

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

Harley F. Etienne, 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.	2007	Cornell University, Ithaca, New York
M.A.	2002	Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
B.A.	1996	Morehouse College, Atlanta, Georgia

Professional Record:

2012 – Present	Assistant Professor of Urban and Regional Planning, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan
2007-2012	Assistant Professor of City and Regional Planning and Public Policy, Georgia Institute of Technology College of Architecture and the Ivan Allen College of Liberal Arts

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Etienne has made important contributions to teaching at Taubman College. He is an excellent instructor whose interdisciplinary background in urban studies and sociology informs his teaching. Professor Etienne has worked to improve the city planning curriculum which has been supported by internal university grant funding, and he has helped create an innovative social justice curriculum for the college that external reviewers commented should be emulated throughout the planning discipline. His courses provide the experiential learning students desire, and his syllabi incorporate classic primary-source writings on racism and social justice which encourage students to develop complex understandings of identity and oppression in relation to community-based planning. In addition to teaching, he is a dedicated and sought out mentor. Professor Etienne has served on six doctoral committees, and he was honored by the Students of Color of Rackham with a 2018 Mentorship in Color Award. In recognition of his teaching and advising, the graduating master of urban planning class of 2015 awarded Professor Etienne the “Faculty Excellence Award.”

Research: Professor Etienne investigates the interconnections between urban community development, neighborhood planning, poverty and racial inequality, with an emphasis on how social institutions respond to structural change and crises in urban America. He draws important analytical connections between the current culture of back-to-the-city urban triumphalism, the hollowing out of the local state, and the growing racial and class inequalities in America’s cities. In particular, Professor Etienne examines the troubling impact of this growing reliance on third-sector organizations. In a variety of contexts, he critically examines the functioning of planning when carried out by the non-profit sector as opposed to governmental bodies more traditionally tasked with the planning function. Professor Etienne studies this on several important fronts: university-driven urban revitalization; international NGOs leading post-earthquake recovery efforts in Haiti; metropolitan-scaled planning in Atlanta driven by powerful developers and large institutions; and community development corporations taking the development lead in shrinking, deindustrialized cities (Detroit, Cleveland and Baltimore). He is particularly interested in the capacity of third-sector organizations to promote social and racial justice in their plans, and limitations to that capacity. This

rich range of NGOs in his research (that vary widely by size, resources, mission, and access to power) allows Professor Etienne to move beyond a monolithic view of nonprofits and develop a nuanced theory about diverse institutional forms leading to diverse outcomes.

#### Recent and Significant Publications:

- Thomson, D. and Etienne, H.F. (2017). "Fiscal Crisis and Community Development: The Impacts of the Great Recession on the Financial Stability of CDCs." *Housing Policy Debate*, (27)1, 137-165.
- Etienne, H. F. and Faga, B. (Eds.) (2014). Planning Atlanta. Chicago: The Planners Press/American Planning Association.
- Etienne, H.F. (2012). "Urban Planning and the Rebuilding of Port-au-Prince." in The Idea of Haiti: History, Development and the Creation of New Narratives. Millery Polyné, editor. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.
- Etienne, H.F. (2012) Pushing Back the Gates: Neighborhood-Level Perspectives on University-Led Urban Revitalization. Philadelphia: Temple University Press (Paperback, 2014).
- Sweet, E.L. and Etienne H.F. (2011). "Diversity in Urban Planning: From Admissions to Practice." *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, 33(3): 332-3.

Service: Professor Etienne has served the interests of the Urban and Regional Planning Program, the college, the university, and the larger scholarly and professional world. He has held memberships on committees within the unit including the Doctoral Committee, the Master's Admissions Committee, and the Curriculum Committee. He has also been intentional in his support of students, serving as advisor of the Urban Planning and Green Design Student Group and as faculty advisor and event moderator for the MLK Jr. Symposium events. He was invited to serve on the Provost's Task Force of the Future of the University of Michigan Detroit Center, as well as on the Provost's Advisory Committee for the university's planned Civic Engagement Corridor. Within the state, he has been actively engaged as a Board Member of the Detroit Regional LGBT Chamber of Commerce. He was invited to serve on the Editorial Board of the *Journal of the American Planning Association*, the flagship journal of the field in the United States. In addition to this notable recognition, at the national level, he has served the discipline through his work as a reviewer for Routledge and the University of Minnesota Press.

#### External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "...his work on the role of non-governmental organizations and institutions provides an important critical lens from a racial justice perspective. While there are scholars who speak at a high level to the problems of neoliberalism as 'rolled out' in local government, Prof. Etienne examines the actual implementation challenges of often well-intentioned people/organizations in the context of communities of color."

Reviewer B: "...his work is very good...the quality is strong, the issues Dr. Etienne raises are important, and he asks and answers his questions productively."

Reviewer C: "Dr. Etienne is clearly a versatile and interdisciplinary scholar whose research and teaching span planning in a number of critical areas including equity, racial and social justice, resiliency, community development, and housing policy. What is particularly impressive about Dr. Etienne's contributions is his integrated approach to pressing theoretical, community-based, and pedagogical issues...this work is so timely and essential to the field..."

Reviewer D: “The volume Planning Atlanta, co-edited with Barbara Faga, is a well-organized volume and the inclusion of pieces by both scholars and practitioners provides a nice breadth of perspectives while also juxtaposing historical and contemporary issues.”

Reviewer E: “Etienne’s research productivity and accomplishments are impressive. Etienne’s research is timely, well-executed and policy relevant...[he] is a recognized community development planning scholar who is well respected by his peers.”

Reviewer F: “Dr. Etienne has a track record of high-quality research on important and relevant subjects related to planning and communities of color. His focus on analyzing questions of equity, distribution of outcomes, and the impacts of urban planning on disadvantaged residents and vulnerable populations is extremely relevant and highly necessary work in the broad field of urban planning scholarship.”

Reviewer G: “He is an urban scholar who is making solid contributions to the field of community development, racial issues in urban planning, and has contributed an important book on university-led urban neighborhood revitalization.”

Reviewer H: “Prof. Etienne appears to bring innovative teaching tools to a variety of his courses, introducing new pedagogical methods designed to engage students more deeply in the subject matter.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Etienne is an interdisciplinary researcher and scholar who has made important contributions to the interconnections between urban community development, neighborhood planning, poverty and racial inequality. He effectively brings an intelligent, innovative and strategic approach to his teaching and has provided substantial service to the program, college, university and profession. It is with the support of the Taubman College Promotion and Tenure Committee and the Executive Committee that I recommend Harley F. Etienne 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 2019