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**TIMOTHY L. O'BRIEN**  
Department of Sociology  
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
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## EMPLOYMENT

- 2019- Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
(Department Chair 2025-present; Director of Undergraduate Studies 2020-2021, 2022-2025)
- 2015-19 Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
- 2013-15 Assistant Professor, Department of Law, Politics, and Society, University of Evansville

## EDUCATION

- Ph.D. 2013, Indiana University, Sociology  
Minor: History and Philosophy of Science  
Dissertation: "Witnessing Expertise: A Mixed-methods Analysis of Expert Authority in United States District Courts."  
Committee: Thomas F. Gieryn (chair), J. Scott Long, Ethan Michelson, Brian Powell
- M.A. 2008, Indiana University, Sociology  
Thesis: "The Evolving Co-Authorship Patterns of Research Scientists."  
Committee: Clem Brooks (chair), Thomas F. Gieryn
- B.S. 2005, University of Wyoming, Sociology and Psychology

## PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES AND CHAPTERS

- 2026 Noy, Shiri, and **Timothy L. O'Brien**. 2025. "The Cultural Authority of Science and Religion." *Current Opinion in Psychology*: 67: 102180. Available online 20 September 2025  
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.copsyc.2025.102180>
- 2025 **O'Brien, Timothy L.**, and David R. Johnson. "U.S. state lawmaker support for COVID-19 vaccine policies during the pandemic." *Vaccines* 68: 127930.
- 2025 **O'Brien, Timothy L.**, and Shiri Noy. "Religion, Perceptions of Scientists' Moral Culture, and Support for Science in the United States." *American Sociological Review*. 90(2): 257–290. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00031224251316904>

- 2025 **O'Brien, Timothy L.**, and David R. Johnson. "Partisan Identity, Scientific and Religious Authority, and Lawmaker Support for Science Policy." *Social Forces*. 104(1) 1-20.  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/sf/soae188>
- 2025 **O'Brien, Timothy L.**, "Ethnicity, Imprisonment, and Confidence in Police and Courts: Evidence from an International Survey." *Social Problems*. 72(1):207-225.  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/socpro/spad011>
- 2025 **O'Brien, Timothy L.**, "Social Psychology and Science" Pp 395-411 in Jan E. Stets, Karen A. Hegtvedt, and Long Doan (eds.) *Handbook of Social Psychology, Volume 2: Meso and Macro Perspectives*. New York: Springer.
- 2024 Johnson, David R., and **Timothy L. O'Brien**. "Morality Policy at the Frontier of Science: Legislators' Views of Germline Engineering." *Science and Public Policy* 51(6): 1062-1074.  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/scipol/scae048>
- 2024 Noy, Shiri, and **Timothy L. O'Brien**. "Science and the Pulpit: Clerical Perspectives on Science and Religion in the United States." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*. 63(3) 716-737. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jssr.12917>
- 2023 Noy, Shiri, and **Timothy L. O'Brien**. "Learning Right from Wrong: A Cross-national Analysis of Education, National Scientific Investment, and the Morality of Science." *Science, Technology, & Human Values*. 48(4): 832–860.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/01622439211055144>.
- 2022 **O'Brien, Timothy L.**, Stephen L. Hawkins\*, and Adam Loesch\*. "Scientific Disciplines and the Admissibility of Expert Evidence in Courts." *Socius: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World* 8: 23780231221108044. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2378023122110804>
- 2021 **O'Brien, Timothy L.**, and Shiri Noy. "Threatening Morality: Religious and Political Opposition to Science in the United States." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 60(3):628-644. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jssr.12731>
- 2020 **O'Brien, Timothy L.**, "Racing Justice: Mass Incarceration and Perceptions of Courts." *Social Science Research* 90: 102443.
- 2020 **O'Brien, Timothy L.**, and Shiri Noy. "Political Identity and Confidence in Science and Religion in the United States." *Sociology of Religion* 81(4): 439–461.  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/socrel/sraa024>
- Winner of Association for the Sociology of Religion Distinguished Article Award
- 2020 **O'Brien, Timothy L.**, "Arresting Confidence: Mass Incarceration and Black–White Differences in Perceptions of Legal Authorities." *Social Science Quarterly* 101(5): 1905-1919.  
<https://doi.org/10.1111/ssqu.12842>

