

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

**Approved by the
Regents
May 15, 2014**

Elizabeth A. Armstrong, associate professor of sociology, with tenure, associate professor of organizational studies, with tenure, and associate professor of women's studies, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of sociology, with tenure, professor of organizational studies, with tenure, and professor of women's studies, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1998	University of California, Berkeley
M.A.	1990	University of California, Berkeley
B.A.	1988	University of Michigan

Professional Record:

2012 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Women's Studies, University of Michigan
2009 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Sociology and Organizational Studies Program, University of Michigan
2007 – 2009	Associate Professor, Department of Sociology and Adjunct Associate Professor, Department Gender Studies, Indiana University
2007 – 2008	Suzanne Young Murray Fellow, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University
2004 – 2007	Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Gender Studies, Indiana University
2000 – 2007	Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Indiana University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Armstrong's approach to teaching reflects her strength in supervising students' writing. She has taught undergraduate courses in both Sociology and Organizational Studies and co-offered several gender and sexuality training workshops. She sets high standards for herself and her students, conveys great enthusiasm for the subject matter, and continually strives to improve her seminars and courses both in their structure and process. An energetic mentor, Professor Armstrong successfully incorporates students into her research. She has served on over a dozen dissertation committees and collaborated with graduate students on research papers.

Research – Professor Armstrong's interdisciplinary approach – incorporating gender and sexuality as well as social movements, higher education, sociology of organizations, culture, and social inequality – has resulted in her making substantive contributions to and establishing a strong intellectual identity in each area. Her combination of cultural and organizational analysis in addressing both individual action and institutional forces that ultimately shape outcomes is highly impressive and characterizes all of her scholarship. Professor Armstrong has made contributions to a new multi-institutional approach to social movements in general, and to the literature on gender and sexuality in young adulthood and higher education in particular.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Paying for the Party: How College Maintains Inequality, Harvard University Press, 2013.

“Accounting for women’s orgasm and sexual enjoyment in college hookups and relationships,”
American Sociological Review, 77(3), 2012, pp. 435-462.

“Is hooking up bad for young women?” *Contexts*, 9(3), 2008, pp. 22-27.

“Culture, power, and institutions: A multi-institutional politics approach to social movements,”
Sociological Theory, 26, 2010, pp. 74-99.

Service – Professor Armstrong has provided important service as director of Graduate Studies for the Sociology doctoral program. During her three-year term, she rewrote the Graduate Handbook, revised the annual review process for graduate students, decreased time-to-degree for long-standing students through effective mentoring, and sponsored professional development activities. She has served on six committees in the Organizational Studies program and three in the Department of Women’s Studies. Professor Armstrong has been extraordinarily active in the American Sociological Association, where she has been involved in seven different American Sociological Association (ASA) sections, and was elected to the ASA Nominations Committee (2011-2012) and to the Program Committee for the 2011 and 2012 annual meetings. She has also been active in the Society for the Study of Social Problems and the National Science Foundation.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A)

“...[I] deeply admire her contributions to a growing literature at the intersection of organizational analysis, social movement research, and cultural theory. With *Forging Gay Identities* and a number of related essays, she has established herself as an important contributor to the cultural/historicist position within debates about institutional change.”

Reviewer (B)

“Professor Armstrong is a leading scholar in the field of gender and sexuality who has also made significant contributions to research in social movements and higher education, as well as, more broadly, to the areas of sociology of organizations, sociology of culture, and social inequality. ... Her work displays an integrative vigor that enhances its quality and also enables her to contribute to several areas at once.”

Reviewer (C)

“...I believe that Elizabeth Armstrong is [an] excellent, productive scholar whose work has been influential in several fields. Her record suggests that she will continue to produce significant research.”

Reviewer (D)

“In recent years, I have written letters evaluating the candidacy of scholars at Harvard, Stanford, Northwestern, Emory, Tulane, Vanderbilt, McGill, Rutgers, Tel Aviv University, and the University of Texas, Austin, along with a number of other distinguished institutions. Dr. Armstrong’s record is as strong or stronger than most of the scholars I have reviewed at her career stage. I would have no reservations in recommending Dr. Armstrong for a senior faculty position in any of these institutions.”

Reviewer (E)

"I find the book *Paying for the Party* to be an important contribution to an empirical and theoretical understanding of patterns on college campuses and their significance of the reproduction of stratification. It is both empirically and theoretically rich...And the theoretical paper on social movements is a significant synthetic contribution."

Reviewer (F)

"...what is exceptional about her record, more than quantity publications or prestige of outlets, is the number of her papers that have won disciplinary awards and/or been reprinted in edited volumes. ... Armstrong has gradually developed a wide reputation as one of the strongest gender scholars of her generation."

Reviewer (G)

"...Professor Armstrong's scholarship speaks to and bridges five to six audiences or clusters of scholars within sociology. These audiences are...gender and sexuality, social movements, cultural sociology, organizations, higher education, and, most recently, social inequality. ... Such bridging and integrative work not only suggests a broader scholarly agenda and reach than is typical of most scholars, but it also enhances the prospect of greater visibility and recognition."

Reviewer (H)

"Dr. Armstrong's sustained post-tenure productivity is even more impressive considering its breadth. ...[she has] reinvented herself post-tenure from a scholar of social movements to a scholar of adolescent sexuality, gender, and higher education."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Armstrong has produced scholarship that has drawn from and advanced a wide range of disciplinary subfields. Her undergraduate and graduate teaching has improved over time, and her graduate student mentoring has been exemplary. She is also a valued colleague. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Elizabeth A. Armstrong be promoted to the rank of professor of sociology, with tenure, professor of organizational studies, with tenure, and professor of women's studies, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



Susan A. Gelman

Heinz Werner Distinguished University Professor,
Professor of Psychology and Interim Dean
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

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