

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

Jacinta C. Beehner, assistant professor of psychology, and assistant professor of anthropology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of psychology, with tenure, and associate professor of anthropology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2003	Washington University
M.A.	1998	Washington University
B.S.	1994	Boston College

Professional Record:

2007 – present	Director, Core Assay Facility, Department of Psychology, University of Michigan
2006 – present	Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology and Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan
2005 – present	Co-director, University of Michigan Gelada Research Project, Simien Mountains National Park, Ethiopia
2004 – 2006	Post-doctoral Researcher, Department of Ecology & Evolutionary Biology, Princeton University
2001 – 2003	Research Associate, Department of Biology, University of Pennsylvania and Moremi Game Reserve, Botswana

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Beehner is an excellent teacher who has taught courses that have met the department’s most pressing needs. She typically teaches upper level seminars for undergraduates as well as graduate seminars on the topic of hormones and behavior. Students across the board give her very strong evaluations. Professor Beehner is deeply engaged with her students’ coursework and she has mentored both undergraduate and graduate students in independent research projects. Many of her papers have graduate students as co-authors.

Research – Professor Beehner’s research is on the cutting edge of a growing body of work in psychology examining the role of the environment on hormones. Her work is creative, rigorous, and has a high impact in multiple disciplines including psychology, anthropology, and biology. Professor Beehner has consistently published her work in the very top journals in her field, including *Science*. She has successfully obtained six external grants to support her work (four of those from the National Science Foundation).

Recent and Significant Publications:

“The Bruce effect in wild geladas,” with E. K. Roberts, et al., *Science*, 335, 2012, pp. 1222-1225.
“Reproductive characteristics of wild female Phayre’s leaf monkeys,” with A Lu, et al., *American Journal of Primatology*, 72, 2010, pp. 1073-1081.

“Fecal testosterone related to age and life-history stages in male baboons and geladas.” with L. Gesquire, et al., *Hormones and Behavior*, 56, 2009, pp. 472-480.

“Seasonal and altitudinal effects on glucocorticoid metabolites in a wild primate (*Theropithecus gelada*),” with C. McCann, *Physiology & Behavior*, 95, 2008, pp. 508-514.

Service – Professor Beehner has an exemplary record of service. In addition to the normal committee work and departmental tasks, Professor Beehner is founder and director of the hormonal assay laboratory in the Department of Psychology. She has reviewed papers for major journals and reviewed applications for granting agencies including the National Science Foundation and the Leaky foundation.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A)

“Conducting long-term field work abroad, working with multiple species in their natural habitats, and developing expertise in a variety of new methods all inevitably slow one’s early progress. Nevertheless, Dr[.] Beehner’s productivity has been excellent despite these challenges, and the quality of each of her papers is exceptionally high.”

Reviewer (B)

“I gauge Dr. Beehner’s standing in this field very highly. She has been very successful in attracting research funding, and in publishing the research, including papers in highly visible journals. She has taken advantage of relatively new techniques that allow collection of molecular data...from wild animals. These approaches have revolutionized field studies in the last decade, and Dr. Beehner has established herself as a leader in this field. ... I would say that she has been among the most successful of people in her cohort at this sort of research.”

Reviewer (C)

“There is no question that Jacinta is one of the leading...primatologists of her generation and that, over the next 5-10 years, her project on geladas will yield some of the most important data in our field. She has demonstrated clearly her ability to establish an independent, productive, and well-funded research program, and there is simply no doubt that she and Thore are attracting the most talented...PhD students interested in pursuing field research.”

Reviewer (D)

“Her combination of evolutionary, phylogenetic and mechanistic approaches has provided novel and interesting results and interpretations that would not have been possible without her comprehensive approach to science. I am hard pressed to think of any other people in her cohort with the same breadth of research skills and the same knack for finding interesting projects.”

Reviewer (E)

“Dr. Beehner is an internationally recognized authority in the area of primate behavior and endocrinology. ...[she] has generated a steady stream of carefully conducted, insightful empirical publications on the geladas’ behavior, and there is every indication that her high level of productivity will continue as her insights into the geladas increase over time.”

Reviewer (F)

“Dr. Beehner is among a small, but growing, number of primate researchers who are conducting careful behavioral neuroendocrinological research under field conditions and relating the result to classic questions of social behavior. This is a daunting task and Dr. Beehner and her colleagues are among the very best using this approach. The reason for her success is evident in her publications. She strives for laboratory-like control under conditions that make such control difficult. Her approach has been to refine techniques so that the data she obtains from the field are reliable and meaningful.”

Reviewer (G)

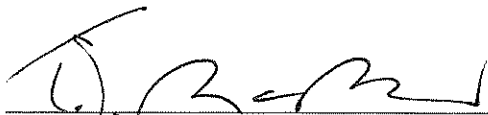
“I rank Beehner highly among her peers and even in comparison to many of her more senior colleagues. ...her teaching statement is impressive and I have heard many favorable comments about her mentoring from Michigan graduate students with whom I have worked...”

Reviewer (H)

“Dr. Beehner has published at a steady rate throughout her career, including extensive teamwork in which she has often been a leader. She has published valuably and carefully on methods, co-directed a valuable field site in Ethiopia, made important discoveries about gelada behavior and physiology, and written about them using cutting edge concepts. I regard her as a core member of the profession and a leader in her cohort.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Beehner has an excellent record of scholarship. Her teaching has been highly diverse and successful, and she has been a valued mentor to numerous graduate and undergraduate students. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Jacinta C. Beehner be promoted to the rank of associate professor of psychology, with tenure, and associate professor of anthropology, with tenure, 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 2013