

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

Alford A. Young, Jr., associate professor of sociology, with tenure, and associate professor of Afroamerican and African studies, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of sociology, with tenure, and professor of Afroamerican and African studies, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph. D.	1996	University of Chicago
M.A.	1992	University of Chicago
B.A.	1988	Wesleyan University

Professional Record:

2005 – present	Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, University of Michigan
2002 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Sociology and Center for Afroamerican and African Studies, University of Michigan
1996 – 2002	Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Center for Afroamerican and African Studies, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluations:

Teaching – Professor Young’s outstanding record of teaching speaks for itself. A two-time winner of the College’s Excellence in Education Award (1998, 1999), he was appointed as an Arthur F. Thurnau Professor (2005) in recognition of his extraordinary commitment to, and success at, undergraduate teaching. Modeling his teaching after his own undergraduate experience at a small liberal arts college, Professor Young is one of our most pedagogically innovative and successful classroom instructors, earning rave reviews from his students. He is also an accomplished and hard-working mentor, having supervised nearly three dozen undergraduates since his last promotion while also serving on more than forty dissertation committees.

Research – Professor Young is a nationally recognized scholar working at the nexus of race, culture, and consciousness. Highly prolific and wide-ranging, his scholarship has established him as one of the leading figures in his areas of research. Building on his earlier path-breaking study, *The Minds of Marginalized Black Men*, for which he was awarded tenure, he has extended and deepened his investigations into the interior mental worlds of young black men. He has added new streams of research that explore the rich tradition of African American intellectual thought and the ongoing methodological debates within the field of ethnography, and he has produced several insightful essays commenting on the state of the field.

Recent and Significant Publications:

“New life for an old concept: Frame analysis and the reinvigoration of studies in culture and poverty,” *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, M. Lamont, et al. (eds.), forthcoming 2011.

"The redeemed old head: Articulating a sense of public self and social purpose," *Symbolic Interaction*, 30(3), 2007, pp. 347-374.
The Souls of W.E. B. DuBois, with E. Higginbotham, et al., Paradigm Publishers, 2006.
"Social isolation and concentration effects: William Julius Wilson revisited and re-applied," *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 26(6), 2003, pp. 1073-1087.

Service – Professor Young is a hard-working and fair-minded colleague who has rendered invaluable service contributions to his home units, as well as to the College, the wider university community, and the national discipline. He has served simultaneously in both of his units on the Executive Committee, Curriculum Committee, and as director of Undergraduate Programs. Beyond his primary units, he has served on the Rackham Graduate School Executive Committee, on search committees for deans in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, and he is an active contributor to the national fields of sociology and African American studies.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

"...he is one of the leading voices in the field. ... He is making a major intellectual contribution to urban sociology, race and ethnic relations, and the pursuit of qualitative research on matters of urban inequality. Moreover, he has serious theoretical and empiricist commitments and is clearly now a leading master of his craft. He is also a seriously engaged intellectual reflecting on the African American experience and scholarship about it, in a critical and yet useful fashion... His future trajectory is very strong indeed."

Reviewer (B)

"...his national profile as a prominent qualitative sociologist working...on low-income populations has consolidated. He has become a disciplinary leader in his field... ...I view him as a very strong scholar, and one whose work is likely to have a lasting impact on the field. He is deeply engaged with the literature... His ethnographic skills are also stronger than [some of his peers]... His standards of scholarship are excellent..."

Reviewer (C)

"The body of work that Dr. Young is building represents a turning of the page. For researchers and policy analysts, like me, Young provides much more contemporary and insightful scholarship on which to build and design policies and programs."

Reviewer (D)

"Young is just the kind of scholar one hopes that a junior hire evolves into: a sociologist who does theoretically interesting and socially important work; who has the promise of doing more of the same in the future; and, most importantly, who has translated his research into action that carries potential for actually making meaningful policy change."

Reviewer (E)

"Young has become one of the leading scholars of his generation studying urban sociology, black poverty and qualitative methodology. ... This body of work constitutes a major

contribution to the study of race, poverty and urban life. ... It is time for Young to be promoted to full professor based on his scholarly record."

Reviewer (F)

"He is a creative and productive scholar who has been engaged in research on important and timely social issues. His contributions to the field of sociology have distinguished him as a leading intellectual and I have no doubt that he will continue [to] make important contributions in the future."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Young is a wide-ranging and highly creative scholar. He is also a dedicated and award-winning teacher whose success has been recognized through his appointment as an Arthur F. Thurnau Professor. He has rendered distinguished service to his primary units, across campus, and beyond to the national disciplines in which he is an active participant. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Alford A. Young, Jr. be promoted to the rank of professor of sociology, with tenure, and professor of Afroamerican and African studies, with tenure, in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. J. McDonald', is 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