

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION  
The University of Michigan-Dearborn  
College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters  
Department of Behavioral Sciences

Pamela J. Aronson, assistant professor of sociology, Department of Behavioral Sciences, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of sociology, with tenure, Department of Behavioral Sciences, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.

Academic Degrees

Ph.D. 1998	University of Minnesota, Sociology
M.A. 1995	University of Minnesota, Sociology
B.A. 1990	Michigan State University, Justice, Morality, and Constitutional Democracy

Professional Record

2005 – present	Assistant Professor, Department of Behavioral Sciences, University of Michigan-Dearborn.
2004 – 2005	Visiting Assistant Professor, James Madison College, Michigan State University
2001 – 2004	Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow, James Madison College, Michigan State University
2000 – 2001	Visiting Assistant Professor, James Madison College, Michigan State University
1998 – 2000	Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Sociology, Indiana University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Aronson's teaching and pedagogical contributions are rated excellent. She is among the best teachers in a department that boasts eight winners of the campus Teaching Excellence Award. During her probationary period at UM-Dearborn her averages for instructor ("Compared to other instructors you have taken, how would you evaluate this instructor?" where 5 indicates "excellent") have ranged from 4.0-5.0 (with overall averages of 4.6 for upper-division courses and 4.4 for lower-division). Her averages for course evaluation ("Compared with other college courses you have taken, how would you evaluate this course?") are equally impressive with overall averages of 4.5 for upper-division classes and 4.2 for lower-division. Students are especially praiseworthy of her enthusiasm, willingness to answer questions during class, and her availability outside of class. She also receives high marks for her success at teaching them to think critically about social issues. Her impressive evaluations are consistent across a range of topics, course levels, and class sizes. She does an equally outstanding job teaching large classes as she does small classes with intense interaction (Senior Seminar). She created a new course, Qualitative Methods, which had been a discipline need for some time. She also introduced a number of creative and innovative touches to existing courses that have made her one of the most popular faculty in our department.

Research: Professor Aronson's research is rated excellent. She is an outstanding researcher whose work has gained national attention for her publications on adult life course development.

She is praised for both theoretical and methodological contributions. During her probationary period at UM-Dearborn she has published four journal articles and one book chapter with another book chapter already completed and awaiting publication. Additionally, she has presented at least two conference papers at national and/or regional sociological meetings every year since 2004. Her publications include two in the prestigious journal, *Gender & Society*. This journal is among the finest in sociology and women's studies. It is ranked in the top 20 percent of journals in both sociology and women's studies and has an acceptance rate of eight percent. Her colleagues at UM-Dearborn are very enthusiastic about the research project she has recently undertaken (Breaking Barriers or Locked Out? How Non-Traditional Students Experience College). She received two grants to conduct interviews of the obstacles, opportunities, supports, and work-family balance issues that are faced on a daily basis by many of our students. The focus of the research fits squarely with her publications (adult life course development) and her methodology (qualitative research). We are confident that she will, as the reviewers have stated about her published work, break new ground, provide fresh insights, and garner a wide readership.

#### Recent and Significant Publications

- Aronson, Pamela, "Breaking Barriers or Locked Out? Class-based Perceptions and Experiences of Postsecondary Education," *New Directions for Child and Adolescent Development*, 119, Spring: 41-54 (2008).
- Aronson, Pamela, "The Markers and Meanings of Growing Up: Contemporary Young Women's Transition from Adolescence to Adulthood," *Gender & Society*, 22, 1, February: 56-82 (2008).
- Aronson, Pamela, "Growing Up Alone: The Absence of Young Women's Positive Life Models," *Constructing Adulthood: Agency and Subjectivity in Adolescence and Adulthood (Advances in Life Course Research, Volume 11, 69-95)*, edited by Ross Macmillan. Elsevier Ltd (2007).
- Aronson, Pamela, "'Iraq is a Small Purple Planet:' Feminist Mothering During Wartime," *Journal of the Association for Research on Mothering*, Vol. 8.1& 2, Summer: 157-170 (2006).
- Aronson, Pamela, "Feminists or 'Postfeminists?' Young Women's Attitudes Toward Feminism and Gender Relations," *Gender & Society*, 17, 6, December: 903-922 (2003).

Service: Professor Aronson's service is rated excellent. She has made very significant contributions to the discipline and to our campus. One of her most significant contributions to the discipline has been her work with the Sociology Club. Her enthusiasm and energy has revitalized student participation. It is our belief that the club has helped us recruit and retain majors. In addition, she volunteered to conduct an evaluation of sociology student portfolios and to write the Sociology Assessment Report in 2006 – both time-consuming but vital tasks central to the mission of the discipline. She played a very active role in the two-year search for a faculty member in Race & Ethnicity. Not only did she commit to significant time investments on campus, but she was an integral part of the interview team at national conferences. Her reputation as a scholar is shown on the national and regional level by the number of panels or roundtables where she has acted as chair or facilitator. She has also reviewed nineteen manuscripts for journals, some with high visibility and a wide readership (e.g., *Social Problems*, *British Journal of Sociology*). This is a notable accomplishment for a junior faculty member.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: “She has already placed her work in a number of solid journals. I anticipate that she will continue to do so...I foresee, then, continuing promise for a career that has already shown a strong record of publication.”

Reviewer B: “I was highly impressed with the thoughtfulness of her pedagogy... [Her productivity and accomplishments] in the past four years seem very much on par with that of assistant professors approaching tenure.”

Reviewer C: “The quality, focus, and scholarly impact of her work is notable....In summary, by all of the criteria—standing in relationship to peers, outstanding publications, quality/focus/scholarly impact of writing and promise for continuing development—Dr. Aronson’s record (and future likelihood) of excellence is clear.”

Reviewer D: “I found all of [her] publications to be well written, well argued, and based on solid methodological strategies and sociological frameworks....[Her] contributions to the field, especially in terms of life course development research, place her in among the top rung of her peer group working in this area.”

Reviewer E: “She is clearly a capable researcher with a constant record of publishing and a coherent research agenda. I would judge her to be among the top 20 percent of her peer group.”

Reviewer F: “....she has a growing reputation in her field and is building a solid academic career that demonstrates versatility, excellence, and a genuine commitment to both teaching and scholarship...I would rate [her] work well in a class with other rising scholars of life-course and work-family...”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Aronson is a scholar with an established reputation for producing creative and high-impact work. Her research agenda shows significant promise. She is an excellent teacher and a valued member of her department and the campus. We are very pleased to recommend, with the strong support of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters Executive Committee, Pamela J. Aronson for promotion to associate professor of sociology, with tenure, Department of Behavioral Science, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.



Kathryn Anderson-Levitt  
Dean  
College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters



Daniel Little  
Chancellor  
University of Michigan-Dearborn

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