

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

Margaret Frye, assistant professor of sociology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of sociology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2013	Sociology and Demography, University of California, Berkeley
M.A.	2010	Sociology, University of California, Berkeley
M.A.	2008	Demography, University of California, Berkeley
B.A.	2006	Environmental Studies, Brown University

Professional Record:

2018-	Assistant Professor of Sociology; Faculty Associate, Population Studies Center; Faculty Associate, African Studies Center, University of Michigan
2015-2018	Assistant Professor of Sociology; Faculty Affiliate Office of Population Research, Princeton University
2017-2018	Fulbright Fellowship in Uganda
2013-2015	Postdoctoral Fellow, Harvard University
2013-2015	Successful Societies Global Scholar, Canadian Institute for Advanced Research

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Frye has developed an intensive student-centered approach to teaching statistics for social science while also teaching her students coding. This has been a significant contribution to the sociology curriculum. Her substantive courses on gender and sexuality at the undergrad and graduate level have all been very well received. She is also an outstanding mentor. She is mentoring both early- and late-stage graduate students, collaborating and co-authoring with them. She also mentors students and junior scholars from and in Uganda, where she does her fieldwork.

Research: Professor Frye's larger portfolio of research has reconnected social demography to culture. Her research demonstrates that cultural narratives about imagined futures, aspirations, and the proper sequencing of life events affect people's life outcomes and maintain structural barriers to mobility. Professor Frye's research bridges subfields that are often understood as at opposite ends of the field. Further, she is an area specialist conducting much research in sub-Saharan Africa. She has won eight best paper awards from seven different sections of the American Sociological Association. Her bridge-building research is described as important for the development of the discipline.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Lopus, Sara and Margaret Frye. "From Privilege to Prevalence: Contextual Effects of Women's Schooling on African Marital Timing." *Demography* 55(6) (2018):2371-2394.

“Cultural Meanings and the Aggregation of Actions: The Case of Sex and Schooling in Malawi.”  
*American Sociological Review* 82(5) (2017):945-976.

Frye, Margaret, and Jenny Trinitapoli. “Ideals as Anchors for Relationship Experiences.”  
*American Sociological Review*, 80(3) (2015):496-525.

Mohr, John, Christopher A. Bail, Margaret Frye, Jennifer C. Lena, Omar Lizardo, Terence E. McDonnell, Ann Mische, Iddo Tavory, and Frederick F. Wherry. Measuring Culture. New York, NY: Columbia University Press. In Press.

Service: Professor Frye has been an outstanding citizen with a heavy load of service on the Personnel and Executive Committees in the two and a half years she has been at UM. She is also an outstanding citizen in the discipline serving on a variety of editorial boards of top journals and working within the American Sociological Association.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A): “I consider Professor Frye’s work to be of the highest quality across a remarkable span of sociological genres, methods, and imaginative data collection strategies.”

Reviewer (B): “To say that I am impressed would be an incredible understatement. Frye is surely one of the most interesting, creative, productive sociologists of her generation.”

Reviewer (C): “My overall assessment is that Dr. Frye is a path-breaking scholar who is already a leader in the field... Dr. Frye has constructed a unique scholarly identity. I cannot think of another scholar, at any career stage, who is making rigorous, impactful, visible contributions both in demography and in cultural sociology.”

Reviewer (D): “This is an eye-opening show of productivity, more fitting to the usual promotion to Full Professor than it is of the typical junior promotion case...Professor Frye’s record goes beyond quantity. I believe that Professor Frye has achieved standing as an intellectual leader in her field...”

Reviewer (E): “Her articles have a distinctive style, often involving a novel puzzle, innovative use of data, and a multi-stage argument, deploying a range of sources to fully unpack mechanisms producing the outcomes of interest. There are few scholars in sociology making contributions with Frye’s particular combination of high-level theory, broad and innovative mixed methodology, and empirically substantive contributions to a number of fields at a time.”

Reviewer (F): “Dr. Frye’s papers are ambitious. She has invigorated a large wing social demography—development, education, life course, and family studies—by reconnecting these areas to culture and collective narrative.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Frye’s research is changing the discipline through bringing subfields in conversation with each other to understand how cultural beliefs shape actions and outcomes. Further, she is an innovative, committed teacher, contributing new ways of engaging students in learning

statistics, and an outstanding mentor. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Margaret Frye be promoted to the rank of associate professor of sociology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



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Anne Curzan, Dean  
Geneva Smitherman Collegiate Professor of  
English Language and Literature, Linguistics,  
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May 2021