

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

Pamela E. Davis-Kean, assistant professor of psychology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of psychology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

1996	Ph.D.	Vanderbilt University
1991	M.S.	Vanderbilt University
1987	B.A.	Florida State University

Professional Record:

2009 – present	Research Associate Professor, Center for Human Growth and Development and Research Center for Group Dynamics, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan
2008 – present	Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Michigan
2007 – 2009	Research Assistant Professor, Center for Human Growth and Development, University of Michigan
2005 – 2009	Research Assistant Professor, Research Center for Group Dynamics, Institute for Social Research, and Institute for Research on Women and Gender, University of Michigan
2003 – present	Director, Center for the Analysis of Pathways from Childhood to Adulthood (CAPCA), Institute for Social Research.
2002 – 2005	Assistant Research Scientist, Research Center for Group Dynamics, Institute for Social Research, and Institute for Research on Women and Gender, University of Michigan
2000 – 2002	Research Investigator, Institute for Research on Women and Gender, University of Michigan
1998 – 2002	Research Investigator, Research Center for Group Dynamics, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan
1996 – 1998	Research Investigator/Research Fellow, Survey Research Center, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Davis-Kean has engaged in informal teaching with graduate students throughout her career at Michigan, and they have been frequent co-authors on her publications. Since joining the Department of Psychology she has taught a large graduate statistics class, a small first-year seminar, and a large upper-level undergraduate course. She has received very positive student ratings on each course the first time she taught them. She has greatly enlarged her laboratory, bringing in undergraduates, honors students, master students, and additional doctoral mentees. The students in formal and informal settings report that she is contagiously enthusiastic and supportive while demanding that they push to deepen and broaden their understanding of developmental psychology and the complex methodologies needed in their research.

Research – Professor Davis-Kean’s research concerns the broad array of contextual and individual mechanisms that influence child development. She has demonstrated an ability to identify weaknesses in the published literature, develop important studies to answer the questions she has raised, and expand or improve upon the theories surrounding the role of a child’s social environment and cognitive development on academic success. She has published sixteen peer-reviewed articles (most in top journals), an article invited for a special issue, and ten invited book chapters. She has been very successful in acquiring grant funding over the past ten years.

Recent and Significant Publications:

“The self in action: An emerging link between self beliefs and behaviors in middle childhood,” with J. Jager and W.A. Collins, *Child Development Perspectives*, 3(3), 2009, pp. 184-188.

“Race differences in parental influences on child achievement: Multiple pathways to success,” with H. R. Sexton, *Merrill-Palmer Quarterly*, 55(3), 2009, pp. 285-318.

“Changes in the relation of beliefs and behaviors during middle childhood,” with L. R. Huesmann, et al., *Child Development*, 79(5), 2008, pp. 1257-1269.

“The influence of parent education and family income on child achievement: The indirect role of parental expectations and the home environment,” *Journal of Family Psychology*, 19(2), 2005, pp. 294-304.

Service – Professor Davis-Kean’s service contributions include committee work within Psychology and to the wider community. She is also director of a grant that supports the integration of large databases on child development from multiple laboratories across the country. Reviewers note that this is a major administrative service, far beyond what is typical for her career stage. This project has also provided her with national and international visibility, leading to service as a reviewer for government and private foundation proposals, as well as serving on national society boards and as a consulting editor for the leading journal in the field.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“Among those who are in mid-career...Dr. Davis-Kean would be in the top tier. ... Her record of scholarship, related grant productivity, and collaborations with very well-regarded colleagues put her in a great position to continue at least two very significant lines of inquiry – and likely others. ... Seems like a good fit with good potential for long-term success.”

Reviewer (B)

“...I have [been] very impressed by her career and [the] contributions she has made to developmental research at your university and in the field in general. ...she has a very unusual combination of skills, and these skills are integral to the success of research institutes such as yours or mine. ... I believe that Pam is now regarded as one of leading researchers who examine the contextual influence of parenting. She has made major contributions to our understanding of how distal factors like parental education impact children’s development...”

Reviewer (C)

“...her track record looks good and, in my opinion, meets the threshold for receiving tenure. ...I am impressed with Dr. Davis-Kean’s file.”

Reviewer (D)

"...her work is very broad but deep when depth is called for. In a world in which inertial forces within disciplines are encouraging ever greater specialization, Davis-Kean has chosen a path leading in the opposite direction. ...her publication record is strong and well above the tenure threshold. She also has a strong record of funded research."

Reviewer (E)

"She has published in the top journals in our field, and her articles address important questions as well as apply sophisticated and appropriate methodology. ...she has set a strong course. ...Her former work gives a clear indication that she will move ahead and delve into the many complex questions in the areas of child and adolescent self-concept and parents' influences on academic achievement."

Reviewer (F)


"...Davis-Kean's record compares most favorably...in papers published, standing of the publications in which the work has appeared, importance of the work to their respective fields, and in receipt of internal and external funding to further the work. ...[her] relatively unique combination of statistical, methodological, and developmental expertise—particularly in combination with her strong collaborative, administrative, and managerial skills, as well as her record of success as Principal and Co-Principal Investigator on several large studies—add further strength to her for promotion to the rank of Associate Professor, with tenure."

Reviewer (G)

"She has strong expertise in longitudinal data analytic methods, something that is very important to the content areas that she studies. ... The topic areas of Pam's research are central topics in the field of developmental psychology, particularly the social development area... I think both the quantity and quality of her scholarly merits appointment as an Associate Professor."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Davis-Kean's research has earned her a high reputation in her field and the respect of her peers. She is a dedicated and inspired teacher and is actively involved in service both on campus and to the wider community. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Pamela E. Davis-Kean be promoted to the rank of associate professor of psychology, with tenure, in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



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

May 2011