

## Michelle L. O'Brien

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

### PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- 2019-Present    Postdoctoral Researcher  
New York University Abu Dhabi  
Abu Dhabi, UAE
- 2018-2019      Postdoctoral Researcher  
Mershon Center for International Security Studies  
The Ohio State University  
Columbus, OH

### PUBLICATIONS

#### Refereed Journal Articles

- Forth.* Williams, Nathalie, **Michelle L. O'Brien** and Xiaozheng Yao. "A Policy-Relevant Examination of How Armed Conflict Influences Migration." *Population and Development Review*.
- 2020    **O'Brien, Michelle L.** "Abortion and Miscarriage in the Aftermath of the Tajikistani Civil War." *Population Research and Policy Review*. doi: [10.1007/s11113-020-09624-5](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11113-020-09624-5)
- 2020    **O'Brien, Michelle L.** and Maureen A. Eger. "Suppression, Spikes, and Stigma: How COVID-19 Will Shape International Migration and Hostilities Toward It." *International Migration Review*. doi: [10.1177/0197918320968754](https://doi.org/10.1177/0197918320968754)

- 2020 **O'Brien, Michelle L.** "Disruption and Decline: The Gendered Consequences of Civil War and Political Transition for Education in Tajikistan." *Post-Soviet Affairs*. 36(4): 323-345.
- 2018 **O'Brien, Michelle L.** "Migration as an Adaptive Response to Ethnic Nationalism in Russia." *Migration Studies*. 6(2): 187-204.

### **Book Chapters**

- Forth* Nyseth Brehm, Hollie and **Michelle L. O'Brien**. "Moving Beyond Perpetrators, Victims, Bystanders, and Upstanders." in *Teaching About Genocide: Insights and Advice from Secondary Teachers and Professors*, vol 2, edited by Samuel Totten. Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.
- 2016 Groeneveld, Jürgen, Anna Klabunde, **Michelle L. O'Brien**, and André Grow. "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.
- 2016 Williams, Nathalie E., **Michelle L. O'Brien**, and Xiaozheng Yao. "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.

### **Book Reviews**

- 2019 **O'Brien, Michelle L.** 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.

### **Manuscripts in Submission**

- O'Brien, Michelle L.** "The Long-Term Consequences of Armed Conflict for Migration: The Case of Tajikistan." Invited to revise and resubmit. *International Migration Review*.
- O'Brien, Michelle L.** "Violence-Motivated Migration: How subjective perceptions of the threat of violence affect migration aspirations." Invited to revise and resubmit. *Demographic Research*.
- Nyseth Brehm, Hollie, **Michelle L. O'Brien** and James Wahutu. "The Problem with Binary Categories in the Study of Collective Violence." Invited to revise and resubmit. *Sociology of Development*.

## **Other Publications**

- 2020 **O'Brien, Michelle L.** and Maureen A. Eger. "COVID-19 Will Have Long-Lasting Effects on Migration." *Fair Observer*. May 14.
- 2016 **O'Brien, Michelle L.** "Global Asia: Turning Points in Central Asia, 1900-2016." *The Seattle Times: Newspapers in Education*. November 9.
- 2016 **O'Brien, Michelle L.** "The Rise of Neo-Nationalists in Russia." The Ellison Center at the University of Washington. Podcast. October 17.
- 2016 **O'Brien, Michelle L.** "Tipping Points in Soviet History." The Ellison Center at the University of Washington. Podcast. March 18.

## **AWARDS AND HONORS**

- 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 Merhson 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 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 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)

## INVITED TALKS

- 2018 “The Long Shadow of Armed Conflict: Individual Disruptions and Institutional Decay.”  
Historical Legacies of War Seminar Series, University of Michigan.
- 2016 “Familiar Adversaries, New Minorities, and the Legacy of the Soviet Union in Central Asia.”
- *Newspapers in Education at The Seattle Times.*
  - *Washington State Council for the Social Studies Spring Conference.*
- 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.

## CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

### Presentations

- 2020 “Violence-Motivated Migration: A Cross-National Analysis of the Relationship Between Nonwartime Violence and Migration”
- *American Sociological Association*
  - *International Political Science Association World Congress* (postponed to 2021)
- 2019 “The Long-Term Effects of Civil War on Reproductive Health in Tajikistan”
- *Population Association of America Annual Meeting*
- 2018 “The Long-Term Consequences of Armed Conflict on Migration Rates” (with Nathalie Williams)
- *Population Association of America Annual Meeting*
- “New Perspectives on Conflict and Migration: Development as a Moderating Factor.”
- *Association for the Study of Nationalities Convention*
- 2017 “Re-traditionalization? Marriage and Fertility Timing in Post-Conflict Tajikistan.”
- *American Sociological Association*
  - *Institute for the Study of Religion, Economics and Society Graduate Student Conference*, Chapman University.
- “Weak Institutions and International Migration after Armed Conflict in Tajikistan.”
- *Association for the Study of Nationalities Convention*
  - *Population Association of America Annual Meeting*
- “Measuring Anti-Immigrant Sentiment Using Big Data Techniques.”
- *Graduate Trainee Spotlight*, Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology, University of Washington. Note: Best Poster Winner.

