

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan-Flint
College of Arts and Sciences
Department of Geography, Planning, and Environment

Victoria C. Morckel, assistant professor of geography, planning, and environment, Department of Geography, Planning, and Environment, College of Arts and Sciences, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of geography, planning, and environment, with tenure, Department of Geography, Planning, and Environment, College of Arts and Sciences.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2012	Ohio State University, Columbus
M.C.R.P.	2011	Ohio State University, Columbus
B.S.	2008	Youngstown State University, Ohio

Professional Record:

2012 – Present	Assistant Professor of Geography, Planning, and Environment, University of Michigan-Flint, Michigan
2012 – Present	Social Studies Teacher's Certificate Program Coordinator, University of Michigan-Flint, Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Morckel has established herself as an excellent teacher who is innovative in her pedagogy, attentive to student needs, and involves her students in many of her research projects. Professor Morckel's goal is to engage students both inside and outside of the classroom so that they can apply the central concepts of urban and regional planning to their understanding of how cities' land use decisions contribute to the environmental problems that her students initially often care more about. Professor Morckel sets high standards for herself and for her students with the result being enhanced learning as testified by her extremely high scores on her student evaluations, and the praise for her content mastery and pedagogical content knowledge by her peers. Professor Morckel is accessible and approachable and responds to individual students in a timely manner which is no small feat as Professor Morckel averages over 100 appointments per year, many of which are for the Social Studies TCP program. Finally, as a central component of her teaching philosophy, Professor Morckel is committed to student research and has mentored 18 research assistants and has provided engaged learning opportunities in the Flint community.

Research – Professor Morckel has demonstrated a robust and committed research agenda which is impressive. As a community development specialist who is deeply concerned with the challenges facing cities and communities experiencing population loss, Professor Morckel has been instrumental in shifting the dominant growth oriented paradigm within urban planning to that of managing change, including the loss of population. With 11 peer reviewed journal articles since her arrival at the University of Michigan-Flint, nine peer-reviewed conference presentations, and nine peer-reviewed conference presentation since 2011, Professor Morckel has clearly established herself as an influential voice in this paradigm shift. A powerful indicator of Professor Morckel's impact is the fact that every external reviewer noted the contribution her work which appears in many of the leading journals on her field. When asked to identify which paper has had the most significant influence, it is equally impressive that

many of the reviewers identified different papers underscoring the broad range of expertise and innovation that Professor Morckel brings to her field. In sum, Professor Morckel has established an outstanding record of scholarship.

Recent and Significant Scholarly Activity:

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- Morckel, V. C. (2016). "Using Suitability Analysis to Prioritize Demotions in a Legacy City." *Urban Geography*. doi: 10.1080/02723638.2016.1147756 (*published online ahead of print*).
- Terzano, K. and Morckel, V. C. (2016). "SimCity in the Community Planning Classroom: Effects on Student Knowledge, Interests, and Perceptions of the Discipline of Planning." *Journal of Planning Education and Research*. doi: 10.1177/0739456X16628959 (*published online ahead of print*).
- Morckel, V. C. (2016). "Examining the Relationships Between Perceived Neighborhood Mobility Characteristics, Perceived Incivilities, Travel Attitudes, and Physical Activity Amongst University Faculty and Staff." *Journal of Transport and Health*, 3, 86-95. doi: 10.1016/j.jth.2016.01.004.
- Morckel, V. C. (2015). "Community Gardens or Vacant Lots?: Rethinking the Attractiveness and Seasonality of Green Land Uses in Distressed Neighborhoods." *Urban Forestry and Urban Greening*, 14(3), 714-721. doi: 10.1016/j.ufug.2015.07.001.
- Morckel, V. C. and Rybarczyk, G. (2015). "Improving Downtown in a Mid-Sized Legacy City: Examining Responses to Potential Downtown Improvements in Flint, Michigan." *Community Development*, 46(4), 341-360. doi: 10.1080/1575330.2015.1061679.
- Morckel, V. C. (2015). "Does the House or Neighborhood Matter More? Predicting Abandoned Housing Using Multilevel Models." *Cityscape: A Journal of Policy Development and Research*, 17(1), 61-69.
- Morckel, V. C. (2014). "Predicting Abandoned Housing: Does the Operational Definition of Abandonment Matter?" *Community Development*, 45(2), 121-133. doi: 10.1080/15575330.2014.892019.
- Morckel, V. C. (2014). "Spatial Characteristics of Housing Abandonment." *Applied Geography*, 48, 8-16. doi: 10.1016/j.apgeog.2014.01.001.
- Morckel, V. C. and Terzano, K. (2014). "The Influence of Travel Attitudes, Commute Mode Choice, and Perceived Neighborhood Characteristics on Physical Activity." *Journal of Physical Activity and Health*, 11(1), 91-98. doi: 10.1123/jpah.2011-0299.
- Morckel, V. C. (2014). "The Four Components and Six Essential Pairs: A Framework for Neighborhood Revitalization." *Planning Theory and Practice*, 15(2), 276-281. doi: 10.1080/14649357.2014.902910.

