PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
School of Social Work

Cristina Bares, assistant professor of social work, School of Social Work, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of social work, with tenure, School of Social Work.

Academic Degrees:
Ph.D. 2007 University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan
M.S.W. 2004 University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan
M.S. 2004 University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan
M.B.A. 2001 University of Michigan - Dearborn

Professional Record:
2015 – present Assistant Professor, School of Social Work, University of Michigan
Member, Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation, University of Michigan
Member, Biosocial Methods Collaborative, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan

2011- 2015 Assistant Professor, School of Social Work, Virginia Commonwealth University
Affiliate Faculty, Virginia Institute for Psychiatric Behavioral Genetics
Affiliate Faculty, Institute for Drug and Alcohol Studies

2009-2011 Post-doctoral Research Fellow, Vivian A. and James L. Curtis School of Social Work
Research and Training Center, School of Social Work, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation
Teaching: Professor Bares is an energetic, capable and enthusiastic teacher. Professor Bares has taught two sections of a course on Infant and Child Development and Behavior (SW 605). She has a teaching style that is highly interactive, and tailored to individual students. She has an exercise in which she has students read pages from a case study beforehand, with specific attention to risk and protective factors. When students come together in class, they form into small groups and discuss these potential risk and protective factors with other students in their group. Professor Bares also works hard to incorporate material from current events into her class teaching, often providing time at the beginning of class to process such events, and to discuss the way in which current events might relate to the material being discussed in class. Course evaluations have been positive, and exemplar comments indicate included such comments as: “Personally, I gained significant insight into the inner workings of childhood. There’s a tremendous amount of information/research in the dealings of children aged 0-12, and I felt Dr. Bares did a phenomenal job pulling out the most crucial pieces of development and tying it all together.”

Research: Professor Bares has developed a clear line of highly-relevant, leading-edge research focusing on individual, familial, neighborhood and genetic antecedents of child and adolescent mental health and behavior problems. Her translational biopsychosocial research agenda is both rare in social work and highly significant for the field. The involvement of social workers in this type of
translational science increases the likelihood that populations and problems of central importance to social work will both contribute to and benefit from this promising line of inquiry. Professor Bares’ work makes use of advanced statistical methods such as multi-group confirmatory factor analysis, structural equation modeling, and various models suitable for the examination and apportionment of variance attributable to genetic and environmental factors. These advanced methods allow her to explicate: 1) the main effects of family factors, neighborhood factors, and genetic influences on child and adolescent mental health and behavior problems, 2) potentially reciprocal relationships between these factors, and 3) ways by which factors from one domain may moderate the influence of factors from other domains.

Recent and Significant Publications:


Service: Professor Bares has been an active participant in service. She has been a member of our Recruitment, Financial Aid, and Student Services, as well as a member of the Advisory Board for the UM SSW Office of Global Affairs. As a member of the larger university community, Professor Bares has been a mentor to undergraduate students through the university’s undergraduate research opportunity program. At the level of the profession, Professor Bares has been active in two organizations. She is a member of the National Hispanic Science Network (started in 2001 in partnership with the National Institute on Drug Abuse) and serves as part of this network’s early career leadership community. Professor Bares also is a member of the College for Programs on Drug Dependence and has created an annual workshop for early career members attending the annual CPDD Conference highlights mentoring and funding strategies for graduate students and early career members as they develop their career in addiction science.

External Reviewers:
Reviewer A: “Dr. Bares has published 29 peer-reviewed publications, including several in distinguished addiction journals such as Drug and Alcohol Dependence (IF 3.67). Dr. Bares places in the top 1-3% of her peer group.”

Reviewer B: “I firmly believe that a scholar’s ability to engage in strong, productive collaborations is a very important indicator in the current knowledge-building climate: science concerning the
complex, biopsychosocial world of substance use and addiction is not a solitary pursuit, nor is it constrained to one discipline at a time. Professor Bares has several sustained collaborative partnerships evident in her list of published works. This suggests to me that she has contributed to these collaborations in meaningful ways.”

Reviewer C: “Both the quantity and quality of her scholarly publications would easily place her among the top 5% of all similarly ranked assistant professors vying for tenure in social work in the US. I also note that Dr. Bares’ publications are very well written; she is an excellent writer who is able to convey complex technical and statistical concepts in language that is easy to understand.”

Reviewer D: “Her multilevel approach to advance knowledge on the etiology of tobacco use among adolescents and young adults is highly sophisticated.”

Reviewer E: “In summary, Dr. Bares is an exceptional early career scholar with an exemplary record of scholarship that suggests an extremely productive career. I would welcome a scholar of her ability to the tenure ranks at [my institution] and suspect that would be the case at any research university.”

Reviewer F: “Together, her contributions would likely result in a positive review for tenure at my institution with regard to her contributions in research and scholarly impact.”

Reviewer G: “If she were a faculty member in my institution, I would be highly supportive of her promotion.”

Reviewer H: “Dr. Bares seems to have considerable accomplishments in the teaching and service domains, which together with her steady output of empirical papers might make a case for her promotion.”

Reviewer I: “I am confident that she would receive a positive promotion review at my school.”

Reviewer J: “I recommend her for promotion and tenure without hesitation.”

**Summary of Recommendation:**
Professor Bares has developed a clear line of highly-relevant, leading-edge research focusing on individual, familial, neighborhood and genetic antecedents of child and adolescent mental health and behavior problems. She is a strong teacher and mentor with extensive service to the school, the university and the profession. I am pleased recommend Christina Bares for promotion to associate professor of social work, with tenure, School of Social Work.

Lynn Videka  
Dean, School of Social Work  

May 2018