

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

Nehal A. Patel, assistant professor of sociology and criminal justice, Department of Behavioral Sciences, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of sociology and criminal justice, with tenure, Department of Behavioral Sciences, in the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2009	Northwestern University, Sociology
J.D.	2003	University of Wisconsin Law School
M.A.	2002	Northwestern University, Sociology
B.S.	1996	University of Wisconsin-Madison, Zoology and Sociology with concentration in Analyses and Research

Professional Record:

2009 – present	Assistant Professor (without tenure), Sociology and Criminal Justice, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, University of Michigan-Dearborn.
2013 – present	Director, Law and Society Program, University of Michigan-Dearborn

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Patel's teaching is rated excellent. He won the campus-wide Distinguished Teaching Award in 2013. He has created four new courses. Students are inspired by his teaching and advising and have moved on to top graduate and professional schools. Guided by the value of empathy, he trains students to recognize and appreciate the standpoint of the "other," including disputants in a law case. Students are enthralled by Professor Patel's use of drama in the classroom, and other faculty members are using his distinctive teaching method.

Research: Professor Patel's research is rated excellent. He has published seven peer reviewed articles, and two non-peer reviewed articles (while at UM-Dearborn). He has created an interdisciplinary, international and ethics-based jurisprudence (jurisprudence is the philosophy and theory of law) that combines Eastern and Western legal thought. The articles that are online have been downloaded numerous of times, indicating Professor Patel's progress toward the role of a "public intellectual."

Recent and Significant Publications:

- Patel, N. A. (2015). "Gandhi's Prophecy: Corporate Violence and A Mindful Law for Bhopal." *Connecticut Public Interest Law Journal*, 15(1) forthcoming.
- Patel, N. A. (2015). "Mindful Justice: The Search for Gandhi's Sympathetic State After Bhopal." *Social Justice Research*, 28(3), doi:10.1007/s11211-015-0245-7.
- Patel, N. A. (2015). "Why Lawyers Fear Love: Mohandas Gandhi's Significance to the Mindfulness in Law Movement." *British Journal of American Legal Studies*, 4(1).

- Patel, N. A. (2015). "Mindful Use: Gandhi's Non-Possessive Property Theory." *Seattle Journal for Social Justice*, 13(2).
- Patel, N. A. (2015). "'Renounce and Enjoy: The Pursuit of Happiness Through Gandhi's Simple Living and High Thinking,'" *Seattle Journal for Social Justice*, 13(2).
- Patel, N. A., Petlakh, K. (2014). "Gandhi's Nightmare: Bhopal and the Need For A Mindful Jurisprudence." *Harvard Journal on Racial and Ethnic Justice*, 30( ).
- Patel, Nehal A. Vella, L. (2013). "A Mindful Environmental Jurisprudence?: Speculations on the application of Gandhi's Thought to *MCWC v. Nestle*." *Pace Environmental Law Review*, 30(3) [<http://digitalcommons.pace.edu/pelt/vol30/iss3/5/>].
- Nielsen, L.B., Patel, N.A., Rosner, J. (2013). "'Ahead of the Lawmen: Law and Morality in Disney Animated Films 1960-1998.'" *Law, Culture and the Humanities*, published online before print, doi:10.1177/1743872113480868.
- Patel, N. A., Lilley, D., Marwell, G. (2013). "Family Life Cycle Revisited: Age and Life Course Effects on Church Attendance at "Conventional" and "Middle Age." *Journal of Religion and Society*, 15( ) [<http://moses.creighton.edu/jrs/2013/2013-4.pdf>].
- Patel, N. A. (2003) Note. "The State's Perpetual Protection of Adultery: Examining *Koestler v. Pollard* and Wisconsin's Faded Adultery Torts." *Wisconsin Law Review*, Issue 5.

Service: Professor Patel's service is rated as excellent. He is the director of the Law and Society Program and is working on a possible new major. Within the CJS program, he has worked on reorganizing the CJS program, changing requirements, changing courses, reassessing the use of adjunct faculty and conducting the HLC assessment of the program. Among many other activities, he has begun a faculty-staff "mindfulness" group on campus.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "Looking through Dr. Patel's publications, these synergies are evident. I believe there is room to further expand this line of analysis, bringing this burgeoning framework to bear on a range of current issues and challenges, thus indicating the present applicability of the Gandhian method. Expanding the work to a book-length project would be a natural evolution, as would honing the perspective into a symposium and/or edited volume bringing together similarly inclined scholars."

Reviewer B: "I anticipate that he will continue to apply his insights on complex (and often antagonistic) issues of the relation between law and morality, order and change, when to obey and when to disobey laws, and how to apply abstract legal arguments to real world events. He has also applied his insights broadly--Disney films, Bhopal disaster, life cycle and religious attendance, which shows that he can bridge various audiences and fields successfully."

Reviewer C: "Let me begin with focus. The word 'unique' is both overworked and misused. The application of this word to describe Prof. Patel's work, however, is both apt and accurate. Prof. Patel's systematic and comprehensive application of the ideas of Mohandas K. Gandhi to the field of jurisprudence and jurisprudence-related areas stands alone.[...] Prof. Patel's work is better written, is more persuasive, and has more potential to be accepted by both the academy and the [legal] profession."

Reviewer D: “Patel...weaves together a Gandhian critique of assumptions underlying Western legal thought, on one hand, and a careful exploration of an empirical case study on the other. At the risk of appearing hyperbolic, I think his approach is quite brilliant and demonstrates a significant way forward for serious efforts to bridge Western and Nonwestern thought.”

Reviewer E: “[Prof. Patel’s articles] make exceptional, outstanding contributions to Western literature on law and society. Each is monographic, more than a traditional research article, akin to a book in itself. [His application of Gandhi’s thought] offers Western scholars of law and society generally, and me particularly, a profound understanding of the limits of Western common-law principles of ‘justice’ and an alternative perspective on law, lawyering and the role of the state which transcends legal contradictions between promoting individual rights and serving the collective well-being of humanity as a whole and of the natural environment that sustains us.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Patel is a productive, brilliant and innovative scholar who is on a trajectory of providing a model to change U.S. jurisprudence. He is an outstanding teacher, an inspiring mentor, and is committed to the intellectual and scholarly growth of his students. His service activities are far more extensive than we expect from junior faculty. We are pleased to recommend, with strong support of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters Executive Committee, Nehal A.Patel for promotion to associate professor of sociology and criminal justice, 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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