

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
COLLEGE OF LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND THE ARTS

Pamela Davis-Kean, associate professor of psychology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of psychology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts [also being promoted to research professor, Institute for Social Research, and research professor, Center for Human Growth and Development].

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1996	Vanderbilt University
M.S.	1991	Vanderbilt University
B.A.	1987	Florida State University

Professional Record:

2013 – present	Research Associate Professor, Survey Research Center, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan
2011 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Michigan
2009 – present	Research Associate Professor, Research Center for Group Dynamics, Institute for Social Research, and Center for Human Growth and Development, University of Michigan
2008 – 2011	Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Michigan
2007 – 2009	Research Assistant Professor, Center for Human Growth and Development, University of Michigan
2005 – 2009	Research Assistant Professor, Research Center for Group Dynamics, Institute for Social Research, and Institute for Research on Women and Gender, University of Michigan
2003 – present	Director, Center for the Analysis of Pathways from Childhood to Adulthood (CAPCA), Institute for Social Research.
2002 – 2005	Assistant Research Scientist, Research Center for Group Dynamics, Institute for Social Research, and Institute for Research on Women and Gender, University of Michigan
2000 – 2002	Research Investigator, Institute for Research on Women and Gender, University of Michigan
1998 – 2002	Research Investigator, Research Center for Group Dynamics, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan
1996 – 1998	Research Investigator/Research Fellow, Survey Research Center, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Davis-Kean is an exemplary teacher at all levels, and students across the board have given her and her courses high ratings along with very positive comments. At the undergraduate level, she has successfully taught both freshmen seminars and upper-level courses. At the graduate level, she has excelled in teaching a large seminar on social development. Outside of the classroom, Professor Davis-Kean has mentored graduate students in multiple programs of study, as well as a large number of undergraduate students. She has

received uniformly positive comments from students about the quality of her mentorship. Beyond her formal mentees, Professor Davis-Kean has provided informal help to many graduate students on their statistical analyses.

Research – Professor Davis-Kean’s work focuses on the effects of parental influences on developmental trajectories of children’s achievement and mental and physical health. She has made significant theoretical and methodological contributions to the field through her use of sophisticated statistical techniques. Professor Davis-Kean has been highly successful in securing major federal external grants, supporting the creation of large, longitudinal data sets which in turn have facilitated a tremendous body of research within the field. She has also published in the top journals of the field and her articles have strong citation counts.

Recent and Significant Publications:

“Trajectories of achievement: Understanding the profiles of achievement within race,” with J. Jager, *Journal of Educational Research*, 107(3), 2014, pp. 197-208 (DOI:10.1080/00220671.2013.807493).

“Neuroscience meets population science: What is a representative brain?” with E. B. Falk, et al., *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 110(44), 2013, pp. 17615-17622.

“Precursors of high school mathematics achievement,” with R. S. Siegler, et al., *Psychological Science*, 23(7), 2012, pp. 691-697.

“Longitudinal links between spanking and children’s externalizing behaviors in a national sample of White, Black, Hispanic, and Asian American families,” with E. T. Gershoff, et al., *Child Development*, 83, 2012, pp. 838-843 (DOI: 10.1111/j.1467-8624.2011.01732.x).

Service – Professor Davis-Kean’s service record is substantial and includes local and national leadership roles. Within the Department of Psychology, she has served as a member of the Executive Committee and as associate director of the Center of Human Growth and Development. Nationally, she has served as panel reviewer for the National Science Foundation and other organizations, on the editorial boards of top journals, and as chair or co-chair of professional organization meetings.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A)

“I believe that Pam is viewed as an important contributor to the understanding of the achievement gap. ...I think her work has helped shape the recent discussion – especially about parenting. ...she is leading researcher and will continue to make contributions to our understanding of such important issues such as identifying factors that may be changed to reduce social inequality. Furthermore, I believe she is a wonderful teacher and mentor for students...”

Reviewer (B)

“...it is clear to me that Dr. Davis-Kean’s work has had an impact on the field at a level that is well-above that for the typical individual who is promoted to the rank of professor at a top-tier institution.”

Reviewer (C)

“Dr. Davis-Kean has an outstanding research program addressing important issues of how self and self-understanding develops in children. ... She has contributed important papers that change the way we view this issue... She has also made major contributions to our understanding of how the socioeconomic standing of parents is related to parenting beliefs and behaviors and how parents transfer values to their children. ... The future directions of her research bode well for the field in general and one expects her continuing emergence as an important leader in the field.”

Reviewer (D)

“The information provided in Dr. Davis-Kean’s dossier indicates that she is a very strong scholar. In fact, she epitomizes the developmental science model that psychology faculty associated with the fields of psychological science try to promote. I am very impressed in how Dr. Davis-Kean’s scholarly research has a broader impact on translational services; she has a strong funding record; she actively collaborates with colleagues to extend cutting-edge concepts in developmental science; and she is a successful mentor of the next generation of scholars.”

Reviewer (E)

“All in all, it is clear to me that Dr. Davis-Kean is an outstanding researcher who takes a very innovative line to questions related to children’s development. She focuses on issues that are of fundamental importance and hold implications for policy and practice, and takes a rigorous and methodologically and statistically sophisticated approach to addressing them. She is a creative thinker and her work has done much to advance the field.”

Reviewer (F)

“Dr. Davis-Kean has published regularly... Her service on federal review panels and conference program committees attests to her growing national visibility, and several international research presentations indicate her promise for greater international recognition. She is also a strong collaborator, working with some of the most respected senior scientists of the field...”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Davis-Kean has established a research program that has had substantial impact on her field. She is an outstanding teacher and a valuable citizen both locally and nationally. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Pamela Davis-Kean be promoted to the rank of professor of psychology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



Andrew D. Martin
Dean, and Professor of Political Science,
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

May 2015