

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy

Betsey Stevenson, associate professor of public policy, with tenure, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, and associate professor of economics, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of public policy, with tenure, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, and professor of economics, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2001	Harvard University, Economics, Boston, MA
M.A.	1999	Harvard University, Economics, Boston, MA
B.A.	1993	Wellesley College, Economics and Math, Wellesley, MA

Professional Record:

2012-Present	Associate Professor of Public Policy, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy
2013-2015	Member, Council of Economic Advisers, Executive Office of the President
2004-2012	Assistant Professor, Business and Public Policy Department, The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania
2010-2011	Chief Economist, U.S. Department of Labor
2001-2004	Senior Consumer Research Advisor, Forrester Research

Summary of Evaluation

Teaching: Professor Stevenson has an excellent record of teaching. She has taught the required second semester of microeconomics to Ford School undergraduates since 2016. She has been extremely effective in motivating student interest by developing original course materials that emphasize developing economic intuition by working on real-world issues that are likely to be interesting to a broad range of students and applicable to a broad range of policy issues and behaviors. In addition, her recent work with Professor Wolfers to write a textbook also demonstrates the seriousness of her commitment to teaching and pedagogy.

Research: Professor Stevenson is an applied economist with broad interests in policy-relevant areas including law and economics, labor economics, public finance, and social policy. She is a recognized authority in the areas of (1) the economics of the family, women and work, and (2) the measurement of subjective well-being. In addition, she has made important recent contributions to the improvement of economics instruction. Her work combines attention to institutional detail, the analysis of original data, and careful empirical work. Professor Stevenson has published twenty-five journal articles and book chapters over the course of her career. Google Scholar indicates that Professor Stevenson's work has received an impressive 6,880 citations as of December 2018, 1723 of which are to her 2008 *Brookings Papers on Economic Activity (BPEA)* paper on the "Easterlin paradox" and 818 of which are to her 2007 *Journal of Economic Perspectives (JEP)* paper on marriage and divorce.

Professor Stevenson's most influential work examines the connections between income and measured happiness. The "Easterlin paradox" suggests that there is no link between a society's economic development and its average level of happiness, but in joint work with Professor Justin Wolfers, Professor Stevenson reassesses this paradox, analyzing multiple rich datasets spanning many decades. Using recent data on a broader array of countries, they establish a clear positive link between average levels of subjective well-being and GDP per capita across countries, and find no evidence of a satiation

point beyond which wealthier countries have no further increases in subjective well-being. The estimated relationship is consistent across many datasets and is similar to that between subjective well-being and income observed within countries. Finally, examining the relationship between changes in subjective well-being and income over time within countries, the paper finds economic growth associated with rising happiness. This work has been frequently replicated, and is a major contribution to the literature analyzing the determinants of measured happiness.

Professor Stevenson has been extraordinarily engaged in the making of policy and public discourse surrounding policy. She served as the chief economist in the U.S. Department of Labor in 2010-11, and as a member of the Council of Economic Advisers from 2013-2015. In both positions, Professor Stevenson leveraged her academic expertise in labor, public finance and social policy to inform and focus policy makers on issues related to family and gender, as well as the regulation of labor and financial markets.

Recent and Significant Publications:

- Stevenson, B. & Zlotnik, H. (2018). Representations of Men and Women in Introductory Economics Textbooks. *American Economic Review, Papers and Proceedings*, 180-185.
- Stevenson, B. (2018). "Artificial Intelligence, Income, Employment and Meaning," in Avi Goldfarb, Ajay Agarwal, Joshua Gans (ed.), *Economics of Artificial Intelligence*, University of Chicago Press.
- Stevenson, B. & Wolfers, J. (2013). Subjective Well-Being and Income: Is there any Evidence of Satiation? *American Economic Review, Papers and Proceedings*, 598-604.
- Sachs, D, Stevenson, B. & Wolfers, J. (2012). The New Stylized Facts about Income and Subjective Well-Being. *Emotion*, 1181-1187.
- Stevenson, B. & Wolfers, J. (2012). Subjective and Objective Indicators of Racial Progress. *Journal of Legal Studies*, 459-493.
- Stevenson, B. & Wolfers, J. (2008). Economic Growth and Subjective Well-Being: Reassessing the Easterlin Paradox. *Brookings Papers on Economic Activity*, 1-87.
- Stevenson, B. & Wolfers, J. (2007). Marriage and Divorce: Changes and Their Driving Forces. *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 21 (2): 27-52.

Service: Professor Stevenson provides substantial service to the economics profession, to the practice of public policy, and to the Ford School. She is an active reviewer of the scholarly literature produced and is a member of several editorial boards. She is a member of the Executive Committee of the American Economic Association, one of six elected members, where she serves on the budget and finance committee. She has served on a number of selection committees for important awards in economics and economic policy. She has been very active in initiatives aimed at improving the status of women in the economics profession. Within the Ford School, Professor Stevenson has served on numerous committees, including our executive committee, the master's program committee, the undergraduate program committee, faculty search committees, third-year review panels, and the dean search committee.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "There is no question—absolutely no question—that she deserves such promotion to Full Professor. She is one of the most original economists of her generation; and recognized as such in many different ways—including appointment as chief economist at the Department of Labor, member of the President's Council of Economic Advisors, and elected member of the Executive Committee of the American Economic Association."

