

Promotion Recommendation
The University of Michigan
School of Social Work

Linda M. Chatters, Associate Professor of Social Work, without tenure, School of Social Work is recommended for promotion to Professor of Social Work, without tenure, School of Social Work (Also holds the title of Professor of Health Behavior and Health Education, with tenure, School of Public Health).

Academic Degrees:

B.A.	1975	University of California, Berkeley, CA.
Ph.D.	1983	University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.

Professional Record:

2005-present	Professor, Department of Health Behavior and Health Education, School of Public Health, University of Michigan
2003-present	Associate Professor of Social Work, School of Social Work, University of Michigan
1994-2005	Associate Professor, Department of Health Behavior and Health Education, School of Public Health, University of Michigan
1988-1994	Assistant Professor, Department of Health Behavior and Health Education, School of Public Health, University of Michigan
1985-1988	Assistant Professor, Florence Heller Graduate School of Advanced Studies in Social Welfare, Brandeis University, Waltham, MA.
1984-1985	Research Investigator, Survey Research Center, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan
1983-1985	Research Fellow, Survey Research Center, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Chatters taught a variety of classes in the School of Public Health and two courses in the School of Social Work, one of which is cross-listed with Public Health. She has developed innovative instructional materials and has drawn upon her own research to enrich these courses, and her teaching evaluations are outstanding. She has also provided excellent leadership in developing and coordinating the dual degree program with the School of Public Health. In addition, Professor Chatters has been centrally involved in developing and conceptualizing the Aging concentration in the School of Social Work and gerontological issues across the university. She has a reputation as a superlative role model and mentor, particularly for doctoral and post-doctoral students. She has been exceptionally generous in sharing both her time and research data with students, helping launch the careers of several outstanding students.

Research: Professor Chatters is one of the premier scholars in the nation on issues related to religion and health in the African American community within the broader context of gerontology. Professor Chatters has been quite successful in obtaining external funding for her research. Her work, which is characteristically rigorous and interdisciplinary, has been highly influential in the field of social gerontology. Her co-authored book titled Religion in the Lives

of African Americans, will as one reviewer notes, “set the standard for social science research on religion for years to come.” Her work is widely cited, and her collaborative work has been groundbreaking in its use of behavioral and social science methods in its exploration of theoretical and conceptual models. Professor Chatters has deservedly been selected a Fellow of the Behavioral and Social Sciences section of the Gerontological Society of America, the highest class of membership status awarded to outstanding scholars. She continues to be an exemplary researcher publishing in some of the premier interdisciplinary journals.

Recent and Significant Publications:

- Chatters, L.M., & Taylor, R.J. (2005). Religion and Families. In V. Bengston, D. Klein, A. Acock, K. Allen, and P. Dilworth-Anderson (Eds.), Sourcebook of Family Theory and Research. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications.
- Lincoln, K.D., Chatters, L.M. & Taylor, R.J. (2005). Social support, traumatic events and psychological distress, among older adults. Journal of Marriage and the Family, 67, 754-766.
- Levin, J., Chatters, L.M. & Taylor, R.J. (2005). Religion, health, and medicine in African Americans: Implications for physicians. Journal of the National Medical Association, 97, 237-249.
- Chatters, L.M. (2004). Race and Ethnicity in Religion and Health. In K. W. Schaie and N.M. Krause (Eds.), Religious Influences on Health and Well-being in the Elderly. New York: Springer.
- Chatters, L.M. and Taylor, R.J. (2003). The role of social context in religion. Journal of Religious Gerontology, 14, 139-152.
- Chatters, L.M., Taylor, R.J., Lincoln, K.D. & Schroepfer, T. (2002). Patterns of informal support from family and church members among African Americans. Journal of Black Studies, 33, 66-85.
- Chatters, L.M., Taylor, R.J & Lincoln, K.D. (2001). Advances in the measurement of religion among older African Americans: Implications for health and mental health researchers. Journal of Mental Health and Aging, 7, 181-200.

