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Before joining OU in August 2007, he spent five years as an assistant professor of political science and director of the Center for the Study of Democracy at St. Mary's College of Maryland, the state's public honors college. While at St. Mary's he taught International, American, Maryland, and Intro Politics. He also twice taught a special yearlong course on the Italian language and led a student trip to Alba, Italy in 2006. Twice honored by the St. Mary's College Student Government Association with its highest awards for outstanding service to the college, improving student life, and excellence in teaching, he also served as the faculty adviser to the school newspaper, *The Point News* which won first place citations in 2006 and 2007 from the [American Scholastic Press Association](#).

Dr. Messitte received his B.A. in American History and Italian language from [Bowdoin College](#) and his M.A. from the [Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies \(SAIS\)](#) in American Foreign Policy and International Economics. He received his Ph.D. in Politics from [New York University](#). His work has appeared in the *International Herald Tribune*, *The Baltimore Sun*, *Slate*, *Italy Daily*, *The Maryland Daily Record*, *The Johns Hopkins SAIS Review*, *The Johns Hopkins Bologna Center's Journal of International Affairs*, *Maryland Historical Magazine*, *The Oklahoman*, and *World Literature Today*. He was a regular guest on Maryland Public Television's *State Circle* and Washington Post radio also serves as an occasional political analyst for National Public Radio in Baltimore. He has received grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the American Association of University Professors, and the Italian-American Foundation.

Before entering academia, Zach Messitte served as a public information officer for the [United Nations](#) in New York and Vienna, Austria. He also worked as a researcher-producer at the [Cable News Network's Washington bureau](#) for senior national correspondent Judy Woodruff, and spent three years as the press spokesman for the [U.S. Senate Select Committee on Intelligence](#) in Washington, DC. Born in Sao Paulo, Brazil, Dr. Messitte grew up in Montgomery County, Maryland and is a graduate of [Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School](#). He and his wife, Julia, have two sons.