- 2019 Noy, Shiri, and **Timothy L. O'Brien**. "Science for Good? The effects of education and national context on perceptions of science." *Public Understanding of Science* 28(8): 897-916.
- 2018 **O'Brien, Timothy L.**, and Shiri Noy. "Cultural Authority in Comparative Context: A Multi-Level Analysis of Trust in Science and Religion." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 57(3): 495-513.
- 2018 **O'Brien, Timothy L.** "Gender, Expert Advice, and Judicial Gatekeeping in the United States." *Social Science Research* 72: 134-145.
- 2018 **O'Brien, Timothy L.** "Gender and Support for Expert Advisers and Elected Officials in the US Public Sphere." *Public Understanding of Science* 27(2): 243-259.
- 2018 **O'Brien, Timothy L.** "Beyond Reliable: Challenging and Deciding Expert Witness Admissibility in United States Civil Courts." *Law, Probability, and Risk* 17(1): 29-44.
- 2018 Noy, Shiri, and **Timothy L. O'Brien**. "An Intersectional Analysis of Perspectives on Science and Religion in the United States." *The Sociological Quarterly* 59(1): 40-61.
- 2017 Gauchat, Gordon, **Timothy L. O'Brien**, and Oriol Miroso. "The Legitimacy of Environmental Scientists in the Public Sphere." *Climatic Change* 143(3-4): 97-306.
- 2017 **O'Brien, Timothy L.** "Working Knowledge: Organizational Location and the Construction of Expert Authority in Court." *Social Science Quarterly* 98(5): 1677-1690.
- 2016 Noy, Shiri, and **Timothy L. O'Brien**. "A Nation Divided: Science, Religion, and Public Opinion in the United States." *Socius: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World* 2: 1-15.
- 2016 **O'Brien, Timothy L.** "Judging Expertise: Gender and the Negotiation of Expert Authority in Court." *Social Currents* 3(4): 315-331.
- 2016 **O'Brien, Timothy L.**, and Oren Pizmony-Levy. "Going Public, Gaining Credibility: Student Perceptions of Engaged Scholars." *Sociological Perspectives* 59(2): 246-269.
- Winner of the 2019 ASA Sociological Practice and Public Sociology Publication Award
  - Winner of SSSP Conflict, Social Action, and Change Division's Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award
- 2016 **O'Brien, Timothy L.** "The Cultural Authority of Stem Cell Researchers." *Stem Cell and Translational Investigation* 3: e1420. DOI: 10.14800/scti.1420.
- 2015 **O'Brien, Timothy L.**, and Shiri Noy. "Traditional, Modern, and Post-Secular Perspectives on Science and Religion in the United States." *American Sociological Review* 80(1): 92-115.
- 2013 **O'Brien, Timothy L.** "Education and Support for Scientists and Elected Officials in Public Policy Decisions." *Science and Public Policy* 40: 340-353.

- 2013 **O'Brien, Timothy L.** "Scientific Authority in Policy Contexts: Public Attitudes about Environmental Scientists, Medical Researchers, and Economists." *Public Understanding of Science* 22(7): 799-816.
- 2012 **O'Brien, Timothy L.** "Change in Academic Co-Authorship, 1953-2003." *Science, Technology, and Human Values* 37: 210-234.

\* Denotes work with collaborators who were graduate students when the project was conducted.

## BOOK

- 2023 Massey, Garth, and **Timothy L. O'Brien** (eds.). *Readings for Sociology, 10<sup>th</sup> edition*. New York, NY: WW Norton & Co.
- Previous edition published in 2019.

## BOOK REVIEWS

- 2019 **O'Brien, Timothy L.** Review of *Morals not Knowledge: Recasting the Contemporary U.S. Conflict between Religion and Science* by John H. Evans. *American Journal of Sociology* 125(2): 590-591.
- 2018 **O'Brien, Timothy L.** Review of *Religion vs. Science: What Religious People Really Think* by Elaine Howard Ecklund and Christopher P. Scheitle. *Social Forces* 97(1): Page e4.
- 2018 **O'Brien, Timothy L.** Review of *Paranoid Science: The Christian Right's War on Reality* by Antony Alumkul. *Sociology of Religion* 79(2): 277-279.

## HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2021 Association for the Sociology of Religion's Distinguished Article Award (with Shiri Noy)
- 2019 American Sociological Society's Sociological Practice and Public Sociology Publication Award for Significant Contributions to Applied and Public Sociology (with Oren Pizmony-Levy)
- 2013 SAGE Teaching Innovations and Professional Development Award.
- 2013 Karl F. Schuessler Award for Graduate Research, Department of Sociology, Indiana University (with Shiri Noy).
- 2012 Karl F. Schuessler Award for Graduate Research, Department of Sociology, Indiana University.
- 2010 North Central Sociological Association Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award.
- 2010 Society for the Study of Social Problems, Conflict, Social Action, and Change Division's Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award (with Oren Pizmony-Levy).

2008-12 Travel Award, Department of Sociology, Indiana University.

2005 Phi Kappa Phi.

2005 Phi Beta Kappa.

2004 Alpha Kappa Delta.

### **FELLOWSHIPS AND SCHOLARSHIPS**

2014 Alumni Research and Scholarly Activity Fellowship, University of Evansville.

2012-13 College of Arts and Science Dissertation Year Research Fellowship, Indiana University.

2012 Atherton Bean Fellowship, Department of Sociology, Indiana University.

2010-11 Advanced Departmental Fellowship, Department of Sociology, Indiana University.

2008 Graduate Summer Fellowship, Indiana University.

2006-13 Graduate Tuition Scholarship, Indiana University.

2001-05 Western Heritage Scholarship, University of Wyoming.

### **GRANTS**

2020-23 Principal Investigator (with Shiri Noy). "Religious Identities, Beliefs, and the Moral Meanings of Science and Religion in the United States," Templeton Religion Trust. \$55,000.

2021-22 Principal Investigator, Advancing Research and Creativity Award, "The Effects of Expert Witness Sex and Race on Expert Witness Credibility" University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. \$12,360.

2020-22 Principal Investigator. "The Legal, Political, and Social Filtering of Expert Witnesses in Court." National Science Foundation (1946236). \$106,007.

2016-17 Principal Investigator. Research and Creative Activities Support Award, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. "Gender and Judicial Gatekeeping in Civil Rights Law." \$10,900.

2014 Arts, Research, and Teaching Grant, University of Evansville. \$1,000.

2013 Schroeder Family Faculty Development Grant, University of Evansville. \$1,200.

2013 Eykamp Center for Teaching Excellence Teaching Conference Grant, University of Evansville. \$1,000.

## **INVITED PRESENTATIONS**

- 2022 O'Brien, Timothy L., "Witnessing Expertise: The Admissibility of Expert Evidence in Courts." Rosenberg Lecture. Denison University, Granville, OH.
- 2022 O'Brien, Timothy L., "Professional development panel: publishing articles." 2022 Annual Meeting of Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Baltimore, MD
- 2017 "Tips from New(ish) Profs: Transitioning from Graduate Student to Faculty Member." Annual Meetings of the Midwest Sociological Society, Milwaukee, WI.
- 2016 "A House Divided: Science, Religion, and Politics in the United States." University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Religious Studies Student Organization Fall Symposium, Milwaukee, WI.
- 2016 "Science, Religion, and Public Opinion in the United States." Public Perceptions of Science and Religion Conference, University of California, San Diego.
- 2016 "Science on Trial: Gender, Educational Credentials, and Expert Witness Credibility." Annual Meetings of the Southern Sociological Society, Atlanta, GA.
- 2015 "Traditional, Modern, and Post-Secular Perspectives on Science and Religion in the United States." Unitarian Universalist Church of Evansville, Evansville, IN.
- 2014 "The Use of Expert Witnesses in Courts." Public Sociology Forum, Department of Sociology, Indiana University, Bloomington, IN.

## **SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

- 2025 "Church-State Ideologies, Christian Nationalism, and Support for Science in the United States" Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meetings, Minneapolis, MN (with Shiri Noy).
- 2025 "The Cultural Meanings of Science and Religion: Evidence from a National Survey." The 120<sup>th</sup> Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association, Chicago, IL (with Shiri Noy).
- 2024 "Public Perceptions of the Cultural Authority of Science and Religion" Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meetings, Pittsburgh, PA (with Shiri Noy).
- 2023 "Religion, Perceptions of Scientists' Motives, and Support for Science Policy" Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meetings, Salt Lake City, UT (with Shiri Noy).
- 2023 "Science and the Pulpit: Clerical Perspectives on Science and Religion in the United States." The 118th Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, PA (with Shiri Noy).

