

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Sarah A. Burgard, assistant professor of sociology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and assistant professor of epidemiology, School of Public Health, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of sociology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and associate professor of epidemiology, without tenure, School of Public Health [also being promoted to research associate professor, Population Studies Center, Institute for Social Research].

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2003	University of California, Los Angeles
M.A.	1999	University of California, Los Angeles
B.A.	1997	Reed College

Professional Record:

2005 – present	Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Department of Epidemiology, University of Michigan
2008 – present	Research Assistant Professor, Population Studies Center, Institute for Social Research
2005 – 2008	Assistant Research Scientist, Population Studies Center, Institute for Social Research
2003 – 2005	Robert Wood Johnson Health and Society Scholar, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Burgard has emerged as a very effective teacher and mentor. Her outstanding qualities include: ability to present complicated ideas clearly, creative use of media in her lectures, generosity with her time, the high quality of her feedback on student work, and her ability to encourage students to develop sociological imaginations. She has served on fourteen dissertation committees (and has co-chaired two of them) and four second prelim committees. She has mentored several postdoctoral scholars, and collaborated and published co-authored papers with sociology graduate students and postdoctoral scholars. She was the recipient of the 2009 LSA Excellence in Education Award.

Research – Professor Burgard’s work lies at the nexus of social stratification and the sociology of health and illness. She examines whether and how systems of inequality, such as gender, socioeconomic position, and race, affect health outcomes. The work reflects creative, ingenious strategies for testing hypotheses. She has been willing to address important theoretical ideas in the field, such as fundamental causation theory. The originality and importance of Professor Burgard’s work has been recognized with two awards. She has published 16 articles in peer-reviewed journals and two book chapters.

Recent and Significant Publications:

“Perceived job insecurity and worker health in the United States,” with J. E. Brand and J. S. House, *Social Science and Medicine*, 69(5), 2009, pp. 777-785.

“Community characteristics, sexual initiation, and condom use among young Black South Africans,” with S. Lee-Rife, *Journal of Health and Social Behavior*, 50(3), 2009, pp. 293-309.

“Does son preference influence children’s growth in height? A comparative study of Chinese and Filipino children,” with S. Song, *Population Studies*, 62(3), 2008, pp. 305-320.

“Does Race Matter? Children’s height in Brazil and South Africa,” *Demography*, 39(4), 2002, pp. 763-790.

Service – Professor Burgard has an excellent service record. She has been an active and constructive member of important committees in Sociology, including Graduate Admissions and Personnel, and she is well known as an excellent resource for graduate students who are preparing external applications. She has participated actively in meeting with job candidates and in providing input for their review. Professor Burgard has a similarly exemplary record at the Population Studies Center (PSC), where she has run the Graduate Student Population Research Workshop. She is currently co-director of the postdoctoral program at PSC and she served on PSC’s Situational Review Committee in a search for a new director (2007), an unusual responsibility for a junior faculty member. In all of these roles, she has been extremely responsible and constructive.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“The ‘fundamental cause’ perspective on health has been perhaps the most stimulating idea in medical sociology over the past fifteen years, and, while this area itself has been something of a mixed bag, Burgard has been [a] leading person of her [generation] in pushing the empirical part of this generation forward. ... Burgard provides Michigan sociology and demography with a strong presence [from her generational view] in health disparities research.”

Reviewer (B)

“Burgard is clearly a rising star in the field of socio-economic disparities in health. Her work exhibits a remarkable range, rigor, and depth in substance, method, and topic. ... I can think of few scholars at Burgard’s stage in any field in sociology with as impressive a collection of high-quality publications in top-notch outlets. Given the sheer quantity of her output, its consistent high quality is quite remarkable.”

Reviewer (C)

“We always know exactly what a Burgard paper is delivering, why it’s a contribution, how it goes beyond existing research, and what it all means in terms of altering the received wisdom. ... In paper after paper, the Burgard advantage is all about a carefully selected analytic strategy, [and] the judicious deployment of methods or models that solve the most pressing methodological problems.”

Reviewer (D)

“Professor Burgard’s work is likely to become central to debates on how macro-economic changes are influencing changes in population health. ...I would rank Professor Burgard among the top ten people nationally in her area and who are at her career stage. This is excellent company.”

Reviewer (E)

“Sarah is among the top tier of researchers in population studies for her cohort (Ph.D.’s 2002-2005). ...virtually everything that she writes is important, well-executed, and well-organized. The fact that she has done so effectively while working with data in the context of four different continents is also very impressive for someone so early in her career.”

Reviewer (F)

“...Dr. Burgard holds promise to be one of the leaders in Medial Sociology in the coming decades. ... She is a productive and creative scholar of the first rank. ...it isn’t difficult to see how Dr. Burgard’s work and contributions will only continue to make their mark...”

Reviewer (G)

“...Dr. Burgard is widely regarded as a rising star of enormous productivity and great ability in demography and sociology. There are very, very few assistant or associate professors who have matched her scholarly output.”

Reviewer (H)

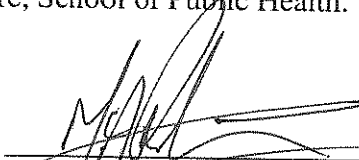
“Especially admirable is Dr. Burgard’s eye for big, basic, and unanswered questions... She has three lines of cumulative research that have resulted in (or in the case of the sleep research, will result in) major contributions... ...the quality of her research is truly outstanding – extraordinarily careful and sophisticated in execution...”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Burgard has produced a strong record of scholarship, and has made extraordinary and unique contributions to the teaching and service missions at Michigan. The Executive Committees of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and the School of Public Health and we recommend that Assistant Professor Sarah A. Burgard be promoted to the rank of associate professor of sociology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and associate professor of epidemiology, without tenure, School of Public Health.



Terrence J. McDonald
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor
Professor of History and Dean
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts



Martin A. Philbert
Professor of Toxicology and Dean,
School of Public Health

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