

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION  
The University of Michigan-Flint  
College of Arts and Sciences  
Department of Political Science

Jeremiah Wade-Olson, assistant professor of political science, Department of Political Science, College of Arts and Sciences, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of political science, with tenure, Department of Political Science, College of Arts and Sciences.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2013	University of Kentucky, Political Science, Lexington, KY
M.A.	2008	University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Public Administration, Charlotte, NC
B.A.	2006	University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Political Science, Charlotte, NC

Professional Record:

2014-Present	Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Michigan-Flint, Flint, MI
2013-2014	Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science, Franklin and Marshall College, Lancaster, PA

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Since his arrival in the fall of 2014, Professor Jeremiah Wade-Olson has taught twelve different courses. The range of courses taught is equally impressive as they span both introductory courses in Political Science such as POL 120, "U.S. National Government and Politics," and upper division courses including POL 303, "Politics and Public Policy" and POL 309, "The Political Environment of Public Administration." Given his role as a core faculty member in the Public Administration program, Professor Wade-Olson has also taught graduate courses such as PUB 501, "Administrative Organization and Behavior," PUB 504, "Ethical Issues in Public Administration," and PUB 530, "Criminal Justice Policy." Professor Wade-Olson has taught CRJ 388, "Corrections: A Critical Perspective," for the Criminal Justice program. Despite this large number of unique courses, Professor Wade-Olson's student evaluations of teaching are strong. The averages for the questions "Overall, this was an excellent course," "I learned a great deal in this course," and "Overall, the instructor was an excellent teacher," were 4.54, 4.64 and 4.51, respectively. Professor Wade-Olson's peer evaluations consistently highlight his well-structured and organized lectures, and his personal reflections indicate his pivot away from formal lectures to a more "free-flowing conversation" that promotes student interaction and engagement. Professor Wade-Olson has also facilitated student learning by his coordination of the Public Administration and Political Science internship program that connects both undergraduate and graduate students to local nonprofit organizations and law firms. Professor Wade-Olson primarily works with students in the Masters of Public Administration program where he regularly meets with students and has supervised graduate theses.

Research: Professor Wade-Olson is a political scientist specializing in criminal justice policy and how racial and class inequalities manifest themselves in the prison system. More recently, he had applied his critique of the inequities within the criminal justice system by documenting the poor treatment of physically and mentally ill individuals. Professor Wade-Olson has also extended his scholarship to an examination of how transgender individuals are treated in this country's penal system. As crystallized by Professor Wade-Olson, his work reveals how prison inmates are not predatory, but are in fact the most vulnerable and marginalized members within the community. Since his arrival at the University of Michigan-Flint, he has published two peer reviewed journal articles in highly respected journals and a monograph through an academic press. It is important to note that all three publications are sole. Professor Wade-Olson has three main areas of future research that include continuing his examination of the disparate treatment of vulnerable prisoners with a focus on gay, lesbian and transgender inmates. The second area of future work

will be an analysis of the motivations of public service employees who work with prisoners, the homeless, and others in poverty. His third area of future scholarship will be to develop an expertise in the theory of restorative justice and explore its potential application to the city of Flint.

Recent and Significant Scholarly Activity:

Wade-Olson, J. May 2019. Punishing the Vulnerable: Discrimination in American Prisons, Praeger Publishing.

Olson, J. 2016. "Race and Punishment in American Prisons." *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*. Pp. 758-768

Wade-Olson, J. 2016. "Race, Staff and Punishment: Representative Bureaucracy in American State Prisons." *Administration and Society*, October 2016 pp. 1-28

Service: Professor Wade-Olson has established a broad record of service to his program, department, university, and professional and local communities. For his program, he has worked with the director of the public administration program to revise the curriculum and he has served as the internship coordinator for the political science and the Masters of Public Administration programs. Professor Wade-Olson's contribution to the department is highlighted by his participation in and organizational efforts for many public events such as Constitution Day, the 2018 Election Watch "Party," and the monthly Coffee and Conversation series. For the university, Professor Wade-Olson has been featured as a panel member for the 2019 MLK Day celebration and currently serves on the Chancellor's Advisory Committee for Budget and Strategic Planning. For his professional community, Professor Wade-Olson has served as a peer reviewer for *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory* and for the journal *Administration & Society*. Professor Wade-Olson has served his local community by sharing his expertise with a wide array of constituents including, the United Methodist Church in Birmingham, the Cass Community United Methodist Church in Detroit, and the Court Street United Methodist Church of Flint. He is also working with the clergy at five Michigan Methodist churches to establish a support group for individuals dealing with incarceration. He works with the MADE (Money, Attitude, Direction, and Education) Institute to assist individuals re-entering society from prison.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A): "I think this [his research] is valuable; public administration and criminal justice are inherently multidisciplinary fields. I would say that his publishing record would be representative of a good scholar who is progressing along a good academic trajectory."

Reviewer (B): "[H]is book and conference presentations indicate his interdisciplinary reach and ability to move beyond the methods and topics traditionally used in Political Science and Public Administration."

Reviewer (C): "With the inclusion of his recently published book, his record of scholarship is strong and his trajectory for future work appears robust."

Reviewer (D): "His work on the U.S. prison system is an important contribution to the study of public agencies in general but is also an understudied area in the area or [sic] race."

Reviewer (E): "I found Dr. Wade-Olson's scholarship to be of very high quality... Dr. Wade-Olson should be seen as one the leading political scientists in the country working at the intersection of race, politics, and criminal justice policy."

Reviewer (F): "His research is pathbreaking, timely, positively provocative, highly informative, and portends a bright academic future."

Reviewer (G): “My own professional assessment of Dr. Wade-Olson’s work is that it is of high quality and extremely pertinent to both the research and practice of criminal justice, public administration and political science.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Wade-Olson is a political scientist specializing in criminal justice policy and how racial and class inequalities manifest themselves in the prison system. The results of his scholarship have been published in two single authored peer reviewed journal articles and a monograph through an academic press. As a dedicated educator, he has taught twelve different classes, coordinated the internship program for the Department of Political Science and the Public Administration program, and engages students with an interactive and conversational pedagogy. He has provided significant service, especially to his local community, by sharing his academic expertise with local churches and nonprofit organizations dedicated to helping the vulnerable populations about whom he has written extensively. I recommend Jeremiah Wade-Olson for promotion to associate professor of political science, with tenure, Department of Political Science, College of Arts and Sciences.

Recommended by:



Susan Gano-Phillips, Dean  
College of Arts and Sciences

Recommendation endorsed by:



Keith Moreland, Interim Provost and  
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs



Debasish Dutta, Chancellor  
University of Michigan-Flint

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