

Michelle L. O'Brien

Doctoral Candidate, Department of Sociology
National Institute of Health (NIH) Fellow, Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology
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Research Interests

Migration, Political Sociology, Political Conflict, Computational Methodology, Russia and Central Asia

Education

December 2016

Graduate Certificate: Demographic Methods
Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology, University of Washington

June 2016

General Exam, Passed to Candidacy
"Examining the Relationship Between Political Conflict and Migration"

October 2015

Comprehensive Exam, Passed with Distinction
Exam areas:
Political Conflict, Migration

October 2014

Master of Arts
"Migration as an Adaptive Response to Nationalism in Russia"
Department of Sociology
University of Washington, Seattle
Winner - 2015 Outstanding Performance for the Master of Arts Degree
Winner - 2015 Best Poster, Migration and Urbanization Section, Population Association of America Annual Meeting

June 2007

Bachelor of Arts
Department of Sociology
University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
Minor: Russian Language, Literature, Culture

Peer Reviewed Publications

- Groeneveld, Jürgen, Anna Klabunde, **Michelle 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.
- O'Brien, Michelle**. "Migration as an Adaptive Response to Ethnic Nationalism." Forthcoming. *Migration Studies*. Oxford University Press.

- Williams, Nathalie, **Michelle 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.

Presentations and Invited Talks

- **O'Brien, Michelle.** "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.*
- **O'Brien, Michelle.** "Weak Institutions and International Migration after Armed Conflict in Tajikistan."
 - (Accepted.) *Association for the Study of Nationalities Convention*, Harriman Institute, Columbia University, May 4-6, 2017.
 - (Accepted.) *Population Association of America Annual Meeting*, April 27-29, 2017.
- **O'Brien, Michelle.** "Delayed Marriage and Fertility Rebound in Post-Conflict Tajikistan."
 - (Accepted.) *American Sociological Association*, August 12-15, 2017.
- **O'Brien, Michelle.** "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.
- **O'Brien, Michelle.** "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.
- **O'Brien, Michelle.** "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.
- **O'Brien, Michelle.** "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.*

- Curran, Sara R. and **Michelle O'Brien**. "Migration and Marriage Timing in Nang Rong, Thailand," Session: Migration, Health, and Reproduction. *Population Association of America Annual Meeting*, April 30-May 2, 2015.
- **O'Brien, Michelle**. "Population Response to Political Conflict in Nang Rong, Thailand." Session: Demographic Trends over Time and Space. *International Graduate Student Conference*, East-West Center, Honolulu, HI, February 12-14, 2015.
- Williams, Nathalie, **Michelle O'Brien**, and Xiaozheng Yao. "An Agent-Based Model of Armed Conflict and Population Dynamics: Developing Demographic Methods for Survey Based Agent-Based Model Design." *Recent Developments in Agent-Based Modeling for Population Studies*, KU Leuven, Belgium, September 18-19, 2014.
- Curran, Sara R., and **Michelle O'Brien**. "Demographic Dividends and Migration Dynamics: Cohort Influence & Migration Momentum in Thailand." Session: Internal and International Migration in Developing Countries. *Population Association of America Annual Meeting*, May 1-4, 2014.
- Curran, Sara R., and **Michelle O'Brien**. "Cohort Influence and Cumulative Causation: Reconsidering Demographic Factors in Explanations of Migration Momentum." *Migration Dynamics, Networks and Beyond | THEMIS Conference*, Oxford University, September 24-26, 2013.

Research Assistantships

2013-2015 - Assistant to Dr. Nathalie Williams. Project involves simulation research on the effect of conflict events in Nepal's Civil War on demographic change. Funded by the National Institute of Health.

2013-2015 – Assistant to Dr. Sara Curran. Project involves statistical analysis of demographic change in Nang Rong, Thailand.

Teaching Experience

As Primary Instructor

Summer 2015 – Research Methods in Sociology

Summer 2007 – English as a Foreign Language, Moscow, Russia

As Teaching Assistant

Spring 2014 – Research Methods in Sociology

Spring 2013 – Sociological Theory

Winter 2013 – Sociological Theory

Autumn 2012 – Introduction to Sociology

Fellowships and Awards

2017

Best Poster, Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology Graduate Trainee Spotlight,
University of Washington

- 2016
Training Fellowship (Renewal), Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology, University of Washington
- 2015
Training Fellowship (Primary), Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology, University of Washington
Award for Outstanding Performance for the Master of Arts Degree, Department of Sociology, University of Washington
Nomination to the Distinguished Thesis Award, University of Washington
Charles Fritz International Research Fellowship for Spring 2016, University of Washington (*declined*)
Best Poster, Migration and Urbanization Session, Population Association of America Annual Meeting
Travel Grant, East-West Center, Honolulu, HI (\$300)
Travel Grant, Director's Fund, Jackson School of International Studies, University of Washington (\$550)
Travel Grants, Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology, University of Washington (\$500)
- 2014
Travel Grant, Center for Statistics and the Social Sciences, University of Washington (\$1,000)
Travel Grant, Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology, University of Washington (\$500)
- 2013
Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, Russian, University of Washington (\$7,500)
Travel Grant, Graduate Fund for Excellence and Innovation, University of Washington (\$500)
Travel Grant, Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology, University of Washington (\$500)
Honorable Mention, National Science Foundation Graduate Fellows Research Program
- 2007
Finalist, Best Undergraduate Paper, Slavic Department, University of Michigan

Professional Service

- 2016-2017
Graduate Student Volunteer, International Conference on Social Informatics (SocInfo), eScience Institute at the University of Washington
- 2015-2016
Facilitator, *Presenting Your Research Effectively*, TA/RA Conference at the University of Washington

Graduate Student Assistant, Annual Meeting planning, 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

2012-2013

Student Editor, *Social Problems*

Professional Membership

Current

American Sociological Association

Population Association of America

International Union for the Scientific Study of Population

Association for the Study of Nationalities

Former

Alpha Kappa Delta, International Sociological Honors Society

Languages

English, native

Russian, advanced

Statistical Programming Languages

R, Stata, Python

Dissertation Committee

Chair: Steven Pfaff

Nathalie Williams

Stewart Tolnay

Sara Curran

Scott Radnitz