

Thomas C. O'Brien

Curriculum Vitae

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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Psychological and Brain Sciences, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, 2017
Dissertation: *Intergroup Solidarity in peace activism: The potential for success or backlash*
Concentrations: *Quantitative Methods, Psychology of Peace and Violence*
- M.S. Psychological and Brain Sciences, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, 2014
- A.B. Psychology and Jewish, Islamic, & Near Eastern Studies, (*Magna cum Laude*),
Washington University, St. Louis, 2009

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

- 2015 Topol Peace Fellowship, University of Massachusetts Amherst
2013 Graduate Research Fellowship, National Science Foundation
2008 Undergraduate Research Award, Washington University in St. Louis
2006 Critical Language Scholarship for Arabic in Jordan, U.S. Department of State

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Trust of Organizations and Institutions
- Justice in Conflict Resolution

TEACHING INTERESTS

- Quantitative Methods
- Applications of Quantitative Social Science to Public Policy
- Psychology of Intergroup Relations
- Applications of Social Psychology to Healthcare
- Applications of Psychology to Management
- Psychology of Conflict Resolution

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2019-Present Postdoctoral Associate, Social Action Lab at University of Illinois
 2019-2019 Lecturer and Research Scholar, Justice Collaboratory at Yale Law School
 2016-2019 Research Scholar, Justice Collaboratory at Yale Law School

PUBLICATIONS

O'Brien, T.C., Tyler, T.R. (2020). Rebuilding trust between police and communities through procedural justice and reconciliation. *Behavioral Science & Policy*.

O'Brien, T.C., & Tyler, T.R. (2020). Authorities and Communities: Can Authorities Shape Cooperation with Communities on a Group Level? *Psychology, Public Policy, & Law*. doi: 10.1037/law0000202

O'Brien, T.C., Meares, T.L., & Tyler, T.R. (in press). Reconciling police and communities with apologies, acknowledgements, or both: A controlled experiment. In press at *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*.

O'Brien, T.C., Tyler, T.R., Meares, T. L. (2019). Building popular legitimacy with reconciliatory gestures and participation: A community-level model of authority. *Journal of Regulation & Governance*. doi: 10.1111/rego.12264

O'Brien, T.C., Leidner, B., & Tropp, L.R. (2017). Are they for us or against us: How intergroup metaperceptions shape foreign policy attitudes. *Group Processes and Intergroup Relations*, 21(6), 941-961. doi: [10.1177/1368430216684645](https://doi.org/10.1177/1368430216684645).

Rovenpor, D., **O'Brien, T. C.,** Roblaine, A., De Guissme, L., Chekroun, P., Leidner, B. (2017). How conflict corrupts: The role of meaning in the perpetuation of intergroup conflict. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 116(1), 119-140. doi:[10.1037/pspp0000169](https://doi.org/10.1037/pspp0000169).

Rovenpor, D.R., Leidner, B., Kardos, P., **O'Brien, T.C.** (2016). Meaning threat can promote peaceful, not only military-based approaches to intergroup conflict. The moderating role of ingroup glorification. *European Journal of Social Psychology*. 46(5), pp. 544-562. doi:[10.1002/ejsp.2183](https://doi.org/10.1002/ejsp.2183).

O'Brien, T.C., Tropp, L.R. (2017). Contact theory, pp. 141-143. In F. Moghaddam (Ed.) *Sage Encyclopedia of Political Behavior*, Thousand Oaks SAGE Publications, Inc.

