

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

Terri Conley, assistant professor of psychology, and assistant professor of women's studies, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of psychology, with tenure, and associate professor of women's studies, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1999	University of California, Los Angeles
M.A.	1995	University of California, Los Angeles
B.A.	1993	University of Wisconsin, Madison

Professional Record:

2008 – present	Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology and Department of Women's Studies, University of Michigan
2004 – 2008	Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology and Women's Studies, University of Missouri, St. Louis and Kansas City
2003 – 2004	Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, California State University, Northridge

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Conley is a successful teacher in courses that range from large enrollment to smaller undergraduate courses and graduate seminars. In her teaching, like her research, Professor Conley asks students to reflect on popular assumptions, including their own, and to interrogate them in light of the research. She makes great use of activities, outside speakers and where appropriate, combines academic materials with those drawn from popular culture. She developed a new course on the psychology of sexuality and consistently receives excellent ratings from students. Professor Conley demonstrates exemplary practices in the pedagogy of her lab group. She explicitly lays out graded expectations for students at each level, from undergraduate students first encountering research up through the pre-candidate and candidate levels of doctoral studies.

Research – The quality, quantity, and impact of Professor Conley's research is excellent. Her work focuses on gender, sexuality, and stereotypes. Professor Conley's research model is an excellent exemplar of interdisciplinary work that melds dominant approaches in psychology and women's studies. She has critically questioned assumptions about race and gender using psychological, empirical methodologies. In so doing she has refocused the intellectual discourse and research priorities of the field. Since arriving at Michigan her productivity has been outstanding with four papers in the flagship journals in her field. She has presented at national and international meetings and at universities, including joint presentations with her students.

Recent and Significant Publications:

“A critical evaluation of popular assumptions about the benefits and outcomes of monogamous relationships,” with Z. Ziegler, et al., *Personality and Social Psychology Review*, forthcoming 2013.

“Women, men, and the bedroom: Methodological and conceptual insights that narrow, reframe, and eliminate gender differences in sexuality,” with A. C. Moors, et al., *Current Directions in Psychological Science*, 20(5), 2011, pp. 296-300.

“Perceived proposer personality characteristics and gender differences in acceptance of casual sex offers,” *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 100, 2011, pp. 309-329.

“O.J. Simpson as shared (and unshared) reality: The impact of consensually-shared beliefs of interpersonal perceptions and task performance in different-and same-ethnicity dyad,” with J. L. Rabinowitz and C. D. Hardin, *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 99, 2010, pp. 452-466.

Service – Professor Conley has participated on important committees in both of her departments, including graduate admissions for the joint doctoral program in Women’s Studies and Psychology and on the Women’s Studies Executive Committee. Nationally, she has served as an associate editor for one journal and as an ad hoc reviewer for many more.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A)

“Given the substance and quality of her papers, Professor Conley would surely obtain tenure within my department. She is, in many respects, the leader in her field... Though there are other researchers who study sexuality as part of a larger agenda (e.g. the transmission of HIV), Professor Conley has made the study of sexuality a focus point in and of itself (e.g. sexual orientation, gender differences, monogamy... In that respect, she is at the forefront of this field. She thus has my highest recommendation; she is truly one of a kind.”

Reviewer (B)

“I think her case for tenure is strong, and I believe the University of Michigan should grant tenure as well. ...Dr. Conley is doing valuable and interesting work. She seems to be on a good trajectory of publications, and to have good ideas about where her work should go next.”

Reviewer (C)

“She is one of the most visible scholars [of her cohort] in the area today. Her research productivity over the past decade has been noteworthy, especially considering the lack of major external funding for her work. This is not a reflection on her work, but rather is characteristic of the state of sexuality research in the United States. Her publication record in the past 15 years is outstanding. ... I note that she is sole author on only two publications, but this does not concern me. Her contribution across the published work is clear; the clarity of conceptualization, sharply drawn research questions, innovative and multi-faceted methods, and clear writing style. Many of her co-authors are her students, a testimony to her mentoring and to her desire to help them launch their research careers.”

Reviewer (D)

“She is certainly a stellar researcher. She is able to identify important research questions, design carefully craft studies to test her ideas, and publish her results in premier journals. ... She is an impressive model for social psychologists.”

Reviewer (E)

“...her list of peer-reviewed journal articles is long and certainly exceeds the number required for tenure. Perhaps more importantly, the articles appear in high-status, high-quality journals, vouching for the quality of the research. ... Dr. Conley is a social psychologist who specializes in sexuality

research and she was hired precisely for that specialization. Federal grants for sexuality research are basically nonexistent, with the exception of HIV research.”

Reviewer (F)

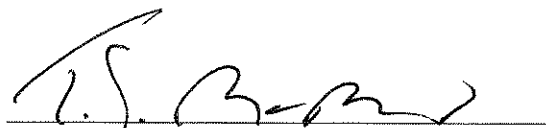
“Conley methodically and dispassionately dismantles what everyone knows, with strong empirical evidence and equally strong and satisfying conceptual logic. This work is provocative, innovative, insightful and downright courageous. It provides lessons not only about gender and sexuality but, perhaps equally importantly, about the ease with which we scientists accept findings that jibe with our stereotypes of men and women. What an amazing scholar to have as part of your program.”

Reviewer (G)

“She has made important contributions to understanding and re-thinking widely-accepted gender differences in sexual behavior. ...I have seen her present in three contexts... I was impressed in all three cases. Her style was clear, interesting, lively, and engaging.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Conley’s research is outstanding. She is an excellent teacher and is a valuable citizen in both her departments. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Terri Conley be promoted to the rank of associate professor of psychology, with tenure, and associate professor of women’s studies, 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

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