

# SHAY O'BRIEN

sobrien@hks.harvard.edu

## APPOINTMENTS

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**Postdoctoral Fellow, Harvard University** 2023-2025  
Stone Program in Wealth Distribution, Inequality, and Social Policy

## EDUCATION

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**Ph.D. Sociology, Princeton University** 2023  
*Dissertation: Dallas: Kinship, Mobility, and Inheritance in an Elite Population, 1895-1945*  
*Committee:* Paul Starr (chair), Shamus Khan, Ellis Monk, and Viviana Zelizer

**M.A. Sociology, Princeton University** 2019  
*Exams:* Elites (Paul Starr), Race and Ethnicity (Ellis Monk), and Economic Sociology (Viviana Zelizer)  
*Paper:* "Cotton Rich, Rotten Rich: New Money in Dallas High Society, 1925-42"  
(Readers: Dalton Conley and Ellis Monk)

**B.A. Anthropology with Honors, Brown University** 2012  
Best Honors Thesis in Anthropology  
Highest Achievement in Linguistic Anthropology

## PUBLICATIONS

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O'Brien, Shay. 2024. "The Family Web: Multigenerational Class Persistence in Elite Populations." *Socio-Economic Review* 20(1):1-27.

- 2022 Winner, Robert D. Mare Graduate Student Paper Award from the ASA Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility Section
- 2022 Co-Winner, Graduate Student Paper Award from the ASA Family Section

### Revise and resubmit:

"The Gender of Inheritance in an Upper-Class Family Network: Dallas, 1895-1945"

### Working papers:

"The New Money Myth: Patterns and Perception of Upper-Class Mobility in Oil Boom Dallas, 1925-1942"

"Kinship Interlocks: Mapping the Family Ties Between Economic, Political, and Social Elites"

"Rethinking New and Old Money"

## FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

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<b>Stone Research Grant</b>	2023
James M. and Cathleen D. Stone Program in Wealth Distribution, Inequality, and Social Policy at Harvard Kennedy School	
<b>Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship</b>	2022-23
American Council of Learned Societies	
<b>Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant</b>	2022-23
American Sociological Association, on behalf of the National Science Foundation	
<b>Robert D. Mare Graduate Student Paper Award</b>	2022
ASA Inequality, Poverty, and Mobility Section	
<b>Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award (Co-Winner)</b>	2022
ASA Family Section	
<b>Prize Fellowship in the Social Sciences</b>	2020-22
Princeton University School of Public and International Affairs	
<b>Center for Digital Humanities Data Fellowship</b>	2021-22
Princeton University Center for Digital Humanities	
<b>Data-Driven Social Sciences Research Grant</b>	2021-22
Princeton University Data-Driven Social Sciences Initiative	
<b>University Fellowship in the Humanities and Social Sciences</b>	2016-21
Princeton University	
<b>Religion and Public Life Graduate Student Fellow</b>	2017-20
Princeton University Center for Culture, Society, and Religion	
<b>Sociology Department Travel Grant</b>	2019
Princeton University	
<b>Center for the Study of Social Organization Research Award</b>	2019
Princeton University	
<b>Portal to Texas History Research Fellowship</b>	2018-19
University of North Texas	
<b>Religion and Public Life Discretionary Research Grant</b>	2018-19
Princeton University Center for Culture, Society, and Religion	
<b>Clements Center-DeGolyer Library Research Travel Grant</b>	2018
Southern Methodist University	
<b>American Studies Summer Research Grant</b>	2017
Princeton University	
<b>KOSMOS Summer Fellowship in Urban Sociology</b>	2017
Humboldt University	
<b>Graduate Research Fellowship, Honorable Mention</b>	2016-17
National Science Foundation	

<b>Anthropology Department Research Apprenticeship Award</b> Brown University	2009-12
<b>International Undergraduate Research and Teaching Award</b> Brown University	2010, 2011
<b>Solsbery Summer Research Fellowship</b> ( <i>declined</i> ) Brown University	2011

## DATASETS

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**In progress:** *Dallas Elites, 1841-1963*

## TEACHING

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**Applied Social Science Statistics** (Graduate course)  
2018, Teaching Assistant for Brandon Stewart

**Money, Work, and Social Life: Introduction to Economic Sociology** (Undergraduate course)  
2018, Teaching Assistant for Frederick Wherry

**Applied Social Science Statistics** (Graduate course)  
2017, Teaching Assistant for Matthew Salganik

## INVITED TALKS

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- Political Economy / Economic History and Development Seminar at University of Massachusetts-Amherst (2024)
- Economic Sociology Seminar at Harvard University (2024)
- Rick W. A. Smith's Lab at George Mason University (2023)
- Gender and Elites Workshop at Oxford University (2022)
- Aaron Reeves's Research Group at Oxford University (2021)
- Paul Starr's Graduate-Level Sociology of Elites Course (2020)
- Princeton Prize Fellowship in the Social Sciences Meeting (2020, 2021)
- Portal to Texas History Fellowship Talk at the University of North Texas (2019)

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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- Inequality and the Environment Symposium at SciencesPo (2024)
- American Sociological Association Annual Meeting (2019, 2021, 2022, 2023)
- Eastern Sociological Society Annual Meeting (2019, 2022)
- Social Science History Association Conference (2019, 2022, 2023)

## DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

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Department Climate Committee, Student representative, 2018-19

Graduate Student Advisory Council, Second-year representative, 2017-18

Interdisciplinary Ethnography Workshop, Co-organizer, Spring 2017

## **EMPLOYMENT**

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### **MDRC**

Research Assistant, Families with Children Department

New York, NY

2013-16

### **Brown University Department of Anthropology**

Research Assistant to Professor Paja Faudree

Providence, RI

2009-13

*Last Update: March 2024*