

Michelle L. O'Brien
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Research Interests

Political Conflict, Migration, Demography, Quantitative Methods

Current Position

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

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.

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

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." Under review.

Manuscripts in Preparation (drafts available)

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

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 (SOCIO 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

Member, Advisory Board, Lifting Hands International

2018-2019

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