

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

Sarah A. Burgard, associate professor of sociology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, associate professor of epidemiology, without tenure, School of Public Health, and associate professor of public policy, without tenure, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, is recommended for promotion to professor of sociology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, professor of epidemiology, without tenure, School of Public Health, and professor of public policy, without tenure, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy [also being promoted to research professor, Population Studies Center, Institute for Social Research].

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2003	University of California, Los Angeles
M.S.	2003	University of California, Los Angeles
M.A.	1999	University of California, Los Angeles
B.A.	1997	Reed College, Portland

Professional Record:

2011 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, Department of Epidemiology, Public Policy, and Research Associate Professor, Population Studies Center, University of Michigan
2005 – 2011	Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Department of Epidemiology, and Research Assistant Professor, Population Studies Center, University of Michigan
2003 – 2005	Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Health and Society Scholars Post-doctoral Fellow, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Burgard is an outstanding teacher and mentor in a wide range of undergraduate and graduate courses. She has done an excellent job building the health and society course that serves the numerous pre-med students who are now advised to take a sociology course before the MCAT. Student evaluations of this rigorous course have been outstanding. Professor Burgard also teaches the Department of Sociology's honors thesis courses and serves as a mentor to many honors undergraduate students. She is a stellar mentor at both the undergraduate and graduate levels having served on 43 dissertation committees and chaired 18 committees. The combination of Professor Burgard's teaching and mentoring in her role as the director of graduate studies has made significant improvements to Sociology's graduate program. She continues to innovate in the pro-seminar and through her series of professional workshops "Graduate School and Beyond."

Research – Professor Burgard's research examines how health disparities are produced across the life course, and why social disparities in health are so persistent despite change in the economic, social, policy and technological conditions, and contexts that affect health. She continues to work across several different large datasets (including two datasets she collected herself) and uses multiple sophisticated methods. She has published 45 peer-reviewed papers since tenure.

Many of these papers are in premiere sociological journals and many appear in a wide range of journals across public health, nursing, and medicine. She has twice won the American Sociological Association Section on Sociology of Population Distinguished Article Award.

Recent and Significant Publications:

- “Histories of job insecurity and psychological distress among older U.S. adults,” with S. Seelye, *Society and Mental Health*, 7(1), 2017, pp. 21-35.
- “The effects of the Great Recession: Health and well-being,” with L. Kalousova, *Annual Review of Sociology*, 41, (2015), pp. 181-201.
- “Race/ethnicity, educational attainment and foregone health care in the United States in the 2007-2009 recession,” with J. M. Hawkins, *American Journal of Public Health*, 104(2), 2014, pp. e134-e140.
- “The Great Recession and health: People, populations and disparities,” with J. Ailshire and L. Kalousova, *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 650, 2013, pp. 194-213.

Service – Professor Burgard has served as the director of graduate studies in the Department of Sociology for six years. She has done an outstanding job in that role, and she has invested great time and effort working through individual student issues with care and deep engagement. Additionally, she has worked with commitment on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) issues in recruitment and climate. Under her leadership, Sociology’s cohorts have become much more diverse across multiple dimensions. Professor Burgard is also serving as the DEI implementation lead for the Institute for Social Research. She contributes important leadership and service for the discipline via her involvement in the American Sociological Association and in her editorial board service.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“Taken together this body of work has advanced our understanding and theorizing about the consequences of economic shocks on health outcomes and mortality at the aggregate and individual levels.”

Reviewer (B)

“...Professor Burgard’s work, including her new work in progress, constitutes an impressive body of work on current questions of substantial importance – why health disparities closely patterned by gender, race, and class emerge over the life course, and what social processes link categorical advantage from race or educational attainment to health promoting behaviors and environments. Her research is methodologically sophisticated, innovative and creative in exploiting the advantages of different study designs, time periods, and measures, and impactful in its reach and policy relevance.”

Reviewer (C)

“...she’s a superstar who has very broad impact on the larger field of inequality itself.”

Reviewer (D)

"In addition, her co-authorship with students and postdoctoral fellows is a very positive indicator of her contributions in developing other scholars and their ideas. ... She is one of the 'go to' people nationally who is investigating how the nature of work influences health. That is also the case for issues surrounding the health consequences of economic insecurity and labor market shocks."

Reviewer (E)

"At this point, Dr. Burgard is a world renowned scholar, especially among demographers, population health scientists and sociologists with interests in health and aging. Her trajectory since tenure has only been accelerating upward."

Reviewer (F)

"I see her work as meeting the very highest standards of scholarship and her trajectory as – well, how to put it? Breathtaking. ... And Burgard uses a wide range of highly sophisticated statistical strategies to address her research problems, producing convincing results that are even more so because she routinely tests for and rules out competing explanations for her findings. This is just a fine record and impressive quality work. And it's clear from her trajectory that it will continue."

Summary of Recommendation:


Professor Burgard has played a key role in the teaching and mentoring missions of the Department of Sociology at both the undergraduate and graduate levels while simultaneously establishing a research record that has placed her as the leading sociologist of health and inequality of her cohort. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Sarah A. Burgard be promoted to the rank of professor of sociology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, professor of epidemiology, without tenure, School of Public Health, and professor of public policy, without tenure, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy.



Elizabeth R. Cole, Interim Dean
Professor of Women's Studies, Psychology
and Afroamerican and African Studies
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts



Michael S. Barr
Joan and Sanford Weill Dean of Public Policy
Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy



F. DuBois Bowman, Ph.D.
Dean, School of Public Health

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