

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION  
The University of Michigan  
School of Social Work

Brian E. Perron, associate professor of social work, with tenure, School of Social Work, is recommended for promotion to professor of social work, with tenure, School of Social Work.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2007	Social Work, Washington University, St. Louis, MO
M.S.	1998	Social Work, University of Wisconsin, Madison, WI
B.S.	1995	Psychology, The College of St. Scholastica, Duluth, MN

Professional Record:

2015– present	Co-Director, Child & Adolescent Data Lab, School of Social Work, University of Michigan
2011– present	Associate Professor (with tenure), School of Social Work, University of Michigan
2007 – 2011	Assistant Professor, School of Social Work, University of Michigan
2008 – 2015	Research Scientist, Heath Services, Research and Development, Department of Veterans Affairs

Summary of Evaluation

Teaching: Professor Perron has an excellent and creative teaching record. He primarily teaches social work professional practice courses that are integral to the MSW degree program. In the classroom, he has received strong student evaluations, reflected in overall high course ratings and many laudatory comments. Student comments reflect favorably on his commitment to and success in delivering educational experiences that are challenging and applicable to professional practice. Since promotion to the rank of associate professor, he has taught two different classes: SW606: Mental Health and Mental Disorders in Adulthood, and SW698: Social Work Practice in Mental Health. Professor Perron's teaching effectiveness is particularly noteworthy given that, historically, this required class, SW698, has been problematic for previous faculty to teach. However, Professor Perron's teaching evaluations provide evidence of considerable success and reflect well on his ability to engage and optimize the professional students' learning experiences. In addition, Professor Perron's teaching is innovative in a number of ways. He has created "flipped classrooms" for his courses, using pre-recorded lectures and an online forum for delivering and clarifying content. Classroom time for these courses is focused on interactive, practice-based activities.

Professor Perron is an active and dedicated mentor for students at the doctoral, master and bachelor levels. At the doctoral level, he frequently publishes with students, resulting in over 20 publications that include doctoral students as co-authors and has ten articles co-authored with M.S.W. students. He teaches well-attended and favorably evaluated workshops focusing on successful publication practices. He stays actively involved with advisees, giving particular attention to those who are experiencing challenges that could limit success in the program and in

helping them to secure professional employment upon completion of the program. His scholarship includes significant contributions of educationally relevant textbooks, including an introductory text that is in use in our curriculum.

Research: Professor Perron has chosen areas of research that are highly significant for their theoretical and practical impact and align with core values of the profession. His research focuses on behavioral health, particularly psychiatric and substance use epidemiology of youth and adults. Youth and young adulthood are the developmental periods when behavioral health disorders are most likely to begin, thus Professor Perron's research has powerful implications for prevention and health services for these disorders.

An impressive aspect of Professor Perron's work is the breadth and sophistication of his research methods. Professor Perron is also a creative and prolific research methodologist whose work contributes to better knowledge and better technologies for social work research. With his increasing emphasis on "big data" analysis, and his work in creating the Child and Adolescent Data Lab. Professor Perron's current work is laying the groundwork for new areas of inquiry and new tools for social work science. He is adept at analyzing primary and secondary data and large administrative data sets and applies extremely innovative analytic techniques and technologies such as scientometrics and tools to conduct this kind of research.

Professor Perron has published 30 articles, seven book chapters, two encyclopedia entries, two books, one edited volume and one software tool since his last promotion. Of these, nine of the articles and five of the chapters were first authored. He also authored two books (one as first author and one as second author) and edited one book since 2011.

A very strong indicator of the impact of Professor Perron's work is the extent to which others cite it. His work has been cited over 2,500 times by other scholars and 90% of these occurred since his last promotion. He had the highest impact rating for associate professors among fellows of a national social work research organization (using the h-index) and his rating was almost twice as high as full professors. Since obtaining tenure, Professor Perron has successfully obtained funding from foundation and state government grants. These funding sources provide an effective means to maximize the use of several large and complex datasets and to explore topic areas that, while highly relevant to social welfare practice and service delivery, are typically under-studied.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Perron, B. E., Victor, B. G., Hodge, D. R., Salas-Wright, C. P., Vaughn, M. G. & Taylor, R. J. (2016). Laying the foundations for scientometric research: A data science approach. *Research on Social Work Practice. Sage Journals.*

Perron, B. E., Ahmendani, B. K., Vaughn, M. G., Glass, J., Abdon, A., & Wu, L. (2012). Use of saliva divinorum in a nationally representative sample. *American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse*, 38(1), 108-113.