Conference Presentations

- Morckel, V. C. (forthcoming 2016). "Patronage and Access to a Legacy City Farmer's Market: A Case Study of the Relocation of the Flint, Michigan Market." Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning 56th Annual Conference, Portland, Oregon.
- Morckel, V. C. and Mattern, P. (2016). "Naturalization After Demotion: Using Suitability Analysis to Determine Where to Implement Green Land Uses in a Legacy City." International Symposium on Society and Resource Management, Houghton, Michigan. [*Mattern is a UM-Flint undergraduate student.*]
- Morckel, V. C. (2015). "Creating a Strategic Demolition Plan for Youngstown, Ohio." Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning 55th Annual Conference, Houston, Texas.

- Terzano, K. and Morckel, V. C. (2015). "SimCity in the Classroom: Examining Gaming Software's Influence on Students' Perceptions of the Field of Planning." Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning 55th Annual Conference, Houston, Texas.
- Morckel, V. C. and Rybarczyk, G. (2014). "Improving Downtown in a Shrinking City: A Case Study of Flint, Michigan." Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning 54th Annual Conference, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
- Morckel, V. C. (2014). "Rethinking Space: Community Graden Design in Shrinking Cities." Environmental Design Research Association (EDRA 45), New Orleans, Louisiana.

Service – In addition to participating in a faculty search, presenting at the college's academic honors ceremonies, attending Council of Chairs meetings, and organizing special events for her department's majors, Professor Morckel led the efforts to capitalize on the expertise of newer faculty in the department and bring the curriculum of the Department of Geography, Planning, and Environment into the 21st century. Professor Morckel has also organized a streamlined internship program for the department that in the three years since its establishment, has placed over 30 students in a variety of community organizations. Regarding her service to the college, Professor Morckel has served on the Spring 2015 Interim Committee and as a one-semester replacement on the college's Curriculum Committee (Winter 2016). Professor Morckel's most outstanding service accomplishment in the college has been her role in turning around the social studies teacher certificate program. After redesigning the curriculum and stewarding the proposal through the approval process in the fall of 2013, the result has been a dramatic improvement of our teacher candidate's performance.

Finally, Professor Morckel has provided exemplary service to her professional community and to the city of Flint. As an active member of her professional community, Professor Morckel has reviewed dozens of manuscripts for seven peer-reviewed journals, served as a reviewer for the Israel Science Foundation and has written numerous book reviews. As a community development specialist, it is not surprising that Professor Morckel would be involved with her community. However, the depth of her engagement is extraordinary. Professor Morckel has been actively involved in the creation and implementation of Flint's Master Plan since 2012 by serving on the Housing Advisory Committee of the Infrastructure and Community Facilities Task Group, and was a member of the university's Impact Circle. Professor Morckel has also committed her time and talents to the Building Neighborhood Capacity Program (BNCP) that empowers local communities to develop and obtain the tools and resources necessary to transform neighborhoods of concentrated poverty into neighborhoods of opportunity.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A): "In terms of her research design and execution, Dr. Morckel's main and important contribution to this body of scholarship is methodological – she has advanced our understanding of abandonment through a multi-faceted application of special statistics and sophisticated multi-level models enabled by geo-referenced data and the power of GIS... Importantly, Morckel's work is policy relevant in that she has isolated variables that can help policy makers understand housing abandonment and the vulnerabilities of their communities."

Reviewer (B): "One of the impressive aspects of Dr. Morckel's research record is the degree of theoretical and substantive coherence... In sum, Dr. Morckel is establishing a name for herself with her scholarship. As an assistant professor, she has been productive and impactful... Not only has she produced a substantial body of scholarly work, she has many items in the pipeline. With this promising research agenda, it is safe to assume that she will remain a productive scholar."

Reviewer (C): “Foremost, Professor Morckel should be complimented on the outstanding quantity, quality, focus and scholarly impact of her research. The volume of peer-referred publications is exemplary, especially at an institution with such demanding teaching and advising responsibilities... In summary, Professor Morckel’s excellent scholarship, assessed in terms of its volume, quality and impact, would place her in the top-tier of her cohort in the urban planning field.”