- 2022 “Religious Identities, Perceptions of Scientists’ Moral Values, and Appreciation of Science.” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meetings, Baltimore, MD (with Shiri Noy)
- 2022 “Public Perspectives on Scientists’ Motivations and Actions during COVID-19 and in Therapeutic Gene Editing”, Association for the Sociology of Religion Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA (with Shiri Noy).
- 2022 “Haves, Have Nots, and the Judicial Gatekeeping of Expert Evidence” The 117th Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association, Los Angeles, CA (with Stephen Hawkins\*).
- 2021 “The Filtering of Expert Witnesses from Court: Evidence from a National Study of Judicial Gatekeeping” The 116th Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association (with Alexandra Habeck\*, Stephen Hawkins\*, Adam Loesch\*).
- 2020 “Threatening Morality: Religious and Political Opposition to Science in the United States” The 115th Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association (with Shiri Noy).
- 2019 “Race, Representation, and Confidence in Government: Evidence from the United States, 1973-2018” The 114th Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association, New York, NY.
- 2019 “Ideology, Incarceration, and Confidence in the Justice System: Evidence from an International Survey.” Annual Meetings of the Midwest Sociological Society, Chicago, IL.
- 2018 “Political Identity and Trust in Science and Religion” The 113th Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association, Philadelphia, PA (with Shiri Noy).
- 2018 “Racing Justice: Black-White Differences in Trust in the Supreme Court, 1973-2016” Annual Meetings of the Midwest Sociological Society, Minneapolis, MN.
- 2017 “Gender, Deference to Authority, and Judicial Gatekeeping in Civil Rights Litigation.” The 112th Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association, Montreal, Quebec.
- 2017 “Beyond Reliable: Challenging and Deciding Expert Witness Admissibility.” Annual Meetings of the Midwest Sociological Society, Milwaukee, WI
- 2016 “Cross-National Differences in Attitudes about Science and Religion: A Multi-Level Analysis” The 111th Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association, Seattle, WA (with Shiri Noy).
- 2016 “Toward a Field Approach to the Cultural Authority of Science: Comparing Durkheim and Bourdieu” The 111th Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association, Seattle, WA (with Gordon Gauchat).
- 2015 “Gender and the Negotiation of Expert Authority in Court.” The 110th Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association, Chicago, IL.

- 2014 “Occupational Sector Differences in Expert Witness Admissibility.” The 109th Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association, San Francisco, CA.
- 2013 “Unqualified Testimony or Unequal Treatment? Gender Differences in Legal Designations of Expert Witnesses.” The 69th Annual Meetings of the American Society of Criminology, Atlanta, GA.
- 2013 “Scientific and Religious Worldviews and Public Opinion in the United States.” The 108th Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association, New York, NY (with Shiri Noy).
- 2012 “Conflict and Compatibility Between Science and Religion Among the American Public.” The 107th Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association, Denver, CO (with Shiri Noy).
- 2011 “Organizational Context and the Admissibility of Expert Witnesses into Court.” The 106th Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association, Las Vegas, NV.
- 2010 “Economists, Medical Researchers and Public Policy: Differences in Cultural Authority of Social and Natural Scientists.” The 105th Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association, Atlanta, GA.
- 2010 “The Credibility of University Professors: Is there a Penalty on Engaged Scholarship?” The 60th Annual Meetings of the Society for the Study of Social Problems, Atlanta, GA (with Oren Pizmony-Levy).
- 2009 “Graduate Training and the Reproduction of Gender Inequality in Scientific Careers.” Annual Meetings of the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning, Bloomington, IN (with Kerry Greer).
- 2009 “Education and Public Attitudes about Scientific Leadership.” The 104th Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association, San Francisco, CA.
- 2008 “The Evolving Collaboration Patterns of Research Scientists.” The 103rd Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association, Boston, MA.
- 2008 “Professional and Personal Identity Centrality in Research Scientists.” The Annual Meetings of the North Central Sociological Association, Cincinnati, OH.

\* Denotes work with collaborators who were graduate students when the project was conducted.

