PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
School of Social Work

Mieko Yoshihama, associate professor of social work, with tenure, School of Social Work, is recommended for promotion to professor of social work, with tenure, School of Social Work.

Academic Degrees:
B. A. 1984 Literature and Linguistics, Sophia University, Tokyo, Japan
M.S.W. 1986 University of California, Los Angeles
Ph.D. 1996 Social Welfare, University of California, Los Angeles

Professional Record:
2005-2006 Ochanomize University Frontiers of Gender Studies (F-GENS), Tokyo, Japan, Visiting Scholar
2003-2005 University of Wisconsin-Madison School of Nursing, Madison, WI, Visiting Professor
2002 Meijigakuin University, Department of Social Work and Sociology, Tokyo, Japan, Lecturer
2002-present University of Michigan, School of Social Work, Ann Arbor, MI, Associate Professor
1996-2002 University of Michigan, School of Social Work, Ann Arbor, MI, Assistant Professor
1994-95 UCLA School of Social Welfare, Los Angeles, CA, Research Assistant
1993-94 UCLA School of Public Health, Southern California Injury Prevention Research Center, Los Angeles, CA, Pre-doctoral Fellow (funded by the California Wellness Foundation) (93-94), Staff Research Associate (93)
1988-92 Didi Hirsch Community Mental Health Center, Culver City, CA, Coordinator, Asian/Pacific Outreach Project (89-92), Consultant, Asian/Pacific Outreach Project (88-89)
1988-90 El Nido Services, Van Nuys, CA, Staff Therapist
1986-1988 Center for the Pacific Asian Family, Inc. (Everywoman's Shelter), Los Angeles, CA, Acting Child Abuse Program Coordinator (88), Child Abuse Program Counselor (86-88)

Summary of Evaluation:
Teaching: Professor Yoshihama is an innovative, valued, and first-rate teacher, with a teaching philosophy that focuses on the integration of theory, research, and practice. In addition to self-reflection and self-criticism, co-learning, and participatory strategies, Professor Yoshihama attempts to incorporate voices from around the world in her coursework, rather than relying exclusively on U.S. authors/perspective. She appropriately defines teaching broadly to include not only undergraduate, MSW, and Doctoral classroom teaching, but field instruction, mentoring with the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) and doctoral students, and training of
community-based professionals. Professor Yoshihama has taught courses in the regular MSW curriculum, as well as courses in interpersonal violence. The School of Social Work has one core course in interpersonal violence and a special course, in which the content varies by term. Professor Yoshihama has developed one and taught two of these special courses; Grassroots and Policy Responses to Domestic Violence: Critical, Structural, and Global Perspectives, and Family Violence Prevention and Intervention. She has taught the former course six times. She has been a key member of the Workgroup on Privilege, Oppression, Diversity, and Social Justice (PODS), since it was formed in 2001 to integrate related content into the School’s curriculum. In this effort she has also demonstrated her methodological abilities, creating and rigorously evaluating a measure of competency in the PODS area that we have adopted in curricular evaluation efforts. She also chaired the Global Initiative Task Force for the School of Social Work that prepared a three year strategic plan for integrating global content into the curriculum. Professor Yoshihama has also been actively engaged in training of professionals outside the academy. These efforts have been primarily in Japan, and involve both governmental and non-governmental organizations. In addition to the training, it should be noted that she also provides ongoing supervision, travelling between the US and Japan on a regular basis.

Research: Professor Yoshihama has established a global reputation based upon her research in the area of domestic and interpersonal violence. Her strong focus on Asian and Asian-American women has brought new insights to issues of culture, ethnicity, and race in the field of interpersonal violence. She is methodologically accomplished, with strength in quantitative and qualitative research, both of which she integrates in her community-based research. Of particular note is her application of the Life History Calendar method to enhance the detail and accuracy of quantitative data gathering from women who have been victims of domestic violence. This innovation is noted by seven of her eight external reviewers as a major contribution to the interpersonal violence field. Professor Yoshihama has also advanced the theory of interpersonal violence, especially among immigrant, Asian-American, and Japanese women. Of particular importance is her alternative to the western-focused Power and Control Wheel—the Web of Silence and Abuse, developed by Yoshihama as more appropriate for Japanese culture. One reviewer describes this work as one of Professor Yoshihama’s most important contributions. However, one external reviewer, whose overall evaluation is very laudatory, has a minor critique of the new model she developed. The School of Social Work Tenure and Promotion Committee did not agree with this critique and, instead points out that the Power and Control Wheel was developed as a theory to explain battering among a primarily white, United States population. The Committee supports the idea that adaptations or alternatives might be necessary for other populations and characterizes the Web of Silence and Abuse as innovative and sensitive to cultural differences. She has been very productive since receiving tenure—she has published or has in press 28 publications, including 14 articles in peer-reviewed journals, three edited books, four book chapters, four technical reports or monographs, and three articles in non-peer-reviewed journals. The technical reports include an important report on domestic violence to the World Health Organization as part of a major, multi-country study. Her peer-reviewed articles appear in high quality social work, social science, interpersonal violence, and health journals, including Social Work, Social Work Research, and American Journal of Epidemiology. Professor Yoshihama has also been very successful in obtaining funding for her research activities. She has obtained 33 internal and external grants, ranging from $1,500 to $1.9 million. Illustrative of her ability to obtain external funding and of her standing in the field is her position as co-principal investigator of the Japanese component of a major research undertaking by the World Health Organization, the Multi-country Study on Domestic Violence. Additional indices of her scholarly prominence and productivity are her presentations at international, national, and local conferences. She has given 11 papers at international conferences since achieving tenure, on nine of which she was first or sole author.
Moreover, she has presented 30 papers at national and state conferences in the U.S. since tenure, on 21 of which she was first author. These include the two most important academic social work conferences—the Council on Social Work Education and the Society for Social Work and Research.

