

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

Robin S. Edelstein, associate professor of psychology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of psychology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D. 2005 University of California, Davis
B.A. 1997 University of California, Berkeley

Professional Record:

2017 – present Faculty Associate, Center for Human Growth and Development, University of Michigan
2016 – present Faculty Associate, Research Center for Group Dynamics, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan
2015 – 2017 Associate Research Professor, Center for Human Growth and Development, University of Michigan
2013 – present Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Michigan
2012 – present Faculty Associate, Depression Center, University of Michigan
2008 – present Program Faculty, *The Life Course: Evolutionary and Ontogenetic Dynamics* (LIFE), Max Planck Institute for Human Development collaborative graduate program, Berlin; Humboldt University, Berlin; Free University of Berlin; University of Zurich, and the University of Virginia
2007 – 2013 Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Michigan
2005 – 2007 National Institute of Mental Health Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Psychology and Social Behavior, University of California, Irvine

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Edelstein is a dedicated instructor with a strong track record in teaching large undergraduate lecture courses (Q1 & Q2 ratings up to 4.2), upper-level undergraduate courses (average ratings: Q1: 4.9 - Q2: 4.9), and graduate seminars (most Q1 and Q2 ratings above 4.8). She also teaches a graduate academic writing course that fills an important gap in the department's curriculum. She has a very strong record of mentorship, both to undergraduate students (five to seven students each year) and graduate students (four dissertations and six master's theses since promotion). Her graduate students have been very successful with placement of their publications. Students described Professor Edelstein as dedicated and engaging.

Research – Professor Edelstein studies individual differences in attachment, including longitudinal changes, behavioral consequences, and potential biological causes. She has

developed a sophisticated and integrated program of research investigating avoidant attachment, a personality style that is uncomfortable with intimacy in relationships. She has shown that avoidant attachment personalities tend to divert attention away from distressing stimuli, that avoidant attachment declines with age and is associated with specific predictable levels of certain hormones (e.g., estradiol), and that hormone levels in one partner influence the attachment that the *other* partner feels. Her research is interdisciplinary, her methods are diverse, and the questions she addresses are fundamental. She is having a significant impact on her field as evidenced by her publications in high-impact journals and by the comments of the external reviewers. Professor Edelstein has developed significant momentum in her research and her impact is only likely to grow.

Recent and Significant Publications:

“Longitudinal changes in attachment orientation over a 59-year period,” with W. J. Chopik, et al., *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 166, 2019, pp. 598-611.

“Hormones and close relationship processes: Neuroendocrine bases of partnering and parenting,” with K. Chin, *Routledge International Handbook of Social Neuroendocrinology*,” O.C. Schultheiss and P. H. Mehta, eds., 2018, pp. 281-97, Abingdon, UK: Routledge.

“Prospective and dyadic associations between expectant parents’ prenatal hormone changes and postpartum parenting outcomes,” with W. J. Chopik, et al., *Developmental Psychobiology*, 59, 2017, pp. 77-90.

“Preliminary validation of a romantic attachment orientation measure from the California adult Q-Sort,” with W. J. Chopik, *Attachment and Human Development*, 17, 2015, pp. 570-85.

Service – Professor Edelstein has provided excellent service, locally and to the wider research community. Locally, she served on the Student Academic Affairs Committee, Psychology Executive Committee, a Bioscience faculty search committee, the Personality Area Admissions Committee, and the Executive Committee of the Center for Human Growth and Development (CHGD). She currently chairs the Personality and Social Contexts area of the department. Nationally, she is on six editorial boards and is an associate editor for the top journal in her field, *Personality*. She also served on the program committee for one of the major conferences in her field: Society for Personality and Social Psychology.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A)

“...Professor Edelstein is an outstanding and active scholar who has certainly earned the distinction of promotion to full professor. Without hesitation, I enthusiastically endorse her promotion. ...what defines Professor Edelstein’s place in the world of personality/social psychology is her incredible breadth of expertise. Her work shows a unique combination of skills that I do not think are matched by anyone else in the field, frankly.”

Reviewer (B)

“First, using the quantitative metrics by which university faculty are typically evaluated, and considering the standards that are most frequently applied when evaluating faculty in psychology, Dr. Edelstein passes [the] threshold by a wide margin. An important consideration when evaluating candidates for promotion concerns the extent to which they are known in the field as experts on a particular topic. It is clear that this is the case for Dr. Edelstein.”

Reviewer (C)

“She is an extremely productive and creative scholar by any standard, and is clearly one of the most outstanding psychologists in the field of interpersonal relationships and adult attachment research around the world. Her innovative work in the conceptualization and measurement of the hormonal basis of close relationships, the relationships of hormonal reactivation to adult attachment patterns, and their implications for relationship quality, psychological thriving, and health is one of the most important body [sic] of knowledge that an attachment researcher has produced during the last decade.”

Reviewer (D)

“Dr. Edelstein’s publication record is very strong, with a number of papers in top hormone and social psychology journals. ...she has made significant contributions on a fairly broad range of topics. I was not previously familiar with her more general work on attachment styles, but was impressed with the scale of some of these projects, which appear to provide some of the best evidence available on topics such as age trends in insecure attachment.”

Reviewer (E)

“...[I] have always admired the quality of her work and her ability to synthesize ideas from different domains to come up with highly creative research ideas. She is a social-personality psychologist in the purest sense... She also brings in assessment of health and biomarkers (e.g., testosterone, estradiol) in a way that is both methodologically rigorous and theoretically rich. I can say without a doubt that, among the many papers that I read each year as a reviewer and a research consumer, Professor Edelstein’s are among the best and most generative of new ideas.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Edelstein has made important contributions in research, teaching, and service. She has been a highly productive scholar, whose work is widely known and respected, and a dedicated teacher, mentor, and citizen in the department and the field. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Robin S. Edelstein be promoted to the rank of professor of psychology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



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