

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

Approved by the Regents
May 20, 2010

Frederick F. Wherry, assistant professor of sociology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of sociology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

2004	Ph.D.	Princeton University
2000	M.P.A.	Princeton University
1996	B.A.	University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Professional Record:

2006 – present	Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Michigan
2004 – 2006	Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in the Humanities and Social Sciences, University of Pennsylvania

Summary of Evaluations:

Teaching – Professor Wherry is an innovative and effective teacher. In his first year he designed a new undergraduate course on culture and consumption which, in addition to earning rave reviews from students, has attracted a large and growing following. At the graduate level, he has successfully taught the two-semester practicum on qualitative methods in which students learn not only the techniques of data collection and analysis but also how to formulate a researchable question and design an original study. His commitment to student training extends outside the classroom, where he serves as an effective mentor to students at all levels, including serving on six dissertation committees and as principal advisor for two honors students.

Research – Professor Wherry has been a remarkably productive scholar, whose increasingly influential body of work already includes one well-received book in print, another book that is largely drafted and under contract with the University of Chicago Press, and a third book that is already launched, in addition to five solo-authored refereed articles and two book chapters. Working fruitfully at the intersection of cultural and economic sociology, his scholarship is marked by its broad scope, intellectual ambition, and empirical richness – qualities that have enabled Professor Wherry to advance his agenda of bringing a more culturally inflected understanding to the analysis of markets and other economic institutions and processes.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Global Markets and Local Crafts: Thailand and Costa Rica Compared, Johns Hopkins University Press, 2008.

“The social characteristics of price: The fool, the faithful, the frivolous, and the frugal,” *Sociological Theory*, 26(4), 2008, pp. 363-379 (also feature on journal homepage).

“Developing impressions: Evidence from Costa Rica,” *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 610(1), 2007, pp. 217-231.

“The social sources of authenticity in global handicraft markets: Evidence from northern Thailand,” *Journal of Consumer Culture*, 6(1), 2006, pp. 5-32.

Service – Professor Wherry is an excellent colleague. He has served on many of our most important departmental committees in a conscientious and constructive manner that has made him a welcome addition. Thoughtful, fair-minded, and hard-working, he is in great demand across campus and beyond. Professor Wherry also provides valuable service at the national level as a member of editorial boards and as a regular conference organizer. He is a valuable academic citizen.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“Fred is in that one in a hundred category, a...star-in-the-making with such facility for research, such clarity of thought, and such a seemingly effortless productivity that it is sometimes a bit hard to believe. ... Wherry might be thought of as representing the best of the second-generation of Americans doing economic sociology with a cultural bent.”

Reviewer (B)

“There is no question that Fred has established himself as a scholar of great promise. He has a superb problem sense as demonstrated in these first two compelling projects, as well as the long list of future projects that he has compiled. He has found a fertile set of questions at the intersection of cultural and economic sociology and I have complete confidence that he will continue to do important work in illuminating these issues.”

Reviewer (C)

“...I come away from reading Wherry’s file deeply impressed with his work to date and persuaded that he has before him a long future of important contributions to sociology and neighboring disciplines.”

Reviewer (D)

“...I have been favourably impressed with the quality, the significance, and the promise of Dr. Wherry’s work. Frederick Wherry is obviously a productive scholar. ...Dr. Wherry’s position represents a broad and promising mode of sociological analysis of local and more global economic processes that is underrepresented in the discipline as a whole.”

Reviewer (E)

“The resulting book, *Global Markets and Local Crafts*, is one of the more important studies in the economic sociology of development conducted recently. I will certainly assign it as required reading in future courses on the topic.”

Reviewer (F)

“...I am not surprised that a press as important as the University of Chicago would be interested in publishing Wherry’s new book, and I suspect it will make a splash; based on the manuscript, I think this new book will be viewed as an innovative exploration of the intersection between the sociology of culture and the sociology of urban economic development, and its contribution will be widely recognized.”

Reviewer (G)

"I would say that Frederick Wherry comes out extremely well in comparisons to other economic sociologists in his generation, and that he belongs to the 3-4-5 best people in the United States."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Wherry is a productive and creative scholar, a dedicated and effective teacher, and a valued and constructive faculty member. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Frederick F. Wherry be promoted to the rank of associate professor of sociology, with tenure, in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. J. McDonald', written over a horizontal line.

Terrence J. McDonald
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor,
Professor of History and Dean
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

May 2010