Service: Professor Chatters has provided extraordinary leadership and provided excellent administrative oversight in coordinating the dual degree program in Social Work and Public Health. Her active involvement with the Recruitment and Admissions Committee in the School of Social Work and its counterpart in the School of Public Health, has been particularly valuable in this regard. In addition, she serves on several key committees at the Institute for Social Research. Professor Chatters’ national reputation as a scholar has resulted in her serving on the National Advisory Board of the Family Connections Across Nations project, a unique three-generation study. In addition, she has served on a number of sub-committees on aging at NIMH. Finally, she has served as a reviewer for numerous interdisciplinary professional journals.

External Reviews: Brief excerpts from external reviewers are given below.

Reviewer (A)

“She is one of the major figures in the areas of social support, religion, and health of elderly African Americans...On the basis of my assessment of Professor Chatters’ scholarly

achievement I enthusiastically recommend that she be promoted to Full Professor...Professor Chatters' work stands up to the closest scrutiny and is clearly at the cutting edge theoretically and methodologically."

Reviewer (B)

"The quality of the papers I have read is uniformly high...Most impressive is the *Religion in the Lives of African Americans* book, which just came out...This book will set the standard of social science research on religion for years to come...Would this candidate be promoted to Professor at my university? Absolutely. No question."

Reviewer (C)

"It is important to note that Dr. Chatters' scholarship in the area of religion and health is groundbreaking, and she is among the elite few who have received NIH funding to tackle the issues related to religion and health...I have great respect for the high caliber of Dr. Chatters' work, and routinely recommend her articles and book to colleagues and students...I would give my strongest, unequivocal endorsement for promotion to full professor."

Reviewer (D)

"She is a first rate scholar of national status... She should also be commended for having brought such attention to social work scholarship in the way of citations within the literature... Most certainly I do believe she would receive tenure and promotion were she here at our university and yes it is my sincere opinion that she should receive such stature at the University of Michigan School of Social Work."

Reviewer (E)

"Based on the five criteria reviewed, I see an **outstanding** candidate for promotion to professor. You have an excellent scholar who is a genuine asset to the University of Michigan."

Reviewer (F)

"It is a pleasure to write an evaluation in which the evidence is so clear and so strong...In line with her position in the field, many of Dr. Chatters' publications are ground-breaking... There is no question that Dr. Chatters' fully deserves promotion to the rank of full professor in the School of Social Work."

Reviewer (G)

"It is fair to say that her work is very widely read in both these fields. And at the intersection of the two, she is one of a small handful of leaders...I strongly endorse the promotion of Linda Chatters to Professor at the University of Michigan."

Reviewer (H)

"It is a joy to be introduced in depth to the work of a scholar with the excellence of Professor Chatters and be able to write a letter supporting her promotion without a shadow of ambivalence...Although Dr. Chatters has a degree in psychology and a longstanding appointment in the School of Public Health, her intellectual pursuit make a positive contribution to the theory undergirding social work practice and social work practice itself."

Reviewer (I)

"She is very likely to continue to be a productive scholar into the indefinite future. Further, her line of research has been, and should continue to be, in several related research fields...In my opinion, both the quantity and quality of Dr. Chatters' publications merit promotion to full professor."

Reviewer (J)

"In reviewing Dr. Chatters' CV and other credentials it is clear that she has earned the rank of Professor at the University of Michigan or any other institution... With respect to your

questions, there is no doubt that Dr. Chatters has had a major impact in her field. Her work is routinely cited and she clearly has a national and international reputation for her work.”

Reviewer (K)

“Professor Chatters is an outstanding scientist whose work has advanced our knowledge about the social and cultural processes, with a special emphasis on religion and spirituality, that shape the incorporation of racial and ethnic groups into American society...Based on these observations, I conclude that Professor Chatters warrants promotion to the rank of Full Professor.”

Summary of Recommendation: Professor Chatters is an exceptional researcher and scholar on religion and health among the African American elderly. She has an established national and international reputation for her work, and is in high demand as a speaker. In addition, she is an excellent teacher who has provided exemplary leadership to students receiving dual degrees in social work and public health. She is a notable mentor for doctoral and post-doctoral students, and a valuable role model. Finally, her service to the School, the University and the professional community is equally impressive. Accordingly, the Tenure and Promotion Committee of the School of Social Work and I recommend that Linda M. Chatters, Associate Professor, without tenure, in the School of Social Work be promoted to Professor of Social Work, without tenure.



Paula Allen-Meares, Dean

Norma Radin Collegiate Professor of School of Social Work and Professor of Education
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