

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
School of Social Work

Sean Joe, 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 [also assistant professor of psychiatry, Medical School].

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	Social Work	1999	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
M.S.W.	Social Welfare	1994	State University of New York, Stony Brook
B. A.	Africana Studies	1991	State University of New York, Stony Brook

Professional Record:

2004-present	Assistant Professor, School of Social Work, University of Michigan
2004-present	Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry, Medical School, University of Michigan
2004-present	Faculty Associate, Program for Research on Black Americans at the Research Center for Group Dynamics, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan
2003-2004	Faculty Associate, Firearm Injury Center, School of Medicine, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA
2001-2004	Research Assistant Professor, School of Social Work, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: The occasions for Professor Joe's teaching have been somewhat limited by the demands of his K01 award, and consequently he is still developing his skills as an instructor. His course selections and his syllabi are indicative of his dedication to educating the next generation of social workers and social work researchers in areas of growing importance. The School anticipates working with Professor Joe directly and encouraging his work with the Center of Teaching Excellence to further develop his instructional skills.

His courses include adolescent development and behavior, as well as social work research, both of which are directly related to his own experience. He has continuously refined his syllabi, seeking input from students and campus resources alike.

Other teaching activities include his Research Lab on Race and Self-Destructive Behaviors, an opportunity for both M.S.W. and Ph.D. students at the School of Social Work to engage in research and collaborative writing for peer-reviewed journals.

Professor Joe is also the sponsor and director of the Emerging Scholars Interdisciplinary Network, a program that gathers doctoral students, post-docs, and assistant professors together to enhance their research education. Through opportunities such as lectures, coursework, and networking opportunities, these young scholars receive continuing education, as well as guidance and mentorship from nationally recognized research investigators. His work is funded and supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to support this program and his plans include the pursuit of additional funding via a NIMH research education grant.

Research: Professor Joe's research on African-American suicide, especially among men, is literally leading the field. Unique among his fellow researchers for the depth and breadth of research in the topic, Professor Joe's work considers epidemiology, etiology, and encompasses both the treatment and prevention of mental health and social problems among the African-American population, especially youth.

Consistently noted as a leading scholar in the area of suicidology, his relative experience is also often noted. He is a junior scholar, but has proven his leadership abilities as a thorough and significant researcher who not only participates, but advances the field, which his peers and other academic colleagues have noted. His work has been cited as influential in his peers' own education of assessing and treating the African-American population, contributing to the cultural competence of the profession. Additionally, this highlights the true relevance of Professor Joe's work, as it is able to be translated into direct practice, as in the case of the reviewer who utilizes Professor Joe's work as the basis for "scientific reasoning rather than clinical intuition" when consulting with clients on the topic of suicidology.

Additionally, his work is interdisciplinary, as evident in his publication record. He has published in journals associated with social work, suicidology, medicine, and psychology, including the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. His work embraces concepts from public health, medicine, the social sciences, and demography. His future plans include the study of biological and genetic markers as they relate to suicidology, aligning his work with the stated interest of many federal funding sources.

Professor Joe is a leader in the field of suicidology research. His work is multi-disciplinary and respected by a wide-range of scholars, from social work researchers to medical doctors. His future direction is not only ambitious, but given his record highly attainable. His publications include 21 peer-reviewed articles—16 of which have been completed since joining the School of Social Work faculty, two book chapters—one in press, one published in 2008, two non-peer reviewed papers, four manuscripts under review, and a number of manuscripts in various stages of development. He has made 26 scientific presentations at refereed conferences and 24 invited presentations at national and local meetings. Furthermore, he has served a principal investigator or co-investigator on nine projects, and has directed eight others.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Joe, S. (In press). Black Suicide: A Males Burden. In Johnson, W (ed.). What We have Seen with Our Own Eyes: Social Work and Social Welfare Responses to African American Males. Oxford Press.

