

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION  
The University of Michigan – Flint  
College of Arts and Sciences  
Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice

Jacob Lederman, assistant professor of sociology, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice, College of Arts and Sciences, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of sociology, with tenure, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice, College of Arts and Sciences.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2015	City University of New York, Sociology, New York, NY
B.A.	2004	New York University, Economics, New York, NY

Professional Record:

2015-Present                      Assistant Professor of Sociology, University of Michigan-Flint, Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Since his arrival in 2015, Professor Lederman has taught 11 distinct courses within and beyond his field of urban sociology. He teaches core courses in the sociology major, program electives, supports general education, as well as the Anthropology and Criminal Justice programs. His teaching philosophy builds upon students' existing knowledge about the social world and utilizes theory as a lens which provides students with "new and different viewpoints, structured in patterned ways." Utilizing class trips, guest speakers, and community engagement, Professor Lederman brings theory to life. Student evaluations are positive, with the average score on "Overall, this was an excellent course" being 4.23. Students frequently comment on Professor Lederman's preparedness, and his professional and caring attitude. They also appreciate his deep knowledgeable and his efforts to connect learning to their lived experiences. He regularly advises 10-12 students annually and provides mentorship related to career aspirations. He has also pursued professional development opportunities to continue to develop as a teacher and an advisor. Peer evaluations attest to Professor Lederman's organization, varied activities and assignments, respect and care for his students as individuals and learners, and his conspicuous competency in his multi-disciplinary coursework. He connects theory and abstract concepts to students' everyday experiences and helps students to make clear connections among topics and scholars. With his colleague Professor Daniel Birchok, Professor Lederman secured a \$600,000 grant from the Mellon Foundation for a first year experience course and project entitled, "Borders and Crossings," demonstrating his deep commitment to helping students understand how global processes affect, and are connected to, local ones, through the opportunity to travel.

Research:

Professor Lederman's primary areas of focus include: urban sociology; development and globalization; political economy; and the sociology of culture. Professor Lederman's work has centered, in large part, on investigating the ways urban reinvestment impacts urban governance and politics. He employs qualitative methodologies and a comparative perspective in order to examine multi-scalar and complex processes in cities in the Global South and North, namely: Buenos Aires, Argentina, and Detroit and Flint, Michigan.

Professor Lederman has published a monograph, four peer-reviewed articles with another under review, two book chapters, six book reviews, an encyclopedia entry, and two popular press contributions. He is sole author on all of these publications. His book, Chasing World Class Urbanism, was published this year by the University of Minnesota Press, which is one of the leading academic presses, particularly for scholarship in critical theory and social science. His articles also appear in two flagship sociological journals (*Critical Sociology* and *City and Community*) and he has also published in leading journals in the fields of Urban Studies and Latin Studies.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Chasing World-Class Urbanism: Global Policy versus Everyday Survival in Buenos Aires, 2020, University of Minnesota Press.

“The People’s Plan?: Participation and Post-politics in Flint’s Master Planning Process.” *Critical Sociology* Vol. 45, no. 1, pp. 85-101. 2019.

“Criminals in Our Midst: Middle-Class Reactions toward Representations of the ‘Ordinary’ in a Buenos Aires Shantytown.” *Latin American Perspectives* Vol. 44, no. 3, pp. 135-157. 2017.

Service: Professor Lederman has amassed a record of impactful, high quality service aligned with his scholarly expertise that can broadly be conceived of as institution building. At each level of service, from program, to department, to college and university, Professor Lederman has left a positive impact – he has worked with colleagues on curricular reform, course revision and development, and program assessment. At the department level, Professor Lederman, along with colleagues, have been breaking boundaries in their multidisciplinary department, now housing four distinct disciplines, and are reaching across departmental boundaries to contribute to a new “Urban Science” major. At the college and university levels, Professor Lederman has been impactful in his work on the CAS Strategic Planning Committee, Nominating Committee, as a Center for Gender and Sexuality Advisory Board member, and in his work with the International and Global Studies Program.

Professor Lederman has participated widely in national organizations like the American Sociological Association and Latin American Studies Association. In addition to presenting his research at each organization’s yearly conference, he served on a panel to select the best graduate student paper and as a co-organizer of the round table sessions. He also reviews journal submissions for eight prominent publications in his areas of scholarly expertise, and has been engaged with various local media outlets, bringing his sociological expertise to bare on the Flint water crisis.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A): “Dr. Lederman is a strong researcher who is making a clear contribution to the sub-fields of urban sociology, development and globalization, culture, and political economy as well as Latin American scholarship.”

Reviewer (B): “The publication of Lederman’s book, combined with the range of articles already published, should place him on a select list of urban sociologists from his generation whose work will be widely read and cited.”

Reviewer (C): “Dr. Lederman has demonstrated intellectual leadership. His record of productivity provides every indication that he will continue to perform at a very high level of intellectual rigor into the future.”

Reviewer (D): “I was truly impressed by the outstanding body of publications he has been able to assemble in a relatively short period of time.”

Reviewer (E): “I have found Professor Lederman’s portfolio of scholarship extremely impressive and a delight to review. His research file compares favorably to that of tenured professors at research-oriented institutions.”

Reviewer (F): “I was incredibly impressed by Prof. Lederman’s new book. ... In this book, Dr. Lederman seamlessly weaves together scholarship on policy mobilities, culture/tourism, and world-class urbanism to provide us with an incisive look into how Buenos Aires extrospective city branding efforts both build on

and come into conflict with the everyday lived experience of Porteños. I am certain that this book will make ripples in the world of comparative urbanism, policy mobilities, and global South urbanism...”

Reviewer (G): “He is leading a new generation of social scientists working on issues of urban inequalities vis-à-vis global flows. He has a distinctive, eloquent voice; has produced wholly original and absorbing scholarship of the highest quality, and whilst he already has helped shape the very field within which he works.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Lederman is a skillful and effective teacher who utilizes a wide variety of theories and community engagement activities to facilitate deep learning. He has demonstrated methodological sophistication, analytical intensity, boundary-crossing qualitative techniques, and a high quality of argumentation to achieve an impressive corpus of work at the intersection of urban inequality, political economy, development, and globalization. He also has an exemplary record of impactful service to his department, college, and profession. It is with the unanimous support of the College of Arts and Sciences Executive Committee that I recommend Jacob Lederman for promotion to associate professor of sociology, with tenure, Department of Sociology, Anthropology, and Criminal Justice, College of Arts and Sciences.

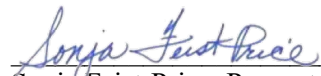
Recommended by:



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Susan Gano-Phillips, Dean  
College of Arts and Sciences

Recommendation endorsed by:



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Sonja Feist-Price, Provost and  
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs



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Debasish Dutta, Chancellor  
University of Michigan – Flint

May 2021