

Promotion Recommendation
The University of Michigan
School of Social Work

Lydia W. Li, Assistant Professor of Social Work, School of Social Work, is recommended for promotion to Associate Professor of Social Work, with tenure, in the School of Social Work.

Academic Degrees:

Honors Diploma	1984	Hong Kong Baptist College, Hong Kong
M.S.W.	1989	University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong
Ph.D.	2000	University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI.

Professional Record:

2000-present	Assistant Professor, The University of Michigan, School of Social Work
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Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Dr. Li is recognized for the quality of her teaching and the translation of her research into instructional innovations. She has taught across both foundation and advanced courses in the curriculum, and in the process, developed innovative teaching materials. Of particular note is her use of technological advances in the classroom. She is viewed as a challenging teacher, with a teaching and pedagogical style that is viewed by students as dynamic and intellectually stimulating. Dr. Li has developed a reputation as a role model and is sought after by students for independent studies. Also of special note is her successful mentoring of doctoral students. She has played an active role in initiating curricular change in the School's Aging concentration, and is intimately involved in the Steering Committee of the Hartford Geriatric Fellowship Program at the School. Dr. Li has consistently received good evaluations from classroom students and mentees.

Research: Dr. Li has been an extremely productive interdisciplinary scholar, publishing in some of the premier social work, gerontology, and other interdisciplinary journals. Her work demonstrates analytic rigor and is statistically sophisticated. In addition, she employs diverse methodologies, and bases her work on sound theory. As a result, she has acquired a national and international reputation. She has co-authored articles with numerous faculty and students, both nationally and internationally, as part of an interdisciplinary research agenda. Dr. Li has been successful in procuring funding for her research, and shows significant promise in this area. Of particular note is the funding she received from the Hartford Foundation, a very competitive process. In addition, she has been a reviewer for several major scientific and scholarly journals.

Recent and Significant Publications:

- Li, L.W. (2005). Predictors of ADL disability trajectories among low income frail elders in the community. Research in Aging, 27, 615-642.
- Li, L.W. (2005). Longitudinal changes in the amount of informal care among publicly paid home care recipients. Gerontologist, 45, 465-473.
- Li, L.W. (2005). From caregiving to bereavement: Trajectories of depressive symptoms among wife and daughter caregivers. Journal of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences, 60, 190-198.
- Li, L.W. and Fries, B. (2005). Elder disability as an explanation for racial differences in informal home care. Gerontologist, 45, 206-215.
- Li, L.W., Liang, J., Toler, A. & Gu, S. (2005). Widowhood and depressive symptoms among older Chinese: Do gender and sources of support make a difference? Social Science and Medicine, 60, 637-647.
- Li, L.W. (2004). Caregiving network compositions and use of supportive services by community-dwelling dependent elders. Journal of Gerontological Social Work, 43, 147-164.
- Li, L.W. and Seltzer, M.M. (2003). Parent care, intergenerational relationship quality, and mental health of adult daughters. Research on Aging, 25, 484-504.

Service: Dr. Li has contributed consistently and significantly to the service activities in the School. She has been actively involved in the Recruitment and Admissions Committee, and most recently with the International Task Group in the School. She has made distinctive contributions to the School's curricular development in the area of Aging. In addition to her service activities within the School, Dr. Li is actively engaged with the community, serving as a member of the advisory group for Hospice of Michigan. Her professional engagement is both national and international, serving as a member of a Task force on Minority Issues for the Gerontological Society of America and an external examiner for Hong Kong University.

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

Reviewer (A)

"Her area of research, elder care, is one of the most important population issues our country faces in the coming years...And, as my review also has indicated, she has incredible analytical and statistical skills which will serve her well as she continues with her important work in geriatric research...I have truly enjoyed reviewing Dr. Li's work and can say, unequivocally, that I support her promotion to Associate Professor with tenure."

Reviewer (B)

"My overall assessment of the quality and quantity of Dr. Li's scholarship is that she has achieved an impressive track record...I believe that Dr. Li's scholarship can be placed at the higher end of productivity and quality compared to her peers in similar areas of research...Dr. Li appears to be on her way to become one of the premier researchers in social gerontology..."

Reviewer (C)

“I believe that Dr. Li ranks at the top of her cohort if terms of research productivity and contributions to the field of gerontological social work research. I have no reservations in recommending her for this well deserved promotion with tenure.”

Reviewer (D)

“Overall, I find Dr. Li to be a highly productive scholar who has made important contributions to existing knowledge while demonstrating substantial potential for future continued success. A number of her publications are considered groundbreaking additions to existing empirical knowledge...I would have no hesitancy in supporting Dr. Li’s promotion to Associate professor with tenure.”

Review (E)

“She was by far the best candidate we considered for our position, and we aggressively tried to recruit her...Clearly the quality and quantity of her published work places her among a select group of researchers nationally...In sum, I strongly endorse Dr. Li’s promotion.”

Review (F):

“Dr. Li’s research also achieves excellence in its melding of theory and cutting-edge statistical techniques...In summary, Dr. Li’s articles have made highly significant contributions to our knowledge about sources of variability in caregiving’s impact on caregivers’ well-being, cross-sectionally and, more importantly, longitudinally...I believe that Dr. Li would easily be successful were she to be considered for promotion to Associate Professor with tenure at my institution...”

Summary of Recommendation: Dr. Li is an outstanding scholar and good teacher who continues to make significant contributions to the profession and the School. Her research and writing on the frail elderly and caregiving, with it’s increasingly international focus, is innovative, collaborative, and interdisciplinary. Her service record within the School and larger community is highly commendable.

Accordingly, the Tenure and Promotion Committee of the School of Social Work and I recommend that Lydia W. Li, Assistant Professor of Social Work, School of Social Work, be promoted to Associate Professor of Social Work, with tenure, in the School of Social Work.



Paula Allen-Meares, Dean

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