Reviewer (D): “Collectively, her scholarship contributed to planning in two important ways. First, it demonstrates that planning practice can and should be informed by empirical data analysis... Second, it underscores the ethic that citizen voices matter and must be considered in planning.”

Reviewer (E): “Given Dr. Morckel’s teaching and advising responsibilities, it is my assessment that her productivity while serving as an Assistant Professor at UM-Flint has been extraordinary... It is my judgement that her accomplishments to date have been excellent and that she holds great promise for the future... While not all of her research hews to those themes, I personally find the full breadth of her work to be fascinating, addressing a range of important topics on the urban condition. Her ability to take on projects outside a single, narrow scope is a plus for me!”

Reviewer (F): “I find Dr. Morckel’s publications to be clear and focused. She succinctly frames the issue at hand and provides appropriate background information... I appreciate the straight-forward description of her methods and the rationale for her data collection procedures... Her discussion of findings and conclusions are strong, which is not the case in many statistically-driven research papers I read. I especially appreciated her consistent attention to the implications of her work may have on planning practice.”

Reviewer (G): “Professor Morckel’s scholarship has been recognized for its quality. Her paper in *Housing Policy Debate* was recognized by the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (ACSP) with an award... This award reflects the quality of Professor Morckel’s research... Professor Morckel’s vita lists many examples and substantial evidence of contributions to our discipline. She has presented regularly at conferences of the ACSP, reviewed manuscripts for a number of journals, and twice helped to facilitate conference programs. In addition to these activities, and, from my perspective, equally important, Professor Morckel is clearly very engaged in public service in Flint and elsewhere... Professor Morckel has demonstrated the capacity to contribute to our discipline in a variety of ways, and her efforts are to be commended.”

Reviewer (H): “...I evaluate Victoria Morckel as a highly motivated scholar, showing an exceptional level of quality and excellence in her work, and applying outstanding methodological and analytical standards in her research... I rank Victoria Morckel’s standing extremely high in relation to her peers. She definitely has an impact in the field, which also results from her teaching.”

Reviewer (I): “I have no hesitation in judging one of Dr. Morckel’s publications, ‘Empty Neighborhoods: Using Constructs to Predict the Probability of Housing Abandonment,’ to be outstanding. In it, she makes a case for unpacking the concept of an abandoned house... She hypothesizes that abandonment can be seen as a combination of four constructs, (market conditions, physical neglect, socioeconomic conditions and financial neglect), each with measurable variables, and easily accessible sources of data. This by itself would be a valuable contribution to the field.”

Reviewer (J): “Dr. Morckel’s portfolio was particularly impressive given the number and quality of publications her research appeared in this early in her career. She has published in several of the top planning and urban affairs journals... By publishing in a broad spectrum of journals, Dr. Morckel has

elevated her visibility to an interdisciplinary and international audience... She has demonstrated her ability to conduct sound, impactful research and there is clear evidence of intellectual growth in her work. Her publications have appeared in highly respected journals and been cited by leading scholars in her discipline.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Morckel is an urban planning expert who specializes in the areas of land use, community development, population loss, legacy cities, and spatial analysis. She is an outstanding teacher who engages her students both inside and outside of the classroom to enhance their learning. Regarding her scholarship, every external reviewer noted how impressive her record was in terms of both quantity and quality and that she has made (and will continue to make) significant contributions to her field. Finally, Professor Morckel’s record of service to her department, college, university, profession, and community is equally stellar. Perhaps most impressive is how Professor Morckel has been able to integrate these activities. Through her substantive engagement with her community, Professor Morckel remains current in her field and parlays the experiences and insights gained from her work with the community to her classrooms. Not only has her community work led to internships for her students, they have also generated new directions for her scholarship. The departmental review committee, the College Executive Committee, and I unanimously believe that she has exceeded the thresholds for tenure and promotion. With enthusiasm and great pride, I recommend that Victoria C. Morckel be promoted to associate professor of geography, planning, and environment, Department of Geography, Planning, and Environment, College of Arts and Sciences.

Recommended by:

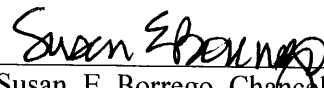


Susan Gano-Phillips, Dean
College of Arts and Sciences

Recommendation endorsed by:



Douglas G. Knerr, Provost and
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs



Susan E. Borrego, Chancellor
University of Michigan-Flint

May 2017