

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

Terri D. Conley, associate professor of psychology, with tenure, and associate professor of women's studies, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of psychology, with tenure, and professor of women's studies, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1999	University of California, Los Angeles
M.A.	1995	University of California, Los Angeles
B.A.	1993	University of Wisconsin, Madison

Professional Record:

2013 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, and Department of Women's Studies, University of Michigan
2008 – 2013	Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, and Department of Women's Studies, University of Michigan
2004 – 2008	Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, and Department of Women's Studies, University of Missouri, St. Louis and Kansas City
2003 - 2004	Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, California State University, Northridge
2000 – 2002	Postdoctoral Fellow, Social Science Research Council

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Conley is a dedicated instructor who has a strong track record in teaching large undergraduate lecture courses (average ratings: Q1: 4.2 and Q2: 4.65), upper level undergraduate courses (average ratings: Q1: 4.88 and Q2: 4.96), and graduate seminars (average ratings: Q1: 4.25 and Q2: 4.75). She also has a very strong record of mentorship to undergraduate students (eight to nine students each semester and five honors theses) and graduate students (four dissertations and one master's thesis since promotion). Her graduate students have been very successful in terms of publications and in terms of placements (e.g., three tenure-track faculty appointees and one postdoctoral fellowship since promotion). All the student letters described Professor Conley as very supportive and helpful in fostering student development.

Research – Professor Conley studies attitudes and outcomes associated with sexual behaviors, and she has demonstrated that many traditional beliefs about sexual behavior are not empirically grounded. She has shown that people in consensual, non-monogamous sexual relationships exhibit similar levels of satisfaction, commitment, and passionate love as people in monogamous relationships, that the traditional notion that casual sex is an adaptive sexual strategy for men but not for women is inconsistent with numerous empirical findings, and that people have harsher attitudes about the transmission of STDs compared with the transmission of diseases that are actually more harmful. Her research has had a demonstrable impact on her field and is also very

highly cited in the popular press. Professor Conley has developed significant momentum in her research and her impact is only likely to grow.

Recent and Significant Publications:

- “Investigation of consensually nonmonogamous relationships: Theories, methods, and new directions,” with J. L. Matsick et al., *Perspectives on Psychological Science*, 12(2), 2017, pp. 205-32.
- “Sexuality-related risks are judged more harshly than comparable health risks,” with A. C. Moore, et al., *International Journal of Sexual Health*, 27, 2015, pp. 508-21.
- “Proposer gender, pleasure, and danger in casual sex offers among bisexual women and men,” with J. D. Rubin, et al., *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, 55, 2014, pp. 80-8.
- “A critical evaluation of popular assumptions about the benefits and outcomes of monogamous relationships,” with A. Ziegler, et al., *Personality and Social Psychology Review*, 17, 2013, pp. 124-41.

Service – Professor Conley has worked hard to promote diversity within the Department of Psychology by serving on the department’s Diversity Committee and by mentoring a large number of underrepresented minority students. She served four years on the department’s Annual Review Committee, providing detailed feedback to her colleagues and to the department about their research, teaching, and service. At the national level, Professor Conley is a member of an editorial board for the top-ranked journal in personality and social psychology and has reviewed grant proposals for a number of foundations. She also serves as an ad-hoc reviewer for around three papers every month.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A)

“...Professor Conley is the single most influential scholar on consensual nonmonogamy (CNM)—and, on the basis of this scholarship alone, I would enthusiastically support her promotion to full professor [at my institution]... More generally, Professor Conley’s unorthodox and politically grounded approach to understanding close relationships offers her a vantage point that my home discipline... sorely needs. ...she has leveraged this vantage point to alter the trajectory of the discipline in important ways.”

Reviewer (B)

“She is certainly a stellar researcher. She is able to identify important research questions, design carefully craft studies to test her ideas, and publish her results in premier journals. ... She is an impressive model for social psychologists.”

Reviewer (C)

“As sexuality has opened up as a cross-disciplinary topic in the past few decades, scholars have become much [more] skeptical of the received authority of certain functional explanations for gender differences in human sexual behavior. Dr. Conley has responded to this shift very productively with a line of interesting empirical studies examining the reasons why women and men are more or less interested in casual sex (and in casual sex with other women versus other men). I value the empiricist strategy here which approaches sexual behavior empirically but from a fresh theoretical lens.”

Reviewer (D)

“The number of papers is large; most are published in specialized journals. Articles in broader, higher-impact journals include one in *Perspectives in Psychological Science*. It is clear that Dr. Conley continues to be highly active in research. Reflecting the promising beginnings of her research at the time of tenure, she continues to do good work.”

Reviewer (E)

“Her research is innovative and creative. She develops creative research designs that she uses to evaluate assumptions and evidence. I have been repeatedly struck by the originality of her research questions and the cleverness of her methods.”

Reviewer (F)

“...I have found the quality of her publications to be very strong. She clearly embraces topics that are considered fairly radical or sensitive, and she manages always to find some valuable new insights—challenging our assumptions and biases in the process.”

Reviewer (G)

“To put it bluntly, Conley is one of the most intellectually courageous scholars I have ever known. She is not afraid to challenge long-held assumptions in our field or subvert prevailing theoretical frameworks that have misguided scientific knowledge for decades. She is precisely the kind of scholar we need in the field to move science forward.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Conley has made important contributions in research, teaching, and service. Her work reflects very well on the department, the college, and the university. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Terri D. Conley be promoted to the rank of professor of psychology, with tenure, and professor of women’s studies, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



Anne Curzan, Dean
Geneva Smitherman Collegiate Professor of
English Language and Literature, Linguistics
and Education
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

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