

# Neil A. O'Brian

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

361 Hamilton Hall  
Department of Political Science  
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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

**University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**, Chapel Hill, NC  
Assistant Professor, Political Science, 2025–Present

**University of Oregon**, Eugene, OR  
Assistant Professor, Political Science, 2021–25

**Princeton University**, Princeton, NJ  
Postdoctoral Research Associate, Center for the Study of Democratic Politics, AY 2020

## EDUCATION

**University of California, Berkeley**, Berkeley, CA

Ph.D., Political Science, Summer 2020

- Fields: American Politics, Methodology, Political Behavior
- Dissertation Committee: Eric Schickler (chair), Rob Van Houweling, Gabe Lenz, Sarah Anzia

**Case Western Reserve University**, Cleveland, OH

B.A., May 2011, *summa cum laude*

## PEER REVIEWED BOOKS

*The Roots of Polarization: From the Racial Realignment to the Culture Wars.* 2024. **University of Chicago Press.**

## PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

“The Polarization of Health Outcomes in the United States.” With Elizabeth Elder. Conditionally Accepted. **Nature Human Behaviour.**

“Partisanship and Trust in Doctors: Causes and Consequences.” With Brad Kent. 2025. **British Journal of Political Science.**

“Social Groups as the Source of Political Belief Systems: Fresh Evidence on an Old Theory.” With Elizabeth Mitchell Elder. 2022. **American Political Science Review.**

“Political Accountability and Selective Perception in the Time of COVID.” With Sean Freeder. 2022. **Public Opinion Quarterly.**

“Before Reagan: The Development of the Partisan Divide on Abortion.” 2020. **Perspectives on Politics.**

- Coverage: *The Washington Post*

“One-Party States and Legislator Extremism in the U.S. House, 1876-2012.” 2019. **The Journal of Politics.**

“Income Inequality and Congressional Republican Position Taking, 1913-2013.” 2019. **The Journal of Politics.**

WORKING PAPERS “Increasing Trust in Physicians: Evidence from Five Experiments.” (Under Review). With Elizabeth Elder.

“Media Perceptions of Group Positions: Causes and Consequences.” Working Paper. With Elizabeth Elder.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS Book Review of: “Nelson Rockefeller’s Dilemma: The Fight to Save Moderate Republicanism.” First View. **Perspectives on Politics.**

Young people are lukewarm about Biden – and giving them more information doesn’t move the needle much. **The Conversation.** With Chandler James.

“Waiting for Trump: The Move to the Right of White Working-Class Men, 1968-2016.” With Shad Turney, Frank Levy and Jack Citrin. **The California Journal of Politics and Policy.**

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS & AWARDS

- 2024 Andrew Carnegie Fellow. \$200,000 grant for project: *Partisan Prescriptions: The Polarization of Health Outcomes.*
- University of Oregon, College of Arts & Sciences Program Grant (\$4,000) for the development of an American Politics Working Group.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Courses Taught: Introduction to American Politics, The U.S. Congress, Introduction to Political Analysis (Grad & Undergrad)
- Graduate Advising: Madison Schroeder (Chair), Amy Snyder, Elaina Barker, Irina Toland (Dissertation Committee); Tanner Bivens, Christine Capili (Institutional Representative)
- Undergraduate Advising (Honors Thesis): AY 2021-22 (2 students); AY 2022-23 (2 students); AY 2023-24 (7 students).

SERVICE

- APSA Parties and Political Organizations Program Co-Chair 2025
- UO: A & A Committee 2023 (UO PS Dept); UO US Politics Subfield Chair 2023–present; Honors and Awards Committee 2022 (UO PS Dept)
- Journal Referee: *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Politics*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *Political Behavior*, *Public Opinion Quarterly*, *PS: Political Science & Politics*, *International Relations*, *Western European Politics*, *Research in Political Sociology*

PRIOR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

8th Grade Math Instructor, Veritas College Preparatory Charter School	2013-2014
8th Grade Math Instructor, Teach for America, Memphis, TN	2011-2013