation: States Markets and Societies, University of Washington. Principal Investigator: Gary Hamilton

Coordinator, Seminar on Cultural, Organizational, Political, and Economic Sociology, Department of Sociology, University of Washington

2013-2014

Coordinator, Graduate Student Research Symposium, Department of Sociology, University of Washington

**Journal Reviewing**

*International Migration Review, Contemporary Sociology, The Migration Conference*

**Professional Memberships**

American Sociological Association

Population Association of America

International Union for the Scientific Study of Population

Association for the Study of Nationalities

Central Eurasian Studies Society

International Studies Association

**International Experience**

*Extended Travel and Fieldwork*

Rwanda – 2019

Tajikistan – 2017

Myanmar – 2016

Nepal – 2015

Russia – 2006, 2007

*Language Proficiencies*

English, native

Russian, advanced