- Joe, S., Stein, D. J., Seedat, S., Herman, A., & Williams, D. R. (In press). Non-fatal Suicidal Behavior among South Africans: Results from the South Africa Stress and Health Study. *Social Psychiatry and Psychiatric Epidemiology*.
- Joe, S., & Neidemeir, D. (2008). Suicide: A Neglected Social Work Research Agenda. *The British Journal of Social Work*, 38 (3), 507-530.
- Joe, S., Canetto, S., & Romer, D. (2008). Advancing Prevention Research on the Role of Culture in Suicide Prevention. *Suicide and Life Threatening Behavior*, 38 (3).
- Joe, S., Stein, D., Seedat, S., Herman, A., & Williams, D. R. (2008). Prevalence of Suicide Ideation and Behavior among South Africans: Findings from the South Africa Stress and Health Study (SASH). *British Journal of Psychiatry*, 192, 310-311.
- Joe, S. (2008). Black Male Suicide (pp.). In Elijah Anderson (ed.), Against the Wall: Poor, Young, Black, & Male. University of Pennsylvania Press.
- Joe, S., Marcus, S., & Kaplan, M. S (2007). Racial differences in the characteristics of firearm suicide decedents in the United States. *American Journal of Orthopsychiatry*, 77 (1), 124-130.
- Joe, S., & Bryant, H. (2007). Evidence-Based Suicide Prevention Screening in Schools. *Children & Schools*, 29 (4), 219-227.
- Joe, S, Baser, R., Breeden, G., Neighbors, H., & Jackson, J (2006). Prevalence of and Risk factors of Lifetime Suicide Attempts among Blacks in the United States. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 296 (17), 2112-2123.
- Joe, S. (2006). Implications of National Suicide Trends for Social Work Practice with Black Youth. *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal*, 23 (4), 458-471.
- Joe, S. (2003). Implications of Focusing on Black Youth Self-Destructive Behaviors Instead of Suicide When Designing Preventative Interventions (pp.325-332). In Romer, Dan (ed.), Reducing Adolescent Risk: Toward an Integrated Approach. Thousand Oaks, California: SAGE Publications
- Joe, S., & Marcus, S. (2003). Trends by Race and Gender in Suicide Attempts Among U. S. Adolescents, 1991–2001. *Psychiatric Services*, 54 (4), 454.

Service: Professor Joe's service activities range from School-based service to students and peers, to serving on nationally relevant boards and committees.

Within the School of Social Work, Professor Joe is an elected member of the School's Executive Committee as a representative of the junior faculty. Additionally, he has served as a reviewer for the Executive Committee Annual Review, and as a member of the Faculty Salary Review Task Force, the Recruitment Admissions and Financial Aid Committee, the Health and Mental Health Concentration Committee, and Children, Youth, and Families Interest Group. These activities are in addition to the rigorous regimen of teaching and scholarship detailed above, and his election as a junior faculty member speaks once again to his recognized leadership within the school and his field.

His activities are not limited to the School. His University-level activities include reviewing grant proposals for the National Center for Institutional Diversity, participating in the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration as a speaker, and serving as a panelist and presenter at events throughout the university.

Professor Joe's service also extends to the larger community and the nation. He has served as a reviewer for both the National Institute of Health and the National Institute for Mental Health, and has been elected as board member to the Suicide Prevention Action Network (SPAN USA), the largest suicide prevention and advocacy organization in the country. He also holds

membership on the Scientific Advisory Board of the National Organization of People of Color Against Suicide. Additionally, he is an active member of the American Association of Suicidology (AAS), Society of Social Work and Research (SSWR), American Public Health Association (APHA), Society for Research on Adolescents (SRA), and the Council of Social Work Education (CSWE). Recently, he was selected as 2009 program chair for the 42nd Annual Meeting of the American Association of Suicidology.

Further, he has served as an editorial reviewer for professional publications such as the *Journal of Clinical and Consulting Psychiatry*, *Social Science and Medicine*, the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, the *American Journal of Public Health*, and the *American Journal of Community Psychology*.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A) “Dr. Joe is, I believe, what scholars in social work education have been working to produce for some time. He is a social work professor who is committed to high quality scholarship which is absolutely first rate and sustains funding. It is also true that the topics that he has selected for study are of major importance to our society. That is, they are not only important to social workers, but scholars in other related disciplines, as well as mental health practitioners.”

