

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

Michelle T. Leonard, assistant professor of psychology in the Department of Behavioral Sciences, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of psychology, with tenure, Department of Behavioral Sciences, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D. 2008 Wayne State University, Clinical Psychology, Detroit, MI
M.A. 2004 Wayne State University, Clinical Psychology, Detroit, MI
B.S. 2002 Eastern Michigan University, Psychology, Ypsilanti, MI

Professional Record:

2008 – present Assistant Professor, Department of Behavioral Sciences, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, University of Michigan-Dearborn
2007 – 2008 Clinical Psychology Intern, Psychiatry and Outpatient Psychiatry/Psychology, Henry Ford Hospital, Detroit, MI
2002 – 2008 Graduate Research Assistant, Relationship and Health Lab, Department of Psychology, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI
2005 – 2006 Graduate Teaching Assistant, Department of Psychology, Wayne State University, Detroit, MI

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Leonard is an excellent instructor. She has taught seven classes since arriving at Dearborn in the fall of 2008 including large introductory psychology classes and a number of core classes for the MS in psychology program. She consistently receives very strong student evaluation ratings, often well above the department mean, even for very intense and difficult graduate classes. Her instructor ratings ranged from 4.11 to 5.00 ($M = 4.64$); class ratings ranged from 3.88 to 5.00 ($M = 4.58$).

Professor Leonard has also shown herself to be an outstanding mentor to our students. Since joining the university, she has been primary advisor for one undergraduate independent study, two honors thesis projects, and seven master's thesis projects. She has been a secondary advisor on five master's thesis projects. She continues to work with a research team of undergraduate and graduate students.

Research: Since 2008, Professor Leonard has established new collaborations and lines of research, as well as maintaining her existing collaborations. She has published four high quality journal articles related to her empirical research (two first author, one second author, one third author), has one invited commentary (second author), one manuscript that is currently under review (first author), and two that are being revised in response to reviewer/editor comments (one first author, one second author).

Her research focuses on the broad domain of clinical health psychology with specific interests related to “intimate relationships and relationship dynamics in the context of chronic health problems,” “the etiology and maintenance of chronic health problems and how psychosocial processes impact and/or are impacted by physical health,” and the role of ethnicity in health and health behavior. Her research is methodologically sophisticated and time intensive, laying the foundation for future research, as well as having potentially very significant implications related to the treatment of chronic pain.

Recent and Significant Publications:

- Cano, A., Leonard, M.T., Leong, L., & Castorena, A. (2013). Interpersonal communication research in the context of pain: Commentary on couple perceptions of fibromyalgia symptoms: The role of communication.” *Pain.ht*
- Leonard, M.T., Issner J.H., Cano, A. & Williams, A.M. (2013). Correlates of spousal empathic accuracy for pain-related thoughts and feelings. *The Clinical Journal of Pain*, 29, 224-233.
- Leonard, M.T., Chatkoff, D.K., & Gallaway, M. (2012). Association between pain catastrophizing, spouse responses to pain, and blood pressure in chronic pain patients: A pathway to potential comorbidity. *International Journal of Behavioral Medicine*, September, 10.
- Issner, J.B., Cano, A., Leonard, M.T., & Williams, A.M. (2012). How do I empathize with you? Let me count the ways: Relations between the many facets of pain-related empathy. *Journal of Pain*, 13(2), 167-175.
- Chatkoff, D.K. & Leonard, M.T. (2009). A preliminary investigation of cognitive appraisal, and cardiovascular reactivity and recovery in Arab Americans. *Ethnicity and Disease*, 19(3), 258-264.

Service: Professor Leonard has greatly exceeded our service expectations for an assistant professor. She has been involved in a number of committees at the department level including three search committees, serving on the discipline assessment committee, and being an invaluable member of the Graduate Program Committee. This includes completing the required 2000 post-degree clinical hours and passing the Examination for the Professional Practice of Psychology (EPPP) in order to be able to provide clinical supervision to our graduate students. Professor Leonard accomplished this daunting task while maintaining her teaching load and developing her research program.

She has been our representative on Faculty Senate for several years and is currently a member of the Faculty Senate Council. She was a member of the Higher Learning Commission Re-Accreditation team that considered Integrity and Ethics and more recently she has served as the chair of the committee charged with developing a Health Education and Behavior program for the newly created College of Education, Health and Human Services. She has also been involved in service to the profession and the community by serving as a journal and conference reviewer, organizing collaborations with other universities, and giving lectures on areas of expertise.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: “Overall, I have a very positive view of Dr. Leonard’s scholarly contributions to the field of health psychology. She appears to be well-poised to continue her record of scholarship in the future.”

Reviewer B: "Dr. Leonard has a respectable standing in the field of behavioral medicine. Her articles are well written and include time intensive recruitment and data collection. I believe her work is both scholarly and shows impressive prospects for future development."

Reviewer C: "I am confident that she will continue to set up innovative studies and contribute with her work to the understanding of chronic pain as a bio psychosocial phenomenon."

Reviewer D: "I offer my very positive opinion of Michelle Leonard's skills as a researcher and promise for continued scholarly accomplishments and engagement with the scientific community."

Reviewer E: "I conclude that Dr. Leonard has excellent promise for continuing development."

Summary of Recommendations: Professor Leonard has published high quality articles and has shown herself to have promise for continued scholarly work. She is an exceptional teacher who is rated very highly by students and peers while maintaining rigorous standards. She has been a valued colleague who contributes both internal and external service. It is with the support of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters Executive Committee that I recommend Michelle T. Leonard for promotion to associate professor of psychology, with tenure, Department of Behavioral Sciences, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.



Martin Herschok, Dean
College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters



Daniel Little, Chancellor
University of Michigan-Dearborn

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