

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

Jennifer S. Barber, assistant professor of sociology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of sociology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. (Also being promoted to research associate professor in the Survey Research Center and the Population Studies Center, Institute for Social Research.)

Academic Degrees:

1997	Ph.D.	Pennsylvania State University
1994	M.A.	University of Chicago
1992	B.S.	University of Wisconsin, Madison

Professional Record:

2003 – present	Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Michigan
2000 – present	Assistant Research Scientist, Survey Research Center and Population Studies Center, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan
1997 – 2000	Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, Population Studies Center, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluations:

Teaching – Professor Barber is a dedicated and successful instructor who has mastered a challenging undergraduate teaching assignment – teaching research methods. She has also earned strong praise at the graduate level for her advanced seminar on demographic techniques. Her courses are carefully designed, emphasize critical thinking skills, and involve intensive contact with students. Such qualities, combined with her approachability and passion for teaching, have made Professor Barber a very popular teacher and a highly desired mentor for students at all levels.

Research – Professor Barber is among the most productive and influential scholars of her generation working in the area of family demography. She is the author or co-author of more than twenty scholarly articles, most of which have appeared in highly selective journals in sociology, demography, and family studies. Her research has made important contributions to our understanding of the role of parental attitudes in shaping fertility behavior and marital patterns across generations, the impact of modern institutions on family life in developing countries, and the consequences of unintended childbirth. Having successfully introduced a social psychological perspective to more structural models of demography, Professor Barber's work has moved the larger research agenda toward a more complex understanding of the social mechanisms linking attitudes and behavior.

Recent and Significant Publications:

“Community Social Context and Individualistic Attitudes Toward Marriage,” *Social Psychology Quarterly*, 67(3), 2004, pp. 236-256.
“New Ideas and Fertility Limitation: The Role of Mass Media,” with W. G. Axinn, *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 66, 2004, pp. 1180-1200.

“Mass Education and Fertility Transition,” with W. G. Axinn, *American Sociological Review*, 66, 2001, pp. 481-505.

“The Intergenerational Transmission of Age at First Birth Among Married and Unmarried Men and Women,” *Social Science Review*, 30, 2001, pp. 219-247.

Service – Professor Barber has been a responsible and highly valued colleague in the Department of Sociology. She has taken on a range of demanding service assignments, from Personnel Committee to Executive Committee, and in every case has carried out her duties in a collegial and professional manner. She is a community-oriented colleague whose presence enhances the quality of intellectual life for her colleagues.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“...the work Dr. Barber has completed since beginning her academic career is outstanding in quality and quantity; she merits tenure at your university or any other. In fact, I’ve rarely seen an easier case.”

Reviewer (B)

“Jennifer Barber has amassed an impressive record of research publications and a substantial grant portfolio for a scholar [of her generation]... ..[she] is a scholar who has embarked on her own independent career, and this career is full of promise, which should be at the heart of any tenure decision. Her grant portfolio is especially suggestive of this promise.”

Reviewer (C)

“Just the list of her sole- and lead-authored publications is an impressive accomplishment. ...she is a very productive researcher with a variety of interesting ideas on family structure, the structural origins of attitudes, and the impact of attitudes on behavior. ... If I were voting on Jennifer Barber’s promotion, I would be strongly positive.”

Reviewer (D)

“Jennifer’s record of innovation, publication, and external fund raising is clearly superb. ... She has served as Co-PI on four externally funded awards from NICHD [National Institute of Child Health and Human Development], which is one of the most rigorously-reviewed funders in the field of population.”

Reviewer (E)

“...Barber has clearly passed ‘the bar’ for tenure at a Research I University. She has been productive and has an important research agenda underway that portends a highly productive research career.”

Reviewer (F)

“...Barber’s research is characterized by addressing questions of high importance, using unique and rich data sources. She does an excellent job of motivating why the research is important and what are the contributions to the literature.”

Reviewer (G)

“...her publications include extremely broad and deep reviews of relevant research. Her analyses are also strong, marked by exceptionally thorough consideration of alternative models and interpretations of results. ...Dr. Barber is on a very strong and relatively steep trajectory. I expect she will continue to make major contributions to sociology and demography and believe she is worthy of tenure at a major research university.”

Reviewer (H)

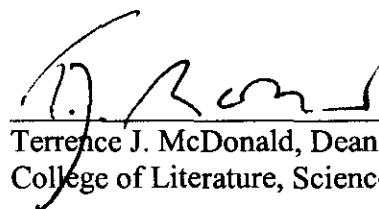
“...Professor Barber is one of the best scholars of her generation in her field (and in sociology as a whole). She has already developed a national and international reputation.”

Reviewer (I)

“...I do regard the fact that she is a contributor to research methodology rather than just a consumer, and a contributor to data-collection (in the Nepal project) rather than just a secondary analyst of data collected by others, as a positive feature of her scholarship.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Barber is a highly effective teacher, a dedicated mentor, and a productive and influential scholar. She is also a hard-working and conscientious colleague. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommends that Assistant Professor Jennifer S. Barber be promoted to the rank of associate professor of sociology, with tenure.



Terrence J. McDonald, Dean
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

May 2006