

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

Pamela J. Smock, associate professor of sociology, with tenure, and associate professor of women's studies, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of sociology, with tenure, and professor of women's studies, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. (Also being promoted to research professor in the Population Studies Center, Institute for Social Research.)

Academic Degrees:

1992	Ph.D.	University of Wisconsin
1987	M.A.	University of Chicago
1983	B.A.	University of Chicago

Professional Record:

2002 – 2005	Associate Director, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan
2001 – 2002	Associate Director, Population Studies Center, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan
2000 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Sociology and Women's Studies, University of Michigan
1994 – 2000	Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Women's Studies Program, University of Michigan
1992 – 1994	Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Louisiana State University

Summary of Evaluations:

Teaching – Professor Smock is a dedicated and highly effective teacher. Recipient of an Excellence in Education Award, she brings to the classroom a level of enthusiasm, organization, and accessibility that students, especially undergraduates, find both energizing and intellectually stimulating. Her courses are interactive and pedagogically innovative, such that students report coming away with a greater appreciation of not only the immediate subject matter but the general process of learning. She has taught a range of courses at both the graduate and undergraduate level, always earning outstanding student evaluations. She is also a hard-working and dedicated mentor to countless students.

Research – Professor Smock is a nationally recognized leader in family demography, and her presence in our faculty is a big part of our Department's national pre-eminence in that area. A highly productive scholar, she has authored or co-authored more than a dozen refereed publications in the last five years alone. She has made singularly important contributions to our understanding of union formation dynamics, the consequences of marital dissolution, and the sources of cohabitation. Her work has addressed important and pressing policy issues related to the American family, and her expertise is frequently sought by wider publics in the print and electronic media.

Recent and Significant Publications:

“‘Everything’s there except money’: How money shapes decisions to marry among cohabitators,” with W. Manning, and M. Porter, *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 67, 2005, pp. 680-696.

“The wax and wane of marriage: Prospects for marriage in the 21<sup>st</sup> century,” *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 66, 2004, pp. 966-973.

“Living together unmarried in the United States: Demographic perspectives and implications for family policy,” with W. Manning, *Law and Policy*, 26, 2004, pp. 87-117.

“Cohabitation in the United States: An appraisal of research themes, findings, and implications,” *Annual Review of Sociology*, 26, 2000, pp. 1-20.

Service – Professor Smock is an exemplary colleague and one of the University’s most valuable assets. She has served in critical and highly demanding positions in the Department of Sociology, the Population Studies Center, the Institute for Social Research, and the Institutional Review Board. She has also rendered valuable service as the lead author of the ADVANCE report on junior faculty mentoring, which served as the template for developing better mentoring procedures across campus. Her service to the national discipline is also extensive, capped by her recent election to Chair the 700-member Family Section of the American Sociological Association (ASA).

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“Dr. Smock is among the top 3 or 4 scholars in the country on the topic of cohabitation. Not only does the amount and quality of her publications lead to this assessment, but she has taken the field in new directions with her inclusion of qualitative studies on the topic.”

Reviewer (B)

“Prof. Smock has established herself as a national leader in the field of social demography. Indeed, she may be the strongest person in her cohort in the country in social demographic studies of family, household, and gender. I would not be surprised if she were elected President of the Population Association of America in the next 10 to 15 years.”

Reviewer (C)

“...Smock is the leading scholar in her age group in her core specializations. The impact of her work is certified by her recent election as the chair of the sociology of the family section of the ASA, which is a remarkable accomplishment for someone who is only five years past achieving tenure at Michigan.”

Reviewer (D)

“She is obviously a very careful, theoretically sensitive researcher who has made some very important contributions. No one has done more important work on cohabitation, and she is clearly one of the leading family researchers of her cohort. ... She is clearly a scholar to be reckoned with.”

Reviewer (E)

“This is precisely the type of case that makes one wish for a ‘slam-dunk’ clause... Is she one of the most prominent demographers [of her generation] in the country? Undoubtedly.”

Reviewer (F)

“Over the past decade, Pamela Smock has become the nation’s leading expert on cohabitation between men and women, and the relationship of cohabitation to formal marriage. ... Her work is exceptional in its successful effort to understand what cohabitation means and signifies, rather than treating it as simply a demographic state or behavior. ... I rank Dr. Smock’s work as among the most important studies of the life course during the past decade.”

Reviewer (G)

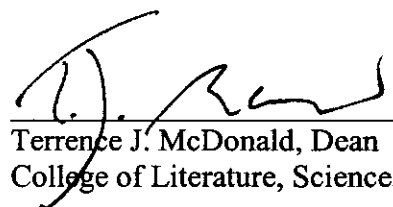
“Pam Smock is one of the best social demographers [of her generation] working today... Smock’s CV is impressive in terms of the overall number of publications, the quality of the publications and the trajectory of the quality and quantity.”

Reviewer (H)

“...Smock has clearly established herself as one of the three or four leading American experts on issues of unmarried cohabitation. Her record of scholarly productivity is impressive. Her work has made significant contributions to sociological understandings of union formation generally, and cohabitation specifically. She is highly regarded by sociologists, demographers, and members of the policy community.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Smock is a highly-productive and influential scholar, an excellent teacher and mentor, and highly valued colleague. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Pamela J. Smock be promoted to the rank of professor of sociology, with tenure, and professor of women’s studies, without tenure.



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

May 2006