

Kyle P. O'Brien
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Academic Degrees

2026	Ph.D.	Curriculum and Instruction Teacher Education and Curriculum Studies program Philosophy of Education minor	Indiana University
2021	Ed.M.	Curriculum and Instruction	University of Illinois
2014	B.S.	Integrated Social Studies Education	Miami University
2014	B.A.	History Spanish minor	Miami University

Professional Experience

Universities

Aug. 2026 - Present	Clinical Assistant Professor of Secondary Social Studies Education University of Alabama, College of Education Department of Curriculum and Instruction Tuscaloosa, Alabama
Aug. 2023 - May 2026	Associate Instructor Indiana University, School of Education Bloomington, Indiana
Aug. 2014 - July 2015	English Lecturer Sun Yat-sen University, School of International Studies Zhuhai, China

Schools

Aug. 2018 - July 2022	Social Studies Teacher and Department Chair Maple Leaf Educational Systems (Grades 10-12) Shenzhen, China
June 2017 - June 2018	Social Studies Teacher South Bend Community Schools Corporation (Grade 7) South Bend, Indiana
Aug. 2015 - Jan. 2016	Social Studies Long-term Substitute Community School District #99 (Grade 9-12) Downers Grove, Illinois

Certifications

2018	British Columbia, Certificate of Qualification, All Grades and Subjects
2017	Indiana, Professional Educator License, Grades 5-12 Geographic and Historical Perspectives
2015	Illinois, Provisional Educator Endorsement, Grades 9-12 Geography and History
2014	Ohio, Resident Educator License, Grades 7-12 Social Studies

Refereed Articles

- Cowden, R., & O'Brien, K. P. (2025). A content analysis investigating the framing of anti-CRT laws and their impacts on social studies teacher agency. *Teachers College Record*, 127(5), 123-151. <https://doi.org/10.1177/01614681251361986>
- Cuenca, A., & O'Brien, K. P. (2026). Revisiting *United States v. South Carolina*: The birth of the modern teacher licensure exam. *The Educational Forum*, 90(2), 220–236. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00131725.2026.2617633>
- O'Brien, K. P. (2026). Teaching social studies as edgework. *The Journal of Social Studies Research*, 50(3), 135-150. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0885985X251404051>
- O'Brien, K. P., & Cowden, R. (2026). Legislating a la carte: An analysis of K-12 ethnic studies state laws from 2020-2025. *The Social Studies*, Advance Online Publication, 1–17. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00377996.2026.2644993>
- Serriere, S., Riley, T., Rowan, J. N., O'Brien, K. P., & LeCompte, K. (2024). Reframing the gap: A continuum of civic congruence to examine the lived civics of youth. *Social Studies Journal*, 44(2), 8-26. <https://pcssonline.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/SSJ-442-Fall-2024.pdf>

Refereed Chapters

- O'Brien, K. P., & Miller, P. (2026). Teaching the Cold War in Chinese international schools: A lesson about political socialization to promote reflective learning. In J. Williams & N. Keefer (Eds.), *Teaching about war in international contexts: Pedagogical practices in the secondary social studies classroom* (pp. 103-117). Emerald Publishing.
- Pol, M., & O'Brien, K. P. (In press). Who we are in the classroom: Navigating emotions and positionality of two novice teacher educators in a multicultural education course. In J. Snow & J. Jacobs (Eds.), *Teacher educator learning across the professional life span*. Emerald Publishing.

Refereed Presentations

- Cowden, R., & O'Brien, K. P. (2023, November). A content analysis of state laws to restrict the teaching of race and racism in public schools. Presentation to the College and University Faculty Assembly, National Council of the Social Studies, Nashville, TN.
- Cowden, R., & O'Brien, K. P. (2024, April). A content analysis investigating the framing of anti-CRT laws and their impacts on social studies teacher agency. Presentation to the Social Studies SIG, American Educational Research Association, Philadelphia, PA.
- Dang, Q., & O'Brien, K. P. (2023, November). Social harmony in civic education: Conceptions of Chinese and Vietnamese graduates of international schools. Presentation to the College and University Faculty Assembly, National Council of the Social Studies, Nashville, TN.
- O'Brien, K. P. (2023, May). Interest convergence and the politicized course development of AP African American Studies. Presentation to the Midwest Social Studies Graduate Student Retreat, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN.
- O'Brien, K. P., & Cowden, R. (2023, November). Confronting the “conflict campaign”: Situating IN legislation in its national context and responding to limits on teacher agency. Presentation to the Indiana Council of the Social Studies, Terre Haute, IN.
- O'Brien, K. P. (2024, November). “If I let you talk about this, I won’t be your teacher anymore”: Contained risk-taking in Chinese international schools. Presentation to the College and University Faculty Assembly, National Council of the Social Studies, Boston, MA.
- O'Brien, K. P., & Cowden, R. (2024, November). “Needed now more than ever”: State laws instituting K-12 ethnic studies after 2020’s call for racial justice. Presentation to the College and University Faculty Assembly, National Council of the Social Studies, Boston, MA.
- O'Brien, K. P. (2025, April). Teaching social studies as edgework in Chinese international schools. Presentation to Social Studies Research SIG, American Educational Research Association, Denver, CO.
- O'Brien, K. P. (2025, December). Feeling joy in constraining contexts: An investigation into the emotional