- 2016 “Gender, Violence, and Migration in Contemporary Russia.”
- *American Sociological Association*
  - *Association for the Study of Ethnicity and Nationalism Conference*
  - *Association for the Study of Nationalities Convention*
- 2015 “Migration as an Adaptive Response to Ethnonationalism in Russia.”
- *American Sociological Association*
  - Poster session on Migration and Urbanization. *Population Association of America Annual Meeting*. Note: Best Poster Winner
  - *Association for the Study of Nationalities Convention*
- 2014 “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*

### **Discussant and Organizing Activities**

- 2020 Panel Organizer: “Violence as a Determinant of Migration”  
*International Political Science Association World Congress (postponed to 2021)*
- 2017 Panel Discussant: “Forced Migration”  
*Population Association of America Annual Meeting*
- 2016 Panel Discussant: “Demography and Politics, Conflict and Institutions”  
*Population Association of America Annual Meeting*
- Graduate Student Volunteer  
*International Conference on Social Informatics*
- 2015 Graduate Student Assistant: International Migration Section  
*American Sociological Association*

### **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

- 2017 Graduate Research Assistant  
Principal Investigator: Adrian Dobra, Statistics  
University of Washington

Project involved building geolocated databases of conflict and threat events, developing machine learning models, and the geospatial modeling of behavioral responses to emergencies. Funded by the National Science Foundation.

- 2016- Graduate Research Assistant  
2017 Principal Investigator: Sara Curran, Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology

University of Washington

Project involved analysis of longitudinal data collection from Nang Rong, Thailand.  
Funded by the National Institute of Health.

2013- Graduate Research Assistant

2015 Principal Investigator: Nathalie Williams, Sociology  
University of Washington

Project involved agent based modeling (simulation) research on the long-term effects of conflict events on demographic change in Nepal. Funded by the National Institute of Health.

2010- Strategic Researcher

2012 Service Employees International Union, Local 775  
Seattle, WA

Research provided support to organizing activities, including analysis of publicly owned corporate financial statements and market research on key industries.

2009- Analyst

2010 Air Force Small Business Office Contract  
Acelsior, Inc.  
Washington, DC

Research provided critical information to the Air Force Small Business Procurement Office to support meaningful engagement with veteran-owned, women-owned, and minority-owned small businesses. Data mined the Federal Procurement Data System. Provided training to consulting team on the data. Presented team research findings to senior Air Force leadership at Vandenberg AFB.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

*University of Washington, Undergraduate*

Research Methods in Sociology

(Instructor of Record: Summer 2015, Summer 2018; TA: Spring 2014)

War (Cross-listed with International Studies)

(Instructor of Record: Spring 2018)

Social Problems

(TA: Winter 2018)

Introduction to Sociological Theory

(TA: Spring 2013)

*The Ohio State University, Undergraduate  
Genocide and its Aftermath in Rwanda  
(Assistant Resident Director, Spring 2019)*

## **SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION**

### **Manuscript Reviewing**

*International Migration Review  
Contemporary Sociology  
The Migration Conference*

### **Committee Work**

Emerging Scholars Forum, *Global Perspectives*  
Outstanding Paper Award committee, Ethnicity, Nationalism, & Migration Studies section,  
International Studies Association

## **DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE**

### **Seminar Coordination**

Monthly Seminar on Cultural, Organizational, Political, and Economic Sociology, University of Washington (2013-2015)

Graduate Student Research Symposium, Department of Sociology, University of Washington (2014)

### **Grant Coordination**

States, Markets, and Societies. Mellon Foundation. Awarded to the University of Washington, Principal Investigator: Gary Hamilton. (2014-2015)

## **COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

2019-Present Member, Advisory Board, Lifting Hands International  
2018-2019 Member, Board of Directors, Lifting Hands International

## **RELATED PROFESSIONAL SKILLS**

2020 Certificate in Geographic Information Systems, University of Toronto (Coursera)

2018 Graduate Certificate in Demographic Methods, University of Washington

## **LANGUAGES**

Russian, Advanced Reading and Conversational Speaking

## **TECHNICAL PROFICIENCIES**

R (preferred), Python, STATA, ArcGIS, LaTeX

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

American Sociological Association  
Population Association of America  
International Union for the Scientific Study of Population  
International Studies Association

## **REFERENCES**

Steve Pfaff  
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