### **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

Introduction to Sociology: Indiana University, University of Evansville, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Sociology of Law (undergraduate): University of Evansville, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

Research Methods: University of Evansville (undergraduate), University of Wisconsin-

Milwaukee (graduate)  
Introduction to Behavioral Statistics (undergraduate): University of Evansville, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee  
Social Theory (undergraduate): Indiana University, University of Evansville  
Race and Ethnic Group Relations (undergraduate): University of Evansville  
Internship in Sociology (undergraduate): University of Evansville  
Quantitative Research Methods (undergraduate): Indiana University  
Sociological Research Practicum (graduate): Indiana University (co-instructor)

## **GRADUATE STUDENT ADVISING**

### University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee

*PhD dissertation chair*: Stephen Hawkins (2025)

*PhD dissertation committee*: Mathew T. McCarthy (2017), Daniel Bartholomay (2019), Stephanie Baran (2019), Michal Miner (2020), Yi Yin (2022)

*MA thesis chair*: Emily Dorshorst (2016), Katie Behl (2018), Robert Koerber (2018), Ryan Paulus (2019), Jesse Campa (2019), Megan Betts (2020), Tiff Weekley (2020), Elizaveta Lepikhova (2021), Thomas Rainey (2024), Alexandra Habeck (2024)

*MA committee*: Helge Mannharens (2016), Kaylin James (2016), Derek Post (2016), Jenna Nitkowski (2017), Cathryn Miller (2017), Tenshi Kawashimi (2019), Zachary Wagner (2019), Mitch Moyer (2020), Boci (Bruce) Meng (2022), Michelle Parks (2025)

*Preliminary exam committee*: Stephanie Baran (2016), Alexander Bryan (2017), Emily Dorshort (2018), Yi Yin (2019), Michael Miner (2019), Navada Hessler (2020, 2021), Kristen Schmidt (2020, 2021); Shiv Issar (2021, 2022), Stephen Hawkins (2022, 2023), Adam Loesch (2022, 2023)

## **SERVICE**

### Editorial

2021- 2024      Editorial Board Member (appointed), *Social Problems*

### Ad hoc reviewer

American Journal of Sociology; American Sociological Review; European Sociological Review; Journal of Personality and Social Psychology; Social Forces; Social Currents; Sociological Focus; Acta Sociologica; Socius; The Sociological Quarterly; Science, Technology, and Human Values; Science Communication; Public Administration Review; Public Understanding of Science; Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion; Sociology of Race and Ethnicity

### American Sociological Association (member 2008-present)

2020      Science, Knowledge, and Technology Section, Committee chair, Robert K. Merton Award for Outstanding Book  
2019      Science, Knowledge, and Technology Section, Committee chair, Star-Nelkin Award for Outstanding Paper  
2018      Science, Knowledge, and Technology Section, Committee chair, Hacker-Mullins Award for

- Outstanding Graduate Student Paper
- 2017-20 Science, Knowledge and Technology Section Council
- 2016 Science, Knowledge and Technology Section, Committee, Hacker-Mullins Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Paper
- 2013-20 Science, Knowledge and Technology Section, Membership committee

University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee

- 2020-21, 2023- Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Sociology
- 2024-2025 Graduate Faculty Committee
- 2023- Graduate Curriculum Committee (Chair, 2024-2025)
- 2020- Faculty Senator
- 2020-23 Graduate Program Review Committee
- 2020 Internal Reviewer, UWM Mathematical Sciences Graduate Program Review
- 2017-20 Academic Policy Committee (co-chair 2018-19)
- 2017-20 Colloquium Committee, Department of Sociology
- 2017 Merit Review Committee, Department of Sociology
- 2016 Internal Reviewer, UWM Bachelor's in Social Work Program
- 2016-20 Steering Committee, Religious Studies Program
- 2015-17 Undergraduate Committee, Department of Sociology

University of Evansville

- 2014-15 Faculty Professional Affairs Committee
- 2014-15 Academic Services Committee
- 2013-14 Curriculum Committee

Indiana University

- 2010-11 Personnel Committee, Department of Sociology
- 2009-10 Undergraduate Affairs Committee, Department of Sociology
- 2007-08 Social Affairs Committee, Department of Sociology