Reviewer B: "To summarize, there is no question in my mind that Betsey Stevenson should be promoted. Her combination of outstanding and influential academic research and unparalleled policy experience is exactly what one hopes to find at a top policy school such as the Ford School."

Reviewer C: "Professor Stevenson is an active and influential scholar. She is widely known as a leader in a number of areas, including research on gender and family and on the relatively new area of happiness research, doing extremely policy-relevant research in each area. In my opinion, she is undertaking some of the broadest based and most creative investigations of issues in these areas, combining this creativity with scrupulous attention to methodological issues and data analysis."

Reviewer D: "Professor Stevenson's robust list of working projects and her commitment to making her research accessible to policy makers and the public give me confidence her contribution and status will continue to grow. In summary, it is my assessment that Professor Stevenson has achieved excellence across the range of criteria demanded by a top ranked school of public policy. She is a model of how to blend a career of research and public service, leveraging each to make the total product better. As such, Professor Stevenson is well-deserving of a promotion to full professor."

Reviewer E: "I have developed from years of interaction and reading of her work a strong opinion on the quality of her scholarly research and engagement with the practice of public policy and service to the country in some of the most important federal positions for economists. In my opinion, Betsey has shown continuing distinction throughout her career as both a scholar and government official, and would unquestionably merit a position as full professor at every top public policy school in the country."

Reviewer F: "I think especially highly of Professor Stevenson's 'Beyond the Classroom' paper... As one comes to expect in Professor Stevenson's work, she comprehensively presents the data and analysis, carefully considers alternative hypotheses, and generally speaking leaves no stone unturned. Overall, I think 'Beyond the Classroom' is one of the strongest law-related economics papers written over the past decade."

Reviewer G: "Betsey is one of the leading economists in the world working in the field of wellbeing."

Reviewer H: "My general reaction to Stevenson's research is an appreciation for the creativity with which she formulates questions that resonate at the research frontiers combined with admiration of the energetic and sophisticated empirical analysis. Given her current working papers and extensive list of ongoing projects, I expect Betsey to continue to produce work of this caliber."

Reviewer I: "Stevenson is one of the leading economists working on gender and on the economics of the family. Stevenson is highly visible both because of her research and because of her public service. I have no hesitation in recommending that you promote Stevenson to full professor."

Reviewer J: "Due to her record of high-quality research in happiness and the economics of the family, her engagement in public policy at the highest levels, and her contributions to the teaching of economics, I believe that Betsey Stevenson has achieved a stature in the economics profession that merits promotion to full professor. Indeed, I would support such a promotion for her if she were in my own department, and I believe that any other policy school would make the same judgment."

Reviewer K: "In short, I am impressed with the high quality of Betsey's published research and believe it has made important contributions."

Reviewer L: "I can without reservation state I did not see a more effective economist in my eight years of the Obama administration. Betsey had constant energy, ideas, ability to navigate in a political environment, get a lot done, and to do all of this as an economist drawing on economic research not a political person."

Reviewer M: "Professor Stevenson is a leading member of our profession. Her influence and recognition are the result of several factors: 1) Her great ability to reach objectives in government, which led to her reaching high office with influence on the U.S. economy, and has given her a platform for continuing influence through the press 2) The impact of her research on happiness, especially her overturning of the so-called Easterlin Paradox, which has changed how people think of the importance of economic factors in life 3) The impact of her work on divorce, which constituted a breakthrough in empirical economic analysis of this area 4) Her interest in pedagogy, which will culminate in three textbooks in 2019 5) Her championing of women in her government policies, research, public communication, academic service and analysis and writing of textbooks."

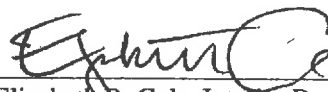
Reviewer N: "You asked for comparisons to others in her peer group working in the same field....Betsey's academic output may be less prolific than some members of this group, but her best work is on par with the best work of this peer group, and her policy experience is even deeper than that of this impressive group. All of these peers are full professors except [one]... To conclude, I would vote to promote Betsey Stevenson to full professor if I were a member of your faculty."

Reviewer O: "Betsey is a careful academic who is deeply committed to applying her economic insights to real world problems. She not only does this through her innovative research studying the family and wellbeing but also through her serious commitment to public service. As such, I believe she is an excellent fit for the Ford School and I strongly support her promotion to full professor with tenure."

Summary of Recommendation: Professor Stevenson is an accomplished and engaged scholar, a good teacher, and high-level and impactful public servant. The fact that she has been a senate-confirmed member of the Council of Economic Advisers, a chief economist of the Labor Department, and is an elected member of the American Economic Association Executive Committee, speaks to how well regarded she is by the economics profession and her colleagues. Her in-the-trenches experience with developing, promoting and implementing economic policies is invaluable. It is with the support of the tenured faculty of the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy that I recommend Betsey Stevenson for promotion to professor of public policy, with tenure, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, and professor of economics, without tenure, 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



Elizabeth R. Cole, Interim Dean
Professor of Women's Studies, Psychology, and
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