- geographies of Indiana social studies teachers. Presentation to the College and University Faculty Assembly, National Council of the Social Studies, Washington, D.C.
- O'Brien, K. P., & Cowden, R.** (2025, April). "Needed now more than ever": State laws instituting K-12 ethnic studies after 2020's call for racial justice. Presentation to Division L: Educational Policies and Politics, American Educational Research Association, Denver, CO.
- O'Brien, K. P., & Cuenca, A.** (2025, April). Revisiting *U.S. v. South Carolina* (1978): The birth of the modern teacher licensure exam. Presentation to the Accreditation, Assessment, and Program Evaluation Research in Educator Preparation SIG, American Educational Research Association, Denver, CO.

Invited Presentations

- O'Brien, K. P.** (2021, October). "Blending the best of the East and West": Applying theory to achieve multicultural aims. Presentation to Maple Leaf Educational Systems, China.
- O'Brien, K. P.** (2022, April). Teaching to our contexts, evidence, and aims. Presentation to Maple Leaf Educational Systems, China.
- O'Brien, K. P.** (2023, February). Teaching with democratic values in repressive political contexts. Presentation to the Social Studies Organization of Undergraduate Learners. Indiana University, Bloomington, IN.
- O'Brien, K. P.** (2024, April). Confronting the "conflict campaign": Situating IN legislation in its national context and responding to limits on teacher agency. Presentation to M300: Teaching in a Pluralistic Society. Indiana University, Bloomington, IN.

Honors, Fellowships, and Awards

Indiana University

Spring 2026	University Graduate School Grant-in-Aid of Research Award (\$1,000)
2025 - 2026	Achasa Beechler Fellowship (\$1,380)
2025 - 2026	Dixie P. Bjurstrom Scholarship (\$2,500)
2024 - 2025	Shirley H. Engle Fellowship (\$500)
2023 - 2026	Graduate Student Travel Award (\$500/annual)
2023 - 2026	Faculty Doctoral Fellowship (\$24,000/annual)
2022 - 2023	Proffitt Fellowship (\$22,000)

Maple Leaf Educational Systems

2020	Superintendent's Award for Excellence in Teaching
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Miami University

2014	History Department Honors Program
	History Department Undergraduate Research Award (\$1,000)
	Urban Teaching Cohort

University Teaching Experience

University of Alabama

Instruction and Accommodation in Secondary Schools
 Teaching Secondary Social Science
 Clinical Experience Secondary Schools (Social Science)

Indiana University

Teaching in a Pluralistic Society
 Introduction to Educational Thought
 Early Field Experiences in Secondary Social Studies Education
 Field Experiences in Secondary Social Studies Education

Classroom Management in Secondary Social Studies Education

Teaching Assistant:

Principles of History and Social Sciences in Learning Contexts

Methods in Secondary Social Studies Education

Miami University

Undergraduate Teaching Assistant:

World History to 1500

Membership and Activity in Professional Organizations

American Educational Research Association

2024 - Present Member, Division K; Social Studies Research SIG

2024 - Present Proposal reviewer, Social Studies Research SIG

Journal of Curriculum and Pedagogy

2026 - Present Peer reviewer

Journal of International Social Studies

2024 - Present Peer reviewer

National Council for the Social Studies, College and University Faculty Assembly

2026 Program Chair, Graduate Forum

2025 Assistant Program Chair, Graduate Forum

2023 - Present Proposal Reviewer

2021 - Present Member

Theory & Research in Social Education

2023 - 2026 Doctoral Student Reviewer Mentorship Program

University Service

Indiana University

July 2025 Validation Day Judge, School of Education

2024 - 2025 Member, Committee on Teacher Education and Undergraduate Studies

June 2024 Session Presenter, iEngage Youth Civic Empowerment Camp

April 2024 Co-Chair, Graduate Research Symposium

Oct. 2023 Pilot Teacher Workshop Participant, Global Deliberations Collaborative

Sept. 2023 Volunteer, Elder Watson Diggs Symposium

March 2023 Organizing Committee, Graduate Research Symposium

Other Professional Activities

Indiana University

2023 - 2025 Research Assistant, Center on Representative Government

Project title: *Democracy Quest: History and Civic Learning through Virtual Reality*

Co-PIs: Elizabeth R. Olson, Stephanie C. Serriere

Summer 2024 Research Assistant, Indiana University-Columbus

Project title: *iEngage Youth Civic Empowerment Camp*

PI: Stephanie C. Serriere