

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

Maureen J. Devlin Hamalainen, assistant professor of anthropology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of anthropology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2007	Harvard University
M.A.	2004	Harvard University
M.A.	2000	George Washington University
B.A.	1996	Harvard College

Professional Record:

2012 – present	Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan
2011 – 2012	Instructor in Orthopedic Surgery, Harvard Medical School, Center for Advanced Orthopedic Studies, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center
2007 – 2010	Post-doctoral Fellow, Harvard Medical School, Center for Advanced Orthopedic Studies, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Devlin Hamalainen is an extremely talented and dedicated teacher. She teaches at all levels of the undergraduate and graduate curriculum and excels as an instructor in the classroom. She is also an outstanding mentor of undergraduate and graduate students, who she trains diligently and nurtures with care in her skeletal biology laboratory. She has developed new courses that contribute in significant ways to the anthropology and evolutionary anthropology major and medical anthropology minor degree programs. In all of her classes, she challenges students to think creatively and deeply about the factors that make us human.

Research – Professor Devlin Hamalainen is a biological anthropologist who has developed a novel interdisciplinary laboratory research program that provides new insights into the environmental factors that influence the size, shape, and structure of human bones. Her work is distinguished by the rigor of her controlled experiments and her ability to solve puzzles in unexpected ways. Her findings have important applications to public policy and clinical treatment and contribute to our understanding of the evolution of human skeletal variation. Professor Devlin Hamalainen supports her research through extramural funds obtained from major granting agencies and is lauded by external reviewers, who predict that she will continue to make significant findings in the study of human health and evolution for years to come.

Recent and Significant Publications:

“Low temperature decreases trabecular bone mass in male C57BL/6J mice: Implications for humans,” with A. E. Robbins, et al., *American Journal of Physical Anthropology*, 167, 2018, p. 557-568.

“Daily leptin blunts marrow fat but does not impact bone mass in calorie restricted mice,” with D. J. Brooks, et al., *Journal of Endocrinology*, 229, 2016, pp. 295-306.

“The ‘skinny’ on brown fat, obesity, and bone,” *Yearbook of Physical Anthropology*, 156, 2015, pp. 98–115.

“The bone–fat interface: Basic and clinical implications of marrow adiposity,” with C. J. Rosen, *The Lancet – Diabetes and Endocrinology*, 3, 2015, pp. 141-147.

Service – Professor Devlin Hamalainen’s record of service is exemplary and extensive. She has contributed in important ways to her department, university, and to the broader academic community. She has served on the departmental Executive Committee and was a founding member of their Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee. She has also been a member of two key faculty search committees. She has worked as a facilitator for LSA’s Teaching Academy and has served on committees of professional societies in her scientific discipline.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“Dr. Devlin is an accomplished experimental biologist who has worked on questions of importance to understanding and interpreting the fossil record as well as implementing clinical practice. ...[she] has made important and significant contributions to our understanding of developmental plasticity through her experimental work and has presented the results in a cohesive and impressive body of work. ... I have no doubt that Dr. Devlin will be a sustained and important contributor to discussions on human evolution in the future.”

Reviewer (B)

“As an experimentalist, creativity is a key attribute required for success. I believe Dr. Devlin is both creative and successful. Dr. Devlin is a recognized expert for her work with external (environmental) and internal (sex) factors influencing bone mass in humans. ... In my opinion, her TEMPS model of human skeletal variation is poised to produce significant research outcomes that will align strategically with these current trends in the field.”

Reviewer (C)

“I continue to be impressed with the quality of her work, the sophisticated nature of her studies, and the high-impact publications that she produces. ... She has a particular talent for using novel interventions and experimental techniques to generate powerful new insights into skeletal biology. ... Maureen’s numerous discoveries have important implications not only for human health and disease, but also for interpreting ancient skeletal remains.”

Reviewer (D)

“Devlin is a leading figure in biological anthropology, especially as the field pertains to experimental and clinical approaches to understanding the biology of bone. ... It is my belief that Devlin has strong standing in the field owing to her comprehensive knowledge of skeletal biology and its application to novel and otherwise pressing issues, including those addressed in her well-established research program. Her research has considerable relevance to both biological anthropology and the medical sciences.”

Reviewer (E)

“Dr. Devlin has been successful in conducting important and impactful research in the discipline of biological anthropology, and I expect her to continue to perform at a high level as an associate

professor. Overall, this research program has important implications for understanding human evolution, where we see considerable variation in the form of the skeleton, as well as variation in factors that affect skeletal form (e.g., diet, activity, temperature).”

Reviewer (F)

“...Professor Maureen Devlin is an innovative and rigorous scholar who is emerging as a leader [in her generation] in the fields of biological and evolutionary anthropology. She has a well-conceived research program and a strong record of productivity and funding. In addition, her work has provided critical new insights into our understanding of the evolutionary and physiological dimensions of bone development and their implications for human health and well-being. I expect that Maureen will continue to play an ever more important role in shaping the field of biological anthropology over the next several years.”

Reviewer (G)

“...she is currently involved in a number of high profile projects of her own and in collaboration with other good research groups, so her long-term research prognosis is very high. I would have no problem putting her up for promotion at our institution, and am confident that she would receive it.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Devlin Hamalainen is an outstanding researcher and teacher. Her extensive record of important service at the University of Michigan is exemplary. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Maureen J. Devlin Hamalainen be promoted to the rank of associate professor of anthropology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



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

May 2019