Tropp, L. R., Hawi, D. R., **O'Brien, T. C.,** Gheorghiu, M., Zetes, A., Butz, D. A. (2017). Intergroup contact and the potential for post-conflict reconciliation: Studies in Northern Ireland and South Africa. *Peace and Conflict: Journal of Peace Psychology*, 23(3), 239-249. doi: [10.1037/pac0000236](https://doi.org/10.1037/pac0000236)

- Tropp, L. R., **O'Brien, T. C.**, Gutierrez, R. G., Valdenegro, D., Migacheva, K., Tezanos-Pinto, P., ... Cayul, O. (2016). How school norms, peer norms, and discrimination predict interethnic experiences among ethnic minority and majority youth. *Child Development*, 87(5), pp. 1436-1451. doi:[10.1111/cdev.12608](https://doi.org/10.1111/cdev.12608).
- O'Brien, T.C.**, Tropp, L.R. (2015). Psychology: The phenomenology of human security, pp. 137-155. P. Bourbeau (Ed.) *Security: Dialogue Across Disciplines*. Cambridge University Press.
- Tropp, L.R., **O'Brien, T.C.**, Migacheva, K. (2014). How peer norms of inclusion and exclusion predict children's interest in cross-ethnic friendship. *Journal of Social Issues*, 70(1), 151-166. doi:[10.1111/josi.12052](https://doi.org/10.1111/josi.12052).
- Lambert, A.J., Scherer, L.D., Schott, J.P., Olson, K.R., Andrews, R.K., **O'Brien, T.C.**, & Zisser, A.R. (2010). Rally effects, threat, and attitude change: An integrative approach to understanding the role of emotion. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 98(6), 886-903. doi: [10.1037/a0019086](https://doi.org/10.1037/a0019086).

Manuscripts Under Review or In Preparation (Writing Stage)

- O'Brien, T.C.** (2019). The role of relational concerns in shaping trust in government and rejection of violence. Manuscript in preparation.
- O'Brien, T.C.**, Palmer, R. & Albarracín, D. (2019). Trusting science or pseudoscience? How trust in scientific labels can increase susceptibility to misinformation. Manuscript in preparation.
- O'Brien, T.C.**, & Albarracín, D. (2019). Building trust in healthcare: How perceptions of strategy shape health behaviors. Manuscript in preparation.
- O'Brien, T.C.**, & Tyler, T.R. (2019). What makes the public feel reassured around police? The role of relational judgments in shaping emotion, legitimacy, and cooperation. Manuscript in preparation.
- O'Brien, T.C.**, & Tyler, T.R. (2019). Trusted guardians: Accountability to the community builds legitimacy for legal authorities. Manuscript in preparation.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Chaired and Co-Chaired Symposia and Preconference

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| 2020 | Preconference on Conflict and Conflict Resolution. Accepted Preconference to co-chair at the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology. New Orleans, February 27 th . |
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- 2020 Legitimacy and its discontents. Accepted Symposium to co-chair at the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology. New Orleans, February 29th.
- 2019 *Reconciliation in Contentious Contexts*. Chaired Symposium at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology. Portland, February 8th.

Paper Presentations and Data Blitz

- 2020 O'Brien, T.C., The role of relational concerns in shaping participation in government and rejection of violence. Paper accepted for Presentation at the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology. New Orleans, February 29th.
- 2019 O'Brien, T.C., Reconciliation between Authorities and Communities. Paper presented at the International Meeting of Law and Society. Toronto, May 30th-June 2nd.
- 2019 O'Brien, T.C., & Tyler, T.R.. Reconciliation between Authorities and Communities. Paper presented at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology. Portland, February 8th.
- 2019 O'Brien, T.C., & Tyler, T.R. (2019). Reconciliation between Authorities and Communities. Datablitz presented at the Psychology & Law Preconference, Society for Personality and Social Psychology. Portland, February 7th.
- 2018 O'Brien T.C., Tyler, T.R., Meares T.L., & Fagan, J.. "Why matters: Empirical tests of the effects of inchoate police stops on popular legitimacy." Paper presented at the Conference of Empirical Legal Studies. Ann Arbor, November 9th-11th.
- 2018 O'Brien T.C., & Tyler, T.R.. "Reconciliation between authorities and communities", Paper presented at the International Meeting of Law and Society. Toronto, June 7th-10th.
- 2018 O'Brien, T.C. & Tyler, T.R., "Evidence for a community-level model of authority: Broadening the relational approach to building popular legitimacy through community-level elements." Psychology & Law Preconference, Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Atlanta, March 1st.

