

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

Dale E. Thomson, assistant professor of political science, Department of Social Sciences, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of political science, with tenure, Department of Social Sciences, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.

Academic Degrees:

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| Ph.D. | 2001 | University of Maryland Graduate School at Baltimore |
| M.P.S. | 1997 | University of Maryland Graduate School at Baltimore |
| B.S. | 1991 | University of Detroit |

Professional Record:

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| 2008 – present | Assistant Professor of Political Science, Department of Social Sciences University of Michigan-Dearborn |
| 2006 – 2008 | Assistant Professor of Education, School of Education, University of Michigan-Dearborn |
| 2006 - present | Director, Institute for Local Government, University of Michigan-Dearborn |
| 2001 - 2005 | Research Associate and Director of Community Development Research, Development Research, Center for Urban Studies, Wayne State University |
| 2004 - 2005 | Adjunct Professor of Geography, Geography and Urban Planning Department, College of Urban, Labor, and Metropolitan Affairs, Wayne State University |
| 1997 – 2001 | Social Science Analyst, Office of Policy Development and Research, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Washington, D.C. |

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Thomson is an excellent teacher. In recent years, his teaching responsibilities have focused on the Masters in Public Administration program, and he has consistently functioned as a very capable classroom instructor, while also advising the bulk of the graduate students in one of the largest graduate programs at UM-Dearborn. Integrating these two roles of teacher and advisor, he understands the particular needs of graduate students in a professional program, who require rigorous courses with clear application to actual policymaking settings. He has done an admirable job of meeting these needs by incorporating a wide range of teaching approaches in his classes. His successful use of small group discussions, role-playing exercises, in-class case study analysis, and online discussions provides a varied and engaging setting for students. With active use of classroom technology and web-based resources, he has enriched the classroom experience of his students. His syllabi, his course evaluations, and his discussions with colleagues all combine to demonstrate how he emphasizes rigorous courses, and meets student needs for relevant applications of the academic material. In the past year, he has also begun to teach undergraduate political science, a development that will strengthen the department's ability to offer a wide range of courses about American state and local government in years to come.

Research: Professor Thomson's scholarship is rated significantly capable. During each of his years in the Social Sciences Department, Professor Thomson has done an impressive job of bringing articles into print, thereby demonstrating the level of published scholarly and creative activity expected of tenure candidates. His areas of specialization are local government management, as well

as nonprofit management, especially as these things affect urban policy in large metropolitan areas and with particular attention to housing and community development policy. During his time at UMDearborn, we count seven articles under his sole authorship. To a degree these investigations are strengthened by and draw upon his experiences in the cities of Baltimore and Detroit. Thus we have studies that are appreciated not only for their conceptual and theoretical foundations and their scientific method of testing, but also for their relevance to current policy debates and government resource allocations.

Recent and Significant Publications:

- Thomson, D. "Targeting Neighborhoods, Stimulating Markets: Exploring the Role of Political, Institutional, and Technical Variable in Three Cities," in Margaret Dewar and June Thomas, eds., Remaking the City after Abandonment. Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania Press. In Press as of August 2011, expected publication in December 2011.
- Thomson, D. 2011. "Strategic Geographic Targeting in Community Development: Examining the Congruence of Political, Institutional, and Technical Factors," *Urban Affairs Review* 47 (4): 564-594.
- Thomson, D. 2011. "The Role of Funders in Driving Nonprofit Performance Measurement and Use in Strategic Management," *Public Performance and Management Review* 35 (1): 54-78.
- Thomson, D. 2010. "Exploring the Role of Funders' Performance Reporting Mandates in Nonprofit Performance Measurement," *Nonprofit and Voluntary Sector Quarterly* 39 (4): 611-629.
- Thomson, D. 2010. "The Evolving Role of Universities in Expanding Knowledge among Local Elected Officials," *Journal of Public Affairs Education* 16 (3): 421-450.
- Thomson, D. 2009. "Can Crisis Spawn Collaboration? Exploring Opportunities for Regional Collaboration on Housing Issues," in Richard W. Jelier and Gary Sands, eds., Sustaining Michigan. East Lansing, MI: Michigan State University Press.
- Thomson, D. 2008. "Strategic Geographic Targeting of Housing and Community Development Resources: Conceptual Framework and Critical Review," *Urban Affairs Review* 43 (5): 629-62.

Service: Professor Thomson has made excellent service contributions to the department and to the campus. His duties as director of the Institute for Local Government (IFLG) allow the university to contribute to the well-being of the public sector in Southeast Michigan. By establishing relationships with organizations such as the Michigan Municipal League and the Michigan Suburbs Alliance, and by conducting workshops for local public officials, IFLG provides effective outreach. On campus, Professor Thomson's presence in the Public Affairs committee and political science discipline meetings has been useful and welcome. Professor Thomson is now bringing the good judgment from all this experience to bear on campus-wide issues, in his role as chair of the University Budget Committee beginning in 2011.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "Based upon these scholarly works ... I would estimate Dr. Thomson's standing in relation to others in his peer group working in this field to be quite high. Moreover, these pieces show that Dr. Thomson knows how to go about identifying research questions and studying them, and that he has very good methodological and analytical skills. Thus, I would conclude that he is already an accomplished scholar and that he shows excellent promise for continuing development."

Reviewer B: "Indeed, one does not need to look too hard at his curriculum vitae to see clear evidence of an active scholar who is engaged across the scholarly realms of discovery, application, integration, and teaching. ... Dr. Thomson's record is considerably above average for junior faculty members at institutions comparable to UMD. My sense is that you are fortunate to have him on

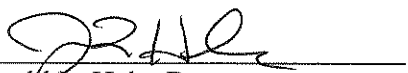
faculty, contributing across realms of scholarship in ways that directly serve the mission of UMD and the Department of Social Sciences.”

Reviewer C: “Thomson’s Detroit NDNI case study illustrates the problems associated with pursuing such a policy. I regard it as a very useful contribution to the community development literature. ... Through interviews, participant observation, and available documents and articles, he provides informative case studies of the three cities. ... I would certainly count these two works as significant contributions to the literature on community development and planning . . .”

Reviewer D: “Taken together the two pieces published in *Urban Affairs Review* are an excellent example of how to establish a theoretical or conceptual framework for a research question and then to empirically investigate it.”

Reviewer E: “The quality, focus, and scholarly impact of his writings are solid and admirable. In all of these articles, Professor Thomson demonstrates a strong command of the literature in urban politics and public administration. Also particularly noteworthy is his detailed attention to issues in the City of Detroit. The connections he makes in his writing between the practice of governance and theories in public administration and political science make particularly valuable contributions to the literature.”

Summary of Recommendation: Professor Thomson is a dedicated and accomplished teacher who is the mainstay of the Public Administration program. His research on community development research and planning has appeared in well-respected journals, and his service to the Department campus and the metro region is exceptional. We are very pleased to recommend, with strong support of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters Executive Committee, Dale E. Thomson for promotion to associate professor of political science, with tenure, Department of Social Sciences, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.



Jerole L. Hale, Dean
College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters



Daniel Little, Chancellor
University of Michigan-Dearborn

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