

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

Ivy Forsythe-Brown, assistant professor of sociology and anthropology, Department of Behavioral Sciences, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of sociology and anthropology, with tenure, in the Department of Behavioral Sciences, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D. 2007	University of Maryland-College Park, Sociology, College Park, MD
M.A. 1995	Eastern Michigan University, Sociology, Ypsilanti, MI
B.A. 1991	Eastern Michigan University, Social Science, Ypsilanti, MI

Professional Record:

2009 – present	Assistant Professor of Sociology and Anthropology, Department of Behavioral Sciences, University of Michigan-Dearborn
2007 – 2009	Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Program for Research on Black Americans, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Forsythe-Brown is rated excellent in teaching. She has taught six classes since arriving at Dearborn in 2009, including “Minority Groups,” large introductory sociology classes, and core classes for the sociology major. She consistently receives strong student evaluation ratings, even for courses that are difficult to teach. In the last three years, nearly 50% of her courses were above 4.5 on instructor rating; an even higher number were above the department average on this measure. Based on their observations of Professor Forsythe-Brown’s classes, the faculty concur that she is an effective and valuable instructor. Professor Forsythe-Brown has a reputation for rigor in the classroom and nearly all of her courses in the last three years were rated by students as “harder” or “much harder” than department average.

Professor Forsythe-Brown has also shown herself to be an outstanding mentor to our students, particularly to first generation students and students of color, who often have not had anyone to mentor them in college. Students report that she pushes them to consider graduate school and post-college goals. As her 2015 nomination for the UM-Dearborn Distinguished Teaching Award (non-tenured category) attests, she is not only an advocate and supporter of her students, but she challenges them both inside and outside the classroom. As the student who nominated her for the teaching award put it: “my path to academic success has been paved with road blocks; however Dr. Forsythe-Brown has been there to push me past these obstacles by demanding of me a level of excellence that I was uncertain I had to give. ...under Dr. Forsythe-Brown’s direction and encouragement, I have come to the realization that if my aspirations do not frighten me, they are not grand enough.”

Research: Professor Forsythe-Brown is rated significantly capable in research. During her time at Dearborn, Professor Forsythe-Brown has established new collaborations and lines of research, as well as maintaining her existing research agenda. Since 2009, she has published three high quality journal articles and two high quality book chapters. In addition, she has two manuscripts currently under review, two that are being revised in response to reviewer/editor comments, and four manuscripts that are in preparation for submission to journals. Her research focuses on issues of social support, kinship relations, identity, and mental and physical health outcomes among immigrant groups. She has examined the connection between the health status of immigrant and non-immigrant Caribbean's associated with theoretical notions of the "healthy immigrant paradox," which posits that first generation immigrants have better health outcomes than native-born groups. She has also studied the impact of social and kin support among Caribbean immigrant families in the U.S. This work has also led to studies of the immigration experience of other groups, including second generation Arab Americans and South Asians. Her research has significant implications for how we understand immigration, race, and health.

Recent and Significant Publications:

- Lacey, Krim, Karen Sears, Ishtar O. Govia, Ivy Forsythe-Brown, Nikki Matusko, and James S. Jackson. 2015. "Substance use, mental disorders and physical health of Caribbeans at-home compared to those residing in the United States." *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health (IJERPH)* 12: 710-734. Special Issue - Jorge Delva (co-editor), Taylor Francis.
- Taylor, Robert Joseph, Ivy Forsythe-Brown, Karen Lincoln and Linda Chatters. 2015. "Extended family support networks of Caribbean Black adults in the United States." *Journal of Family Issues*, Sage. *In Press* (published online 3/2015) DOI: 10.1177/0192513X15573868.
- Taylor, Robert Joseph, Ivy Forsythe-Brown, Harry Owen Taylor, and Linda Chatters. 2014. "Patterns of emotional social support and negative interactions among African American and Black Caribbean extended families." *Journal of African American Studies*, 18: 147-163, Springer.
- Chatters, Linda, Ivy Forsythe-Brown, Robert Joseph Taylor. *In Press*. "Informal social support networks and Black Americans." In Valerie C. Copeland (editor) *Contemporary Issues for People of Color: Surviving and Thriving in the U.S. Today, Volume 4: Health and Wellness*. Greenwood.

Service: Professor Forsythe-Brown's record of service is rated as excellent. She is a faculty member in Women's and Gender Studies, Criminal Justice, and African and African American Studies. She is a member of the advisory boards of the following programs: Religious Studies, Center for Arab American Studies, Worldviews Seminar, and the Behavioral Sciences Major. She also served as a member of the Dean's Search Committee for the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters. She is an affiliate at the Program for Research on Black Americans, at the Institute of Social Research, University of Michigan-Ann Arbor. She has also been involved in service to the profession and the community by serving as a journal reviewer and giving lectures on her areas of expertise.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "The impact of Professor Forsythe-Brown's research will be far-reaching. ... Dr. Forsythe-Brown ranks high compared to others in similar stages of their career. She has produced an important set of publications that demonstrate a collaborative and interdisciplinary strength to her scholarly productivity."

Reviewer B: "I find Dr. Forsythe-Brown's contributions to the areas of immigration, gender, family and social support, and health and substance abuse to be of high quality."

Reviewer C: "This approach to research influences the high impact her scholarship has in the social and behavioral sciences field and sets her standing above the majority of scholars in her peer group working in the same field. In sum, Dr. Forsythe-Brown has a strong, focused body of research."


Reviewer D: "Dr. Forsythe-Brown has achieved a status in her field comparable to or exceeding that of other junior faculty."

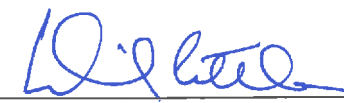
Reviewer E: "Dr. Forsythe-Brown's work is making valuable contributions to understanding family networks and social support among Black Caribbeans residing in the U.S. The overall impact of the research is to draw attention to the diversity within the Black population in one of its most important institutions, the family."

Reviewer F: "Forsythe-Brown shows that sociologists of race have much to learn by dissecting the category of Black, and even that of African American, in order to unpack the health perceptions and circumstances of people so classified. ... In short, she has become a presence in scholarship that is at the forefront of studies of race, migration, and health."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Forsythe-Brown has published high quality research and has shown promise for continued scholarly work. She is also an excellent teacher. She is rated highly by students and peers, maintaining rigorous standards in the classroom, and serves as a mentor to disadvantaged students on campus. She is also a valued colleague and makes significant contributions at all levels of the university, enhancing the metropolitan impact and ties with Southeastern Michigan. We are pleased to recommend, with strong support of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters Executive Committee, Ivy Forsythe-Brown for promotion to associate professor of sociology and anthropology, with tenure, Department of Behavioral Sciences, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.


Martin J. Hershock, Dean
College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters


Daniel Little, Chancellor
University of Michigan-Dearborn

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