

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION  
The University of Michigan  
School of Natural Resources and Environment

Joshua P. Newell, assistant professor of natural resources and environment, School of Natural Resources and Environment, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of natural resources and environment, with tenure, School of Natural Resources and Environment.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2008	University of Washington, Seattle, WA
M.A.	2003	University of Washington, Seattle, WA
B.A.	1991	Brown University, Providence, RI

Professional Record:

2010 – present	Assistant Professor, School of Natural Resources and Environment, University of Michigan
2009 – 2010	Research Assistant Professor, Center for Sustainable Cities, Price School of Public Policy, University of Southern California
2008 – 2009	Research Assistant Professor, Department of Geography, University of Southern California

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Newell is a gifted educator whose courses demonstrate both his innovative approaches to learning and his willingness to lead critical courses in the School of Natural Resources and Environment (SNRE) and in the Program in the Environment (PitE), the undergraduate program that SNRE jointly manages with the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Professor Newell's mentoring extends well beyond the classroom. He runs a year-long workshop for Ph.D. students across campus, intended to foster a research culture and integrate scholarship across multiple disciplines. Through the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) and Summer Research Opportunity Program (SROP) he regularly welcomes undergraduates to his research lab. He has chaired two Ph.D. committees, served as a member of three additional Ph.D. committees, chaired six Master's thesis or practicum committees, and served as a member of an additional Master's committee. He has also led three Master's Project teams involving 16 students and has been general advisor to 47 SNRE students.

Research: Trained as a human-environment geographer and urbanist, Professor Newell has developed a prolific and impactful research program. His work focuses on questions related to urban sustainability, resource consumption, and environmental and social justice. Since coming to Michigan, he has published 18 articles in leading journals, as well as two book chapters. His recent work is widely recognized for advancing the theoretical frames of urban resilience, urban metabolism, and political-industrial ecology by enhancing their conceptual clarity. Professor

Newell has also achieved significant success in competing for funding. He was instrumental in winning a \$12 million multi-institutional Sustainable Research Network grant (Sustainable, Healthy, and Livable Cities) where he serves as UM's lead investigator. Overall, he has successfully been awarded \$930,000 in externally sponsored research funds as the PI and co-PI on four NSF grants, one NASA grant, and one USDA NIFA grant.

#### Recent and Significant Publications:

- Meerow, S., Newell, J.P., and Stultz, M., 2016. "Defining urban resilience: A review," *Landscape and Urban Planning* 147: 38–49.
- Newell, J.P. & Cousins, J., 2015. "The boundaries of urban metabolism: Towards a political-industrial ecology," *Progress in Human Geography* 39(6): 702-728.
- Kim, O.S., & Newell, J.P., 2015. "The 'geographic emission benchmark' model: A baseline approach to measuring emissions associated with deforestation and forest degradation," *Journal of Land Use Science* 10(4): 466-489.
- Keoleian, G., Newell, J.P., Xu, M., & Dreps, E., 2014. "Sustainability strategies for consumer products in cities," in *Sustainable Cities*, D. Mazmanian and H. Blanco (Eds.). Edward Elgar.
- Newell, J.P & Simeone, J., 2014. "Russia's forests in a global economy: How consumption drives environmental change," *Eurasian Geography & Economics* 55(1): 37–70.

Service: Professor Newell's leadership is evident in how generously he has given of his time to the school, the university, and his field. Within SNRE, he is an active participant in several fields of study, working on efforts from strategic planning to new program development. He coordinates a dual degree program between SNRE and the Taubman College's Urban Planning Program, and currently serves on the Faculty Transition Team for the new School for Environment and Sustainability. He also is a link between the SNRE and other programs, most notably the Program in the Environment, where he co-authored the report to establish an undergraduate Degree in Sustainability. He is a faculty affiliate in several other programs across campus. Professor Newell is an active member in the International Society of Industrial Ecology and the Association of American Geographers, where he was elected chair of the Human Dimensions of Global Change Specialty Group.

#### External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "Within the interdisciplinary field of industrial ecology [Professor Newell] is becoming recognized as an important new contributor from the social science perspective."

Reviewer B: "[Professor Newell] has proposed a new field of inquiry, political-industrial ecology, which I believe has strong potential to provide new insights into the resilience and sustainability of urban systems."

Reviewer C: "When I think of Dr. Newell in relation to others in his peer group, the idea that he has moved from ... defining papers to a sturdy call to action means that he is ready to take some risks in a quest for new, interdisciplinary (not merely multidisciplinary) efforts to consider new insights on sustainability dilemmas."

Reviewer D: "...for an individual at this point in his career, Dr. Newell has amassed an impressive and important portfolio of publications."

Reviewer E: "Overall Newell's work deals with important larger concerns in the area of political and industrial ecology, with connections to sustainable planning. In terms of promotion to associate professor, I review a number of such files every year and he is clearly over the threshold for promotion to associate professor with tenure at a major research university."

Reviewer F: "Beyond his impressive publication record, Dr. Newell has been tapped in many very important roles that suggest how highly he is regarded of by others within his intellectual community, ranging from having been appointed to numerous editorial boards to having been invited to give many talks at different kinds of venues."

Reviewer G: "Dr. Newell's outstanding paper on the boundaries of urban metabolism and another on the political-industrial ecology of water supply infrastructure demonstrate Dr. Newell's unique talents at understanding and integrating diverse literatures."

Summary of Recommendation: Professor Newell is a gifted teacher and mentor who prioritizes creating an exceptional experience for his students at Michigan and beyond. He is an innovative and productive researcher with a growing impact across several fields of relevance to sustainable cities. His service to the university and his field are extraordinary. It is with the support of the Executive Committee of the School of Natural Resources and Environment that I recommend Joshua P. Newell for promotion to associate professor of natural resources and environment, with tenure, School of Natural Resources and Environment.



Daniel G. Brown  
Professor and Interim Dean  
School of Natural Resources and Environment

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