

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

Elizabeth E. Bruch, assistant professor of sociology, and assistant professor of complex systems, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of sociology, with tenure, and associate professor of complex systems, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts [also being promoted to research associate professor, Institute for Social Research].

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2006	University of California, Los Angeles
M.S.	2008	University of California, Los Angeles
M.A.	2001	University of California, Los Angeles
B.A.	1999	Reed College

Professional Record:

2008 – present	Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Center for the Study of Complex Systems (CSCS), University of Michigan
2008 – present	Assistant Research Scientist, Population Studies Center, University of Michigan
2006 – 2008	Fellow, Robert Wood Johnson Scholars in Health Policy

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Bruch is a very successful teacher at all levels and student evaluations exceed those of courses offered by comparable instructors. She took the lead in creating a new “Urban and Community Workshop” for sociology graduate students, and she has developed and taught an innovative lower division course entitled “Tipping points, bandwagons, and cascades.” The average of those scores is also strong. Professor Bruch developed and taught an undergraduate course entitled “Individual Behaviors and Social Dynamics,” which covers topics like network effects, tipping points, and contagion effects. Students do class projects modeling different aspects of their life, including cafeteria behavior and social behavior. Professor Bruch is also an effective and active mentor, serving as formal advisor to six doctoral students, as part of eight dissertation committees, and as co-chair of one. She has served on seven publishable paper committees in the Department of Sociology and three undergraduate theses committees.

Research – Professor Bruch’s work examines a core theoretical question of how the micro-foundations of individual behavior and decision-making shape and respond to the macro-conditions of society. She can be understood to be working at the rich intersection between inequality and demography, but her theoretical and methodological commitments also position her as an intellectual leader in the two important areas of analytic and computational sociology. Professor Bruch has published four peer reviewed articles (one sole-authored), a response to a commentary published on one of her papers, and two book chapters. Her earliest papers rely on more traditional rational choice models of decision-making whereas her recent sole authored work departs from that approach by using more cognitively plausible models of decision-making. Professor Bruch has received numerous awards, including the *American Journal of*

*Sociology's* Gould Prize, best paper awards from three different sections of the American Sociological Association, and from the International Network of Analytic Sociologists. She received a prestigious fellowship at the Center for Advanced Studies in the Behavioral Sciences as well as an early career award from the National Institutes of Health.

Recent and Significant Publications:

"Agent-based models in empirical social research," with J. Atwell, *Sociological Methods and Research*, 44, 2015, pp. 186-221.

"How population structure shapes neighborhood segregation," *American Journal of Sociology*, 119, 2014, pp. 1221-1278.

"Preferences and pathways to segregation: Reply to van de Rijt, Siegel, and Macy," with R. Mare, *American Journal of Sociology*, 114, 2009, pp. 1181-1198.

"Segregation processes," with R. Mare in the Oxford Handbook of Analytical Sociology, P. Bearman and P. Hedström (eds.), Oxford University Press, 2009.

Service – Professor Bruch has served on substantial committees including the Department of Sociology's Executive, Personnel, Administration of Graduate Affairs, and Lecturer Review committees. She was elected to the University Senate for a three-year term (2015-2018). She has contributed generously to CSCS as an active member of working groups as well as seminar organizing and faculty planning. She also played a central role in the creation of CSCS' undergraduate minor, and she has mentored many of their graduate students. Professor Bruch has been active at the national level, including serving on editorial boards and holding a consulting editorship at some of the most prominent journals in sociology as well as service on an Institute of Medicine committee.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A)

"...I am deeply impressed with her skills, and I think she has...a unique combination of both sociological and psychological understanding as well as a very good data analysis and data modeling skills."

Reviewer (B)

"...Bruch has used her theoretical and analytical framework to make important and prize-winning contributions to the understanding of residential segregation and to choice processes in dating markets. These papers are major intellectual accomplishments in their own right, but it is clear that her framework is potentially applicable to many other substantive arenas ranging from educational pathways to health behaviors. She is well aware of these fruitful avenues for further research and I confidently predict a long and continuous trajectory of intellectual productivity."

Reviewer (C)

"...everything she writes has impact, as she's evidently made the decision to write nothing but brilliant articles. ... When Elizabeth writes an article, it gets published in the best places, wins awards, and influences research in profound ways."

Reviewer (D)

“Her more recent work on cognitive models of residential choice is very telling of a scholar who moves in an area she knows little about at the beginning, seeks a collaborator who knows more and build a program of research that is...clearly leading her to bigger and better things. ... Clearly, this newer work is very, very impressive.”

Reviewer (E)

“Her work embodies both methodological originality and important substantive applications. The results are papers that in a number of senses are exemplars for the work of others (including me) in pushing toward models of social phenomenon that allow us to understand the bases of individual behavior in complex social contexts and how this behavior aggregates to produce collective outcomes. ... I consider her work fundamental and view her as one of the leading scholars [in her cohort]...”

Reviewer (F)

“Sociologists have effectively shown the world the power of social structure in shaping behavior. But sociology has tended to lack what the economists call methodological individualism: the idea that, at some point, an agent is weighing options and making decisions. To understand the interplay between social structure and personal action requires a dynamic model; but it also requires a sophisticated understanding of social structure and of how people think. Elizabeth seems to be the person who will do this crucial work.”

Reviewer (G)

“...Professor Bruch is a sociologist of surpassing drive, ambition, intelligence, and scope who draws avidly and thoughtfully from neighboring (and not-so neighboring) fields to illuminate core issues in the social and population sciences, from residential segregation to mate selection.”

Reviewer (H)

“This is an extremely smart and creative person... She is doing work that is on the cutting edge of [the] discipline using both new theories and methods to examine core questions...”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Bruch has produced a strong record of scholarship, and has made extraordinary and unique contributions to the teaching and service missions of her units. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Elizabeth E. Bruch be promoted to the rank of associate professor of sociology, with tenure, and associate professor of complex systems, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



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

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