

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning

Kimberley A. Kinder, assistant professor of urban and regional planning, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of urban and regional planning, with tenure, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2011	University of California, Berkeley
M.S.	2005	University of Oxford, United Kingdom
M.U.D.	2005	Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA
B.Arch.	2004	Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA

Professional Record:

2014 – Present	Assistant Professor of Urban and Regional Planning, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan
2011 – 2014	Post-doctoral Fellow, Michigan Society of Fellows, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Kinder has made important contributions to teaching at Taubman College. Her interdisciplinary background as a geographer, architect, and urban designer in a planning program informs her approach. Professor Kinder's syllabi incorporate a breadth of readings from anthropology, history, and geography into the urban and regional planning context which brings an analytical depth and rigor to the urban planning approach to pedagogy. Her teaching is well received by her students whose course evaluations and student letters are consistently, enthusiastically positive about Professor Kinder's flexible, innovative, and engaging teaching approaches. Qualities of passion, inspiration, accessibility, and professionalism are all characteristics mentioned by her students. They also note her teaching style is rigorous, theory-centric, multidisciplinary, and engaged both in and outside the classroom. Professor Kinder's unique approach is a distinct asset to the college, particularly in its connections to Detroit. She has been instrumental in the development of a new certificate program and course curriculum related to her work on Detroit. The Graduate Certificate Program in Healthy Cities, an initiative which Professor Kinder spearheaded, represents an important teaching contribution on her part and makes a substantial contribution to the academic offerings of the Urban and Regional Planning Program.

Research: Professor Kinder researches cultural geography and informal urbanism to illuminate the roles of individuals and actor networks—as distinct from governments, developers, and other formal actors—in transforming the urban environment. In a variety of contexts, from Amsterdam waterfronts to Detroit neighborhoods to East Dearborn's Arab Muslim ethnic enclave, she uncovers the roles of the multidimensional transformations that people make to their environment. In some cases, these transformations were central to the transition of post-industrial landscapes to territory for formal investment; in others, they represent attempts of individuals and households to stabilize neighborhoods in the face of disinvestment and a paucity of public services. The work is published in sole-authored, peer-reviewed articles and, notably, books. Professor Kinder has published two books in high-visibility university presses. The Politics of Urban Water: Changing Waterscapes in Amsterdam (University of Georgia Press 2015) addresses the transition of post-industrial landscapes to territory for formal investment. DIY Detroit: Making Do in a City without Services (University of

Minnesota Press 2016) shows how individuals and households stabilize neighborhoods in the face of disinvestment and municipal failure.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Kinder, K. (2016). DIY Detroit: Making Do in a City without Services. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Kinder, K. (2015). The Politics of Urban Water: Changing Waterscapes in Amsterdam. Athens, GA: University of Georgia Press.

Kinder, K. (2014). Guerrilla-Style Defensive Architecture in Detroit: A Self-Provisioned Security Strategy in a Neoliberal Space of Disinvestment. *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, 38(5), 1767-1784.

Kinder, K. (2011). Planning by Intermediaries: Making Cities Make Nature in Amsterdam. *Environment and Planning A*, 43(10), 2435–2451.

Service: Professor Kinder has served the interests of the Urban and Regional Planning Program, the college, the university, and the larger scholarly and professional world. For the program and the college, she has participated on research and admissions committees, as well as a faculty search committee and in student-advisory capacities. At the university, she has reviewed grant applications for the Office of Research as well as participated on the Distinguished Dissertation Award Review Committee. In service to the profession, she is a reviewer for several journals and publishers including *Antipode*, the *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*, *Sustainable Cities and Society*, the *Journal of Economic and Social Geography*, *Policy Press*, *University of Pittsburgh Press*, and *Routledge*. Professor Kinder has also participated in proposing and running a Michigan Meeting (which garnered \$50,000 in funding) on “Learning from Detroit: Turbulent Urbanism in the 21st Century.” This meeting was a major event and central to the Detroit-school mission of the cluster hires, and Professor Kinder was a leader in the effort.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: “Dr. Kinder has clearly established herself as an expert in a vital, often under-represented area of urban research that focuses on the important role that local people play in planning, building, and shaping our cities.”

Reviewer B: “Professor Kinder is a dedicated scholar with a clear research agenda and applies herself diligently and steadily to it. In my estimation, *DIY Detroit* (2016) is...a very good book...and anyone who wants to know about shrinking cities in the U.S. needs to read this book.”

Reviewer C: “...Professor Kinder is a gifted [junior] scholar. I think that her work bridges several disciplines but has a nuance and depth of expertise that is impressive. I think [*DIY Detroit*] is the most compelling scholarly book about Detroit written in the last decade.”

Reviewer D: “...Kinder brings to the design literature the much needed critical geography insights about the multi-scalar political economy forces shaping contemporary urban disenfranchisement. It will be good to have a rigorous, senior colleague like Kim Kinder to search for ways forward because we need her ethically considered, empirical investigations.”

Reviewer E: “Professor Kinder’s work is first-rate, clear, valuable, and on par with the best scholars working in these spaces...Kinder’s work is recognized and admired in the academic community, and it contains valuable lessons for planners, architects and urban designers. She has clearly been a very productive [junior] scholar, and I regard her as a thought-leader.”

Reviewer F: “...DIY Detroit (2016)...is an outstanding and detailed account of guerilla self-provisioning strategies in Detroit. The book has been well-received. In terms of her scholarship, she is on track for a very influential academic career.”

Reviewer G: “...Professor Kinder is a skilled, productive, intellectually talented, and ambitious researcher...the quality of Professor Kinder’s work is extremely high, the peer assessments of her work are high, and the productivity level as well as demonstrated knowledge of theory is also very high.”

Reviewer H: “Kinder’s research quality and productivity definitely place her within the top ranks of urban planning and geography scholars at her career stage. She has published two books, both of which are theoretically innovative, nicely crafted, and empirically well-grounded in qualitative analysis.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Kinder is an accomplished researcher and scholar who has made significant contributions to the role of cultural geography and informal urbanism to illuminate the roles of individuals and actor networks in transforming the urban environment. She effectively brings an intelligent, innovative and strategic approach to her teaching and has provided service to the college and profession. It is with the support of the Taubman College Promotion and Tenure Committee and the Executive Committee that I recommend Kimberley A. Kinder for promotion to associate professor of urban and regional planning, with tenure, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning.



Jonathan Massey
Dean and Professor
A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning

May 2018