

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

Nestor L. Lopez-Duran, 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:

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| Ph.D. | 2005 | University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Clinical Psychology |
| M.A. | 2000 | Appalachian State University, Clinical Psychology |
| B.A. | 1997 | University of South Florida, Psychology & Music Education |

Professional Record:

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| 2018–current | Associate Chair for Student Academic Affairs, Department of Psychology, University of Michigan |
| 2016–current | Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Michigan |
| 2009–2016 | Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Michigan |
| 2007–2009 | Post-doctoral Scholar, Department of Psychiatry, University of Pittsburgh |

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Lopez-Duran has an excellent record of teaching and mentoring. In the past five years, he has taught Introduction to Psychopathology to undergraduates as a large lecture (enrollment ~290) and as a small seminar, receiving invariably exceptional ratings (>4.7). Graduate-level teaching includes two classes to train clinical students on administering psychological assessments and writing reports—time-intensive courses for both instructor and students. Ratings were generally well above 4.5 and always above 4.0. He is an engaged and supportive mentor to many undergraduate and graduate students. Since last promotion, he has advised seven doctoral students; three are now tenure-track faculty. In 2016, he received the LSA Individual Award for Outstanding Contributions to Undergraduate Education.

Research: Professor Lopez-Duran examines the role of stress hormones, such as cortisol, in the development of depression. Depression is highly prevalent, debilitating, and often first emerges in adolescence. While it is established that stress is associated with the onset of depression, the biological mechanisms through which stress precipitates depression are unknown. Advances in this area can improve treatments and prevention strategies. Through his skillfulness in experimental design, advanced modelling, and clinical insights, Professor Lopez-Duran further disentangled the components of the stress response and discovered that the more sustained activation of the stress response is related to greater likelihood of depression onset. Further, he created Ripple, a HIPPA compliant database for rigorous recruitment and longitudinal tracking of participants essential for this clinical research. Ripple was licensed through the UM Tech Transfer to a company that he founded and is used world-wide. His research contributions are impressive and are expected to remain so into the future.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Micol, V. J., Roberts, A. G., Taylor-Cavelier, S. J., Geiss, E. G., and Lopez-Duran, N. (2019). Early trauma moderates the link between familial risk for depression and post-stress DHEA/cortisol ratios in adolescents. *Psychoneuroendocrinology*, *110*, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.psyneuen.2019.104424>.

Roberts, A. and Lopez-Duran, N.L. (2019). Developmental Influences on Stress Response Systems: Implications for Psychopathology Vulnerability in Adolescence. *Comprehensive Psychiatry*, *88*, 9-21.

Lopez-Duran, N.L., Micol, V., and Roberts, A (2019). Neuroendocrine Models of Psychopathology. In Harkness, K. and Hayden, E.P. (Eds), The Oxford Handbook of Stress and Mental Health. Oxford University Press.

Kuhlman, K.R., Geiss, E.G., Vargas, I., and Lopez-Duran, N.L. (2018). HPA-axis activation as a key moderator of childhood trauma exposure and adolescent mental health. *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*, *46*(1), 149-157.

Service: Since 2018, Professor Lopez-Duran has served as the associate chair for student academic affairs for the Department of Psychology, overseeing both undergraduate and graduate programs. Given the size of the department, this is a very demanding position. Despite challenges due to COVID-19, the GEO strike, and immigration issues, Professor Lopez-Duran has helped the students and department thrive. He designed a Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy with procedures in the event a student has made unsatisfactory progress, and he developed a monthly workshop series focused on academic and non-academic job market preparation. He has served on the Psychology Executive Committee and Awards Committee. Within Clinical Science, he served on multiple committees and he revamped the undergraduate and graduate curricula as well as the clinical training program. Nationally, he served multiple times as an ad-hoc member of two NIH study sections—service that entails a heavy workload and is indicative of his stature. Finally, his founding of Ripple is a major leadership service contribution to the field, providing an invaluable research tool for labs across the world.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A): "...he is competing with some of the most well-established senior psychological scientists, many of whom have very rich samples to draw from. That said, the bulk of Dr. Lopez-Duran's first- and last-authored works appear in a solid mix of first-tier (e.g., *Journal of Abnormal Psychology*, *Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry*) and niche journals (e.g., *Developmental Psychobiology*, *Psychoneuroendocrinology*). More recently, he has published, as middle author, papers outside his primary area of research in some of the most well-respected journals in the field (e.g., *NeuroImage*, *Psychological Science*)."

Reviewer (B): "Within a developmental psychopathology perspective ... stress exposure and stress vulnerability are essential constructs and Dr. Lopez-Duran is playing a major role in explicating them. To do so as well as he does, he takes a multi-method, multi-measure approach and lends his statistical skills to address the complex questions that emerge in this area of study. The quantity of publications is highly impressive ... I was impressed with the number of

publications with students as co-authors, and, often as first authors. That approach reflects a generosity that my colleagues and I highly value, which I suspect would also be true in your department. ... Further, (his) service contributions to the discipline are outstanding.”

Reviewer (C): “Nestor’s highest impact publications have been those on which he served as a junior author with legendary investigators Dr. Sameroff and Dr. Kovacs. Beyond these, papers in which he and his students and junior colleagues have applied landmark registration analytical techniques to differentiate individual differences in reactivity and regulation are especially noteworthy.”

Reviewer (D): “...he has a clear conceptualization of his research questions and the importance of these questions for the field. ... Professor Lopez-Duran has also done excellent work parsing out the different components of stress responding (e.g. rate of response, magnitude, recovery period) and shown that these parts are altered differently in different individuals with different disorders. This is really terrific work.... He has interesting, creative ideas that are likely to move the field forward.”

Reviewer (E): “In short, and cumulatively, [Professor Lopez-Duran’s] work has engendered levels of specificity that have provided real advances for the field.”

Reviewer (F): “Dr. Lopez-Duran’s work on neuroendocrine influences on the development of internalizing psychopathology in youth is conceptually and methodologically sophisticated.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Lopez-Duran has made many valuable contributions in research, in teaching, and in service and his 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 Nestor L. Lopez-Duran be promoted to the rank of professor of psychology, with 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
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