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Prior to joining CNAS, Ms. O'Reilly was a strategist supporting the U.S. Central Command's (CENTCOM) public affairs, J2, J8, and J5 divisions. She also provided strategic communications support to Boeing, the United States Strategic Command (STRATCOM), Multi-National Force-Iraq (MNF-I), Combined Joint Task Force-82 (CJTF-82), and the 3rd Infantry Division. She also worked on several political campaigns as a communications professional.

Ms. O'Reilly is a candidate for an MA in Government at the Johns Hopkins University. She holds a B.A. in political science and Spanish from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. She also studied at the Universitario de Puerto Rico Mayagüez. She is currently a member of the National Press Club, Women in International Security and Young Professionals in Foreign Policy.