

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

Sari M. van Anders, 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.	2007	Simon Fraser University
M.A.	2003	University of Western Ontario
B.A.	2001	University of Western Ontario

Professional Record:

2008 – present	Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology and Department of Women's Studies, University of Michigan
2007 – 2008	Assistant Professor, Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences, and Assistant Research Scientist, Kinsey Institute, Indiana University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor van Anders is a highly successful teacher at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. She has filled gaps in the curricula of both departments by developing four new undergraduate courses since she joined the faculty. These courses offer custom-developed content with interdisciplinary material from biology, psychology, and feminist scholarship. She has received very strong evaluations from her undergraduate students and similarly high ratings in her two graduate seminars – one in Psychology and one in Women's Studies. Professor van Anders has also demonstrated a strong track record of successful mentoring of undergraduate and graduate students. Undergraduate students whom she has mentored have won research and publication awards. Since 2008 she has published twelve papers and co-authored fifteen posters with her graduate students. Two of these papers have won major awards.

Research – Professor van Anders's research focuses on the reciprocal relationships between sexual/nurturance behaviors and hormones, and how these relationships are moderated by social context. She has demonstrated processes by which behaviors affect hormones, and thus extends beyond most models, which assume only that hormones affect behaviors. Her work is multifaceted, incorporating experimental research approaches that are more typical of animal studies along with complex correlational studies and multiple methods (content analysis, hormone assays, etc.). While rooted in the psychological sciences, her research has important implications for feminist scholarship, particularly in the emerging area of feminist science studies. She has successfully secured external funding for her work, recently receiving a five-year R01 grant from the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease. Her 40 peer-reviewed articles have 482 non-self citations and an h-index of 14, suggesting that her publications are having a notable impact on the field. Her 2011 article in *Psychoneuroendocrinology* received the 2011 Ira and Harriet Reiss Theory Award from the Foundation for the Scientific Study of Sexuality. The invited review articles she wrote for *Frontiers in*

*Neuroendocrinology* (2013) and *Hormones and Behavior* (2011) further demonstrate that her research is coming to the attention of important scientists and journal editors.

Recent and Significant Publications:

“Beyond masculinity: Testosterone, gender/sex, and human social behavior in a comparative context,” invited contribution for *Frontiers in Neuroendocrinology*, 34, 2013, pp. 198-210.

“Sexy thoughts: Effects of sexual cognitions on arousal and hormones,” with K. L. Goldey, invited contribution for *Hormones and Behavior, Special Issue: Research on Sexual Arousal*, 59, 2011, pp. 754-764.

“The steroid/peptide theory of social bonds: Integrating testosterone and peptide responses for classifying social behavioral contexts,” with K. L. Goldey and P. X. Kuo, invited expert review for *Psychoneuroendocrinology*, 36, 2011, pp. 1265-1275 (2011 Ira and Harriet Reiss Theory Award from the Foundation for the Scientific Study of Sexuality).

“Testosterone and partnering are linked via relationship status for women and ‘relationship orientation’ for men,” with K. L. Goldey, *Hormones and Behavior*, 58, 2010, pp. 820-826.

Service – Professor van Anders has contributed important service in Psychology and Women’s Studies, serving on the executive committees and on faculty search committees in both departments, in addition to numerous committees specific to each department. She has taken on leadership positions in many professional societies and on the editorial boards of major journals in her field.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A)

“Sari’s research program is unique. She is unusually creative and invariably thinks ‘outside the box.’ Her body of work is full of new or better ideas (for example, about testosterone and female sexuality) and new findings. Every paper is interesting. She has done a better job than anyone else at exploring how ‘intimacy’ is related to hormones.”

Reviewer (B)

“Sari’s publication list is impressive in terms of quantity and quality. She has published in the top sexological journals...the top neuroendocrinological journals...and a variety of other journals spanning fields as diverse as sports psychology, evolution and biology. This is not surprising given the breadth of her interests and the potential application of her theoretical views. The importance of her work is not only attested to by the quality of where she publishes but also by her ‘downloaded record.’”

Reviewer (C)

“Although I usually try to avoid words like ‘brilliant,’ given how often they are overused, Dr. Van Anders is one of the few scholars in the field of sexuality and behavioral neuroendocrinology who merits this description. Her work is challenging, insightful, sophisticated, creative, and theoretically rigorous. ... I can think of few scholars in behavioral neuroendocrinology who possess the type of mastery of both the empirical and theoretical literature on

hormones, sex, gender, and evolution that is necessary to develop and sustain such a sweeping and powerful synthesis – Dr. Van Anders may, in fact, be the only one.”

Reviewer (D)

“She is unusual in this respect; it is difficult for me to think of any other researcher whose work bridges those two fields, at least in terms of performing bench science and dedicated activity in Gender Studies programs. ... She is one of the very few researchers in the world I know of who can speak to both scientists and women’s studies scholars and garner and [sic] equal levels of respect and appreciation from both crowds.”

Reviewer (E)

“...in my opinion, Dr. Sari Van Anders has an excellent record of research and her work continues to contribute to the scientific literature on hormonal contribution to sexual health. She is one of the very few researchers worldwide that studies how hormones relate to sexual health, pair bonding and infant attachment in humans. Her work is significant due [to] its potential to have a dramatic impact on human sexual health. She truly is a rising superstar...”

Reviewer (F)

“She is one of the few scholars I know who meaningfully takes up bio-social approaches in her work. She has a particular interest in gender/sex and sexual diversity and has focussed on the role of testosterone. She is contributing to both methodological and substantive advancements in the relatively new field of social neuroendocrinology.”

Reviewer (G)

“Dr. van Anders’ research is unique....There is no one doing the kind of work that she is doing. In the field of sexuality and health she is distinguishing herself: her work is being cited by top scholars in the field.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor van Anders is a leader in her field and has carried out innovative, influential, and high-quality research. She is an exemplary teacher and mentor. Her service to the department and the profession is outstanding. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Sari M. van Anders 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.



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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