**Recent and Significant Publications ([J] denotes Japanese):**

**Peer-Reviewed Articles:**


**Edited Books:**


**Book Chapters:**


**Service:** Professor Yoshihama has been an excellent citizen in the School of Social Work, serving on the Student Services Committee, the Multi-Cultural and Gender Affairs Committee, and the Recruitment, Admission, and Financial Aid (RAFA) Committee. One of her most important contributions has been her leadership role in developing an environment in the School of Social Work that is more supportive of international students. She has also served the University of Michigan well—on the Diversity Blueprints Taskforce, the Steering Committee for the Women of
Color in the Academy Project, and the Executive Committee of the Center for Japanese Studies. Her service to the academic profession is also notable. This includes membership on three scholarly journal editorial boards. In addition, she serves as an ad hoc reviewer for 13 scholarly journals. Professor Yoshihama has creatively integrated service and research in culturally sensitive endeavors among Asian-American women in the Detroit community. Using a participatory action research approach, she has organized a violence prevention group for Asian Americans called New Visions: Alliance to End Violence in Asian/American Communities, and another community-based domestic violence prevention initiative, the Shanti Project, which focuses specifically on Guajaratí (Asian-Indian) residents in Metropolitan Detroit. Both of these endeavors have been supported by external funding obtained by Professor Yoshihama. In terms of national service, Professor Yoshihama was one of the founding members of the Asian and Pacific Islander Institute on Domestic Violence and has served on its Steering Committee for 11 years. She was instrumental in obtaining funding for this national institute. She also has served as a consultant to and/or worked with other national organizations, including the National Institute of Justice, the National Resource Center for Domestic Violence, and the Administration of Children and Families (DHHS), among others. Finally, her international service is also notable. She is a member of the Expert Advisory Group for the World Health Organization’s Burden of Diseases, Injuries and Risk Factors Study and is currently working on the development of social work internship opportunities with the World Health Organization.

External Reviews:
Reviewer (A) “Dr. Yoshihama has continued to develop a strong program scholarship since receiving tenure and her last promotion in 2002...Her works would clearly be included in a list of the most important articles in the field, both for her works in Japan and her development of research methods for studying violence against women.”

Reviewer (B) “[Most importantly], her publications are of the very highest quality as well as making a significant contribution to the field. They utilize both qualitative and quantitative data, so that both context and generalizability are addressed...In addition, she has developed innovative methodological approaches that will contribute to the development of culturally competent research applicable across ethnic groups and subject matter.”

Reviewer (C) “Your letter asks if I were to compile a list of the most significant articles on violence against women that have appeared recently would any of Dr. Yoshihama’s make the list. I must respond that her work on intimate partner violence (IPV) against Japanese women is considered, not just by me, but by most others in this field, as required reading.”

Reviewer (D) “I think that one of her most important contributions is her 2006 American Journal of Community Psychology article on intimate partner violence and welfare receipt among poor, midwestern African-American women...This is the article that I would put on my list of the most significant articles to appear in the field of domestic violence in recent years.”

Reviewer (E) “Mieko has sustained a strong and consistent focus on violence against women, particularly domestic violence...I believe it would be fair to say that Mieko is one of the foremost names in the domestic violence field with respect to sociocultural analysis and Asian populations in particular.”

Reviewer (F) “Dr. Yoshihama is recognized as a leader in the field of intimate partner violence...She is known widely for her work, both within the United States and in Japan. Her bicultural emphasis has extended her work in two countries, bringing richness from each to the other. Dr. Yoshihama’s
contributions to the field of intimate partner violence have advanced our understanding of partner violence generally, as well as have added to the methodological tools available to study partner violence. She is well respected and truly remarkable within the field.”

Reviewer (G): “I have also been very impressed with her teaching record. It is not just the excellent evaluations she has received but it is how she has developed the technology of teaching and pedagogy. The POD (Privilege, Oppression, Diversity and Social Justice) curriculum is one particular example of this.”

Reviewer (H): “[Given these sets of current situation,] if I were to compile a list of the literature on intimate partner violence that would include the most significant books and articles, there is no question in my mind at all that I would include all of Ms. Yoshihama’s five articles assigned to me under this assignment in my list.”

Internal Reviews: Upon opening the review process to School of Social Work faculty, one internal letter of review was submitted. The letter was unequivocally positive and supportive of Professor Yoshihama’s research, knowledge production, and her contribution as a colleague. Additionally, both the School of Social Work Tenure and Promotion Committee and the Executive Committee voted unanimously to recommend this promotion.

Summary of Recommendation: Professor Yoshihama has garnered a reputation for working at the cutting-edge of her research field—a reputation supported with solid evidence of strength in teaching, innovation and dissemination in research, and service to her communities. Professor Yoshihama’s work is, as noted throughout, strongly accepted as leading knowledge development in the fields of interpersonal violence and violence against women. In addition, she has been on the forefront of developing culturally sensitive queries and instruments, encouraging cultural understanding and consideration, and promoting a global perspective in Social Work education. Accordingly, I recommend Mieko Yoshihama for promotion to professor of social work, with tenure, School of Social Work.

Laura Lein, Ph.D.
Dean and Collegiate Professor
School of Social Work

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