Perron, B. E., Bonhert, K., Perone, A. K., Bonn-Miller, M. O., & Ilgen, M. (2015). Use of pain medications among medical cannabis patients: Comparisons of pain levels, functioning, and patterns of alcohol and other drug use. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs*, 76(3), 406-413.

- Ryan, J. P., Perron, B. E., & Huang, H. (2016). Child welfare and the transition to adulthood: Investigating placement status and subsequent arrests. *Journal of Youth and Adolescence*, 45(1), 172-182.
- Glass, J. E., Hamilton, A. M., Powell, B. J., Perron, B. E., Brown, R. T., & Ilgen, M. A. (2015). Specialty substance use disorders services following brief alcohol intervention: a randomized controlled trials. *Addiction*, 111(1), 181-183.
- Perron, B. E., & Gillespie, D. F. (2015). Key Concepts in Measurement. New York: Oxford Press.

Service: Professor Perron provides excellent service to the School of Social Work, the University of Michigan, and the broader professional community. At the school level, he has served and demonstrated leadership on important UM SSW committees including the Dean's Search Committee, Promotion and Tenure Committee and the Doctoral Committee. This academic year, he chairs the Faculty Search Committee that is recruiting and evaluating candidates for seven different faculty positions. Within the broader university community, Professor Perron's interdisciplinary affiliations with the Michigan Data Science Center (MIDAS), demonstrates his service contributions as both valued and significant. Professor Perron's considerable service contributions in the areas of editorial board memberships and his work as a reviewer for a variety of journals reflect exceedingly well on his service to the broader field of social work.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "I believe he would be an outstanding candidate for promotion and tenure at our institution."

Reviewer B: "His primary data collection and analysis of prescription pain medication among medical cannabis patients is also of great interest. As medical (and nonmedical) cannabis use takes on greater prominence, the interactions between cannabis and other forms of substance use will take on greater prominence. ... I regard Dr. Perron as a highly energetic and productive scholar. He has authored or co-authored a large number of publications, demonstrating an ability to construct a range of effective collaborations ..."

Reviewer C: "Without a doubt, in my estimation, Dr. Perron would meet the requirements for promotion to full professor with tenure at my institution or, in my opinion, at any school of social work."

Reviewer D: "I believe Dr. Perron to be a strong candidate for promotion to full professor. His work to date would more than meet standards of our school in my opinion. More importantly, his trajectory to this point has him in a position to continue and expand his productivity as a senior faculty member."

Reviewer E: "Based on his proven track record in research, teaching and service, it is my opinion that he deserves to be promoted to full professor."

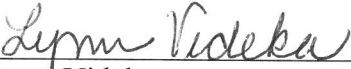
Reviewer F: "'Validity' [book chapter] was enjoyable and thought provoking to me. ... [H]e is a serious, committed, and enthusiastic academic, who has amply demonstrated that he deserves

promotion to the rank of Professor, and this in any major university in North America.”

Reviewer G: “[H]is emerging work on data science is both extremely important and innovative in social work research. ... Overall, Dr. Perron’s dossier is consistent with that of a full professor at a major research university.”

Reviewer H: “[M]any of his articles appear in the most respected journals in medicine, psychiatry, and social work and have high impact factors. His articles are heavily cited and his citations are increasing in frequency. His work has been supported by over \$2 million dollars in grants.”

Summary of Recommendation: Professor Perron has chosen areas of research that are highly significant for their theoretical and practical impact on behavioral health. His methodological sophistication and application of technology to advance social work science is important to the future of the field. His research aligns with core values and purpose of the social work profession. He is an excellent teacher and mentor and is a leader who contributes both external and internal service. It is with the support of the School of Social Work Executive Committee that I recommend Brian E. Perron for promotion to professor of social work, with tenure, School of Social Work.

  
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Lynn Videka  
Dean, School of Social Work

May 2017