

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

Pamela J. Aronson, associate professor of sociology, with tenure, Department of Behavioral Sciences, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, is recommended for promotion to professor of sociology, with tenure, Department of Behavioral Sciences, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.

Academic Degrees:

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| Ph.D. | 1998 | The University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN |
| M.A.  | 1995 | The University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN |
| B.A.  | 1990 | Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI  |

Professional Record:

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| 2010 – present | Associate Professor of Sociology (with tenure), Department of Behavioral Sciences, University of Michigan-Dearborn |
| 2005 – 2010    | Assistant Professor of Sociology, Department of Behavioral Sciences, University of Michigan-Dearborn               |

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Aronson's teaching is rated as excellent. She consistently earns high scores in her student evaluations, averaging above 4.5 in most of the significant categories. In all of her classes, she is recognized as highly knowledgeable while also earning high marks for her enthusiasm. She has been the primary instructor for all classes on the sociology of the family, including SOC 445 The Family and SOC 446 Marriage and Family Problems. She has also been a pioneer in the development of online courses, having offered SOC 445 in online format since 2010. She is currently updating this online course, while also developing SOC 200 Understanding Society (the program's major introductory course) as an online course. She consistently incorporates new pedagogical approaches and is actively involved in discussions about teaching methods, both on and off campus. By all accounts, she is a caring and careful teacher.

Research: Professor Aronson is rated significantly capable in research. Her research is widely cited and recognized by her peers in Women's Studies and the Sociology of Gender, Family and the Life Course. Following the publication in 2003 and 2008 of two articles (subsequently reprinted and/or translated into other languages) in the top journal in women's studies, *Gender & Society*, she commenced a new research agenda focused on the experience of traditional and non-traditional college students in the Great Recession. This innovative research has already yielded a number of peer-reviewed publications, and she is in the process of turning it into a book. This work promises to produce substantial insights into the experiences and consequences of higher education for people of varying social backgrounds. In all of her work, much of it sole-authored, Professor Aronson is an extremely meticulous researcher who also collaborates actively with both colleagues and students.

Professor Aronson is also a true teacher-scholar, incorporating students into her research, collaborating with them, and working to develop their research skills. Several of her external reviewers comment on the extent and success of her efforts to involve students in her research, with one observing that they had never seen such a high-quality research agenda combined with such extensive student involvement at a primarily undergraduate state university.

#### Recent and Significant Publications:

- Aronson, Pamela. (forthcoming). "Contradictions in the American Dream: High Educational Aspirations and Perceptions of Collapsing Institutions." *International Journal of Psychology*.
- Aronson, Pamela (in press) "'I've Learned to Love What's Going to Pay Me:' A Culture of Despair in Higher Education during a Time of Insecurity." *Critical Sociology*.
- Aronson, Pamela, Thomas Callahan and Timothy Davis. (2015) "The Transition to Adulthood during the Great Recession: Employment, Financial and Identity Challenges." *Journal of Youth Studies*, Vol. 18, No. 9, 1097-1118.
- Aronson, Pamela and Ivy Forsythe-Brown. Forthcoming. "'The Scarf on My Head is Not Oppressing Me. I Can Become Who I Want:' The College Experience for Arab American Women in the U.S." Gender and Youth Migration: A Global Survey, edited by Glenda Tibe Bonifacio. Palgrave Macmillan.
- Aronson, Pamela (in press). "The Dynamics and Causes of Gender and Feminist Consciousness and Feminist Identities." The Oxford Handbook of U.S. Women's Social Movement Activism, edited by Holly McCammon, Lee Ann Banaszak, Verta Taylor and Jo Reger. Oxford University Press.
- Aronson, Pamela, and Jeylan T. Mortimer (in press) "Moving Ahead, Drifting, and Scaling Back: Gender and Parenthood in Career Development." Crossings to Adulthood: How Diverse Young Americans Understand and Navigate their Lives, edited by Teresa Toguchi Swartz, Douglas Hartmann, and Ruben Rumbaut. Brill Publishers.
- Aronson, Pamela and Jeylan T. Mortimer. (2013). "Subjective Preferences vs. Objective Realities: Voices of Full- and Part-Time Employed Mothers." Pp. 185-212 in *Contemporary Perspectives in Family Research: Visions of the 21st Century Family: Transforming Structures and Identities*, edited by Patricia Neff Claster and Sampson Lee Blair. United Kingdom: Emerald Books.
- Aronson, Pamela. (2008). "The Markers and Meanings of Growing Up: Contemporary Young Women's Transition from Adolescence to Adulthood." *Gender & Society*, 22, 1, February: 56-82.
- Aronson, Pamela. 2003. "Feminists or 'Postfeminists?': Young Women's Attitudes Toward Feminism and Gender Relations." *Gender & Society*, 17, 6, December: 903-922.