Reviewer (B) “I have no doubt that Sean Joe will continue to be a productive investigator and contributor to the understanding and prevention of suicide and suicidal behaviors...Of particular importance is that, to my knowledge, no one else is doing the type of research that Sean has undertake, and his findings are critical to the advancement of the field because he studies underrepresented and underserved populations.”

Reviewer (C) “I believe that Dr. Joe has skillfully navigated the field of ethnic minority social and psychological services and is at the helm of research on race/ethnicity and suicide... Throughout his career Sean has been about creating a more exacting and meaningful presentation of the cultural nuances of African American health and mental health risk factors, including protective factors and their inclusion in interventions. His writings have influenced the U.S. Surgeon General’s report on suicide prevention, the National Academies of Science’s report on preventing suicide, and policy positions espoused by the National Institute of Mental Health.”

Reviewer (D) “In addition to the obviously great impact of Dr. Joe’s scientific achievements, I personally value another aspect of his work a great deal. Dr. Joe has ventured past the safety of established theories and methodologies to develop new ones that compel mental health professionals to set higher, more rigorous standards for their work. I know that he encountered many obstacles in conducting such work; he met those obstacles and critics directly and is now considered the premier researcher on the development and treatment of suicidal behavior among Black Americans.”

Reviewer (E) “Professor Joe’s grant record is also excellent, with his NIMH RO1 grant standing out. In a challenging funding climate, he not only has succeeded (to wit the RO1; he also had and impressive K award), he also has plans for the future...He clearly understands the importance of extramural funding, and has been successful in obtaining it.”

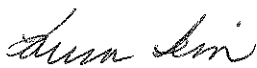
Reviewer (F) "Direct scrutiny reveals that his published work truly is first rate. For example, I have read and cited papers covering ground similar [to] that covered by Professor Joe's 'Suicide Among African American Men'...Professor Joe's paper identifies and frames issues better than others, summons evidence better, etc. Overall it is a sophisticated contribution..."

Reviewer (G) "The research Sean has chosen is challenging to study, which is the reason so little information is available on suicide and African Americans. Sean's work fulfills a tremendous void that has implications for mental health treatment, preventative intervention, as well as policy."

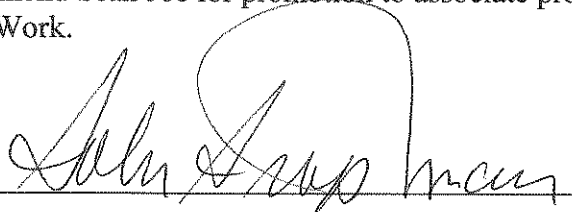
Reviewer (H) "In terms of national visibility and leadership, Dr. Joe's impact extends beyond his published works. He has made multiple plenary-level presentations at national and location meetings, was invited to present his research to the National Advisory Mental Health Council of NIMH in 2007, and is this year's recipient of the Society for Social Work and Research 2008 Deborah K. Padgett Early Career Achievement Award. Furthermore, Dr. Joe is serving as Program Chair of the American Association of Sociology's 2009 Annual Conference..."

Internal Reviews: Upon opening the review process to School of Social Work faculty, seven internal letters of review were submitted. All were exceptionally supportive of Professor Joe's work and his promotion and tenure at the School of Social Work. We also received two unsolicited, but wholly positive support letters from UM faculty outside of the School of Social Work. The School's Tenure and Promotion Committee voted unanimously to recommend Professor Joe's promotion.

Summary of Recommendation: Professor Joe is a leader in all aspects of his academic career. His scholarship is changing the very concepts of causation and prevention of suicide and self-violence among African Americans, and subsequently, informing social work and other fields of practice. His scholarship is translated into his teaching activities, as he educates and mentors the next generation of social workers and investigators. Finally, his service activities speak not only to his willingness to serve, but the expertise others seek and the trust others have placed in him to do so well. We therefore unanimously recommend Sean Joe for promotion to associate professor of social work, with tenure, School of Social Work.



Laura Lein, Ph.D.
Dean, School of Social Work



John Tropman, PhD
Associate Dean and Professor, School of
Social Work

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