

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Sara I. McClelland, assistant professor of women's studies, and assistant professor of psychology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of women's studies, with tenure, and associate professor of psychology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2009	City University of New York
M.A.	2006	City University of New York
M.A.	1998	California Institute of Integral Studies
B.A.	1992	Brandeis University

Professional Record:

2012 – present	Assistant Professor, Department of Women's Studies and Department of Psychology, University of Michigan
2009 – 2012	Post-doctoral Fellow, Society of Fellows, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor McClelland is an accomplished and impressive teacher who has taught small seminars and large lecture courses on gender, psychology, and health-related topics to undergraduate students as well as required graduate courses on feminist theory and methods. Student evaluations have given her consistently high ratings with outstanding comments. Moreover, Professor McClelland is an extremely generous mentor and has successfully led graduate job search and career workshops in both of her departments. She is a recipient of the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) Outstanding Research Mentor award.

Research – Professor McClelland's scholarship examines people's experiences with intimate sexual relationships. She is a highly productive scholar who has a total of 41 publications, with nineteen journal articles published since her tenure track appointment began in 2012. Professor McClelland's research makes important theoretical contributions to how we conceptualize sexual satisfaction and provides innovative methodological approaches for assessing and understanding sexual experiences. Her research program is grounded in sophisticated interdisciplinary approaches to scholarship and epistemology. She is a deeply interdisciplinary scholar who has made bold and significant contributions to our understanding of sexual experiences and promises to have a continuing strong impact in her fields.

Recent and Significant Publications:

- “Conceptual disruption: The self-anchored ladder in critical feminist research,” *Psychology of Women Quarterly*, 2017, online first at <https://doi.org/10.1177/0361684317725985>.
- “Adapting to injustice: Young bisexual women's interpretations of microaggressions,” with J. D. Rubin and J. A. Bauermeister, *Psychology of Women Quarterly*, 40(4), 2016, pp. 532-550.
- “Toward better measurement: The role of survey marginalia in critical sexuality research,” with K. J. Holland, *Qualitative Psychology*, 3(2), 2016, pp. 166-185.

“What do you mean when you say that you’re sexually satisfied? A mixed methods study,”
Feminism & Psychology, 24(1), 2014, pp. 74-96.

Service – Professor McClelland has made significant and commendable service contributions to her departments within the university and at a national level. In Women’s Studies, she has served as an Executive Committee member, a co-coordinator of the Spring Symposium, and as a member of the Undergraduate Committee, the Graduate Certificate Advisory Committee, and the Faculty Annual Merit Review Committee. In Psychology, she has served as the liaison to the Women’s Studies Doctoral Programs Committee, chaired graduate admissions for the Gender and Feminist Psychology area, coordinated the area’s brown bag and colloquium series, and served on the Faculty Awards Committee. At the national level, Professor McClelland has served on the editorial boards of three journals and on special task forces for two professional psychological societies.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“...Dr[.] McClelland therefore manages a tricky dual task: to do excellent work relevant both to the local (US) context, where she pushes the boundaries of established approaches, and to the wider scholarly communities she is part of, which sometimes utilise radically different theoretical and methodological approaches.”

Reviewer (B)

“The quality of Dr. McClelland’s scholarship is extraordinary, which is an adjective I use infrequently and only when truly warranted, and I believe it is in her case. Dr. McClelland’s program of research examines women’s meanings and expressions of intimacy and sexuality throughout the lifespan. Using qualitative methods of inquiry, Dr. McClelland explores the subjective meanings of core concepts in health psychology and sexuality research—desire, pleasure, satisfaction—from an intersectional, feminist perspective.”

Reviewer (C)

“One of the most impressive aspects of Dr. McClelland’s work is her ability to speak across disciplinary boundaries and to actually bring these different audiences together. Instead of simply putting on ‘different hats’ for different publications, she adopts an authentically interdisciplinary writing style that...successfully ‘introduces’ critical feminist theory to conventional psychologists while also... ‘introducing’ psychological theory and methods to feminist theorists.”

Reviewer (D)

“Professor McClelland is recognized internationally as an expert in the feminist psychology of sexuality, with particular contributions to the literature on women’s sexual health and pleasure, young people’s sexual development and sexuality education, and methodological and conceptual concerns in the study of gender and sexuality.”

Reviewer (E)

“...Professor McClelland has been incredibly productive. She has published in some of the top journals in sexuality and gender studies. Her research is innovative and provocative; she

publishes thought-provoking articles that make me reexamine how I think about things. She has received recognition for her research, teaching, and service.”

Reviewer (F)

“My overall impression has been that McClelland is a serious scholar with an independent mind; I see her as that rare sort of person whose scholarly work might really make a difference.”

Reviewer (G)

“I am particularly impressed with the range of methodologies that Dr. McClelland uses in her research. ... In this regard she is contributing to a more nuanced and layered understanding of women’s sexuality across the lifespan.”

Reviewer (H)

“...Dr. McClelland always zones in on what current research has failed to tell us, or has simply taken for granted. She critically interrogates the absence or assumption, and then generates a more nuanced and expansive understanding of peoples’ [sic] experiences and the constructs she is investigating. She often ends with recommendations for how to do better research, or how to use her research results to inform practices and policies. This is model scholarship.”

Reviewer (I)

“...Prof. McClelland identified several new factors and demonstrated that conceptualization of what ‘sexual satisfaction’ means is influenced by gender, sexual orientation, and relationship status. This work highlighted the gendered and heterosexist norms that have underpinned most measures of sexual satisfaction, revealed the inadequacy of current measures, and emphasized the need to consider individual and situational variation in the meaning of, and criteria for measuring, sexual satisfaction.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor McClelland is an accomplished and prolific scholar, an exceptionally devoted and creative teacher, and a dedicated and responsible departmental citizen. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Sara I. McClelland be promoted to the rank of associate professor of women’s studies, with tenure, and associate professor of psychology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



Andrew D. Martin, Dean
Professor of Political Science and Statistics
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

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