Service: Professor Aronson is rated excellent in service. She has served as discipline coordinator, has been a very active mentor of her junior colleagues, and is currently serving as the chair of a search committee for a Lecturer III position in sociology. With the retirements of four senior colleagues in recent years, she has stepped up to play a key role in discipline work, taking on many of the tasks, particularly with regard to searches and reviews of untenured faculty, that these retired faculty had previously handled. She has served on the Department Grievance Committee, in a period when a grievance was processed and a hearing was required. She has served the college through her participation on the Task Force on Promotion and Tenure Guidelines, and she has served the university through the Faculty Mentoring and Development Committee of the Faculty Senate. In all of these areas, she is recognized for her diligent attention to detail and her positive relationships with colleagues. Professor Aronson has also been very active in service to her profession, particularly through her work as a manuscript reviewer for journals.

#### External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "Aronson has established herself as a mature, professional sociologist of gender and the life course, and a leader in the important and emerging field of transitions to adulthood."

Reviewer B: “Her recent publications also include a theoretical piece interrogating the concepts of gender consciousness, feminist consciousness, and feminist identity, which I found very interesting and highly original in its arguments. I note these specifics because they reveal the diverse scholarly skills and domains of expertise encompassed in Dr. Aronson’s work.”

Reviewer C: “Her work is empirically strong, the subject matter is important, and her contributions are innovative. Given the substantial pace of the research over the last few years, the prospect of an ongoing and significant research trajectory is quite strong.”


Reviewer D: “In sum, Dr. Pamela Aronson’s scholarship is that of a senior scholar engaged in a multi-study research agenda that has been published in peer review journals, edited volumes and research reports.”

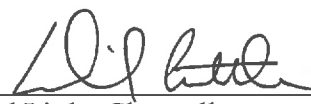
Reviewer E: “In summary, as I’ve shown in my discussion of each of them, all of these papers make important contributions that advance our understanding of gender, orientation to work and family, experiences of college students during the Great Recession, emerging adulthood and the experiences of Arab American college students. All are high-quality contributions.”

Reviewer F: “There are, of course, other sociologists at undergraduate-oriented state universities who continue to be productive researchers as well as excellent teachers, but I cannot think of a single one who has so consistently and successfully pursued an important research agenda of their own while also making the students so large and effective a part in the research process. Professor Aronson is clearly not only an outstanding qualitative researcher of the interview-centered (rather than ethnographic) variety, she is remarkably effective in imparting both the analytic skills and the substantive curiosity that drive her also to her undergraduates.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Aronson has made significant contributions to the field of Women’s Studies, and the Sociology of Gender, Family, and the Life Course. She is a well-liked and highly rated teacher who actively involves her students in research and service activities. She has a demonstrated commitment to service, evident in her contributions to the committees of which she has been a member, as well as her mentoring activities. We are very pleased to recommend, with strong support of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters Executive Committee, Pamela J. Aronson for promotion to professor of sociology, with tenure, Department of Behavioral Sciences, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.

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

  
Daniel Little, Chancellor  
University of Michigan-Dearborn