- 2017 O'Brien, T.C., & Tyler, T.R. (2017, October). "Reconciliation and participation: Expanding to a community-level model of authority." Conference of Empirical Legal Studies, Ithaca, October 13th-14th.
- 2017 O'Brien, T.C. (2017, June). "Reconciliation and participation: Expanding to a community-level model of authority." International Meeting of Law and Society. Mexico City, June 20th-23rd.
- 2016 O'Brien, T.C., & Leidner, B. (2016, January). "Not the 'We' I wanted: How images of ingroup moral hypocrisy reduce in-group attachment and support for intergroup helping." Political Psychology Preconference of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, San Diego. January 27th.
- 2015 O'Brien, T.C., Leidner, B., & Tropp, L.R.. (2015, July). "Are they for us or against us: How intergroup metaperceptions shape foreign policy attitudes." Scientific Meeting of the International Society of Political Psychology. San Diego. July 3rd-6th.
- 2013 O'Brien, T.C., Tropp, L.R., (2013, July). "The role of school norms promoting positive intergroup relations among adolescents." Annual Meeting of the International Society for Political Psychology. Herzliya, July 8th-10th.
- 2012 O'Brien, T.C., Tropp, L.R., & Hawi, D. (2012, July). "Intergroup contact and the potential for post-conflict reconciliation: Studies in South Africa and Northern Ireland." Scientific Meeting of the International Society of Political Psychology. Chicago, July 6th-9th.

Posters

- 2018 O'Brien, T.C. & Tyler, T.R., (2018, March). "Evidence for a community-level model of authority: Broadening the relational approach to building popular legitimacy through community-level elements." Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Atlanta, March 1st-3rd
- 2015 O'Brien, T.C., Leidner, B., & Tropp, L.R.. (2015, February). "Are they for us or against us: How intergroup metaperceptions shape foreign policy attitudes." Scientific Meeting of the Society for Personality and Social Psychology, Long Beach, CA. February 26th-28th.

Presentations for Policy Audience

- 2016 O'Brien, T.C. (2016, December). *From harm reduction to community engagement*. New York City Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice. New York City, December 16th.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Illinois, co-Instructor

Social Media and Computational Social Science (Spring 2020)

Yale Law School, co-Instructor

Theoretical Frameworks of Governance and Criminal Justice Reform (Spring 2019)

Social Science and Criminal Justice Reform (Fall 2018)

University of Massachusetts Amherst, Instructor

Junior Writing (Fall 2016, Fall 2014)

University of Massachusetts Amherst, Teaching Assistant

Water, Oil, and Blood: The Middle East in Global Policy (Spring 2015)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Peer Review

2015 Basic and Applied Social Psychology
 2017 Cultural Diversity and Ethnic Minority Psychology
 2018 Social Personality and Psychological Science
 2018 Law and Social Inquiry
 2019 Political Psychology
 2019 Group Processes and Intergroup Relations
 2019 Psychological Bulletin

To Department

2013-2016 Graduate Studies Committee, University of Massachusetts Amherst
 2014-2015 Diversity Committee, University of Massachusetts Amherst
 2012-2014 Brown Bag Committee, University of Massachusetts Amherst
 2012-2013 Survey Pre-screening Committee, University of Massachusetts Amherst

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Web Metrics Analyst, General Dynamics Information Technology, 2011
 Junior Web Editor, General Dynamics Information Technology, 2009-2010
 Intern under immigration caseworker, Boston Office of U.S. Senator John F. Kerry, 2007
 Intern, International Center for Journalists, 2009
 Tutor, Y-Read Work Study Program, 2009

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

Society for Empirical Legal Studies (SELS), 2017-present

Law and Society Association (LSA), 2016-present

Society for Personality and Social Psychology (SPSP), 2015-present

LANGUAGES

Modern Standard Arabic: Advanced coursework in reading, writing, and speaking

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