

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy

Natasha Pilkauskas, assistant professor of public policy, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of public policy, with tenure, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy.

Academic Degrees

Ph.D.	2012	Cornell University, Social Welfare Policy
M.P.P.	2004	Harvard University, Public Policy
B.A.	1999	Northwestern University, Sociology and Economics

Professional Record

2015-Present	Assistant Professor of Public Policy, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy Faculty Associate, Population Studies Center Faculty Expert Affiliate, Poverty Solutions Faculty Affiliate, Institute for Research on Women and Gender Faculty Executive Representative, Child Health Evaluation and Research Center External Affiliate, Center on Poverty and Social Policy
2014-2015	Post-doctoral Associate, Department of Policy Analysis and Management, Cornell University
2012-2015	Post-doctoral Research Scientist, Columbia Population Research Center, Columbia University

Summary of Evaluation

Teaching: Professor Pilkauskas primarily teaches elective, seminar-style courses that are strongly related to her research and policy expertise. In fall 2020, she taught the four-credit required undergraduate course on program evaluation (PubPol 479). Professor Pilkauskas has an impressive set of teaching evaluations. Students find her to be an excellent teacher and her courses to be excellent. Her course evaluations have consistently earned her a place on the Ford School Teaching Honor Roll. In addition, she is an active PhD advisor and mentor. She has served on the dissertation committees of two doctoral students who have completed their degrees and is currently on the dissertation committees or serving as a pre-candidate advisor for four additional doctoral students.

Research: Professor Pilkauskas' research considers how social policy might improve the developmental and life trajectories of low-income children. She's most prominent research area examines what she describes as "shared households" in which a child lives with an additional adult beyond a parent/step-parent, sibling, or cohabiting partner. This work makes a significant contribution to the literature on family demography by giving attention to increasingly prevalent types of family structures and living arrangements that heretofore had not been adequately documented or analyzed. She also considers shared households through a policy lens, discussing implications and potential policy interventions. She has been extremely productive, publishing 25 peer-reviewed articles and two peer-reviewed book chapters. She has published in an impressive array of scholarly journals, including six articles in *Demography*, the flagship journal of its field.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Pilkauskas, N.V. & Schneider, W. Fathering among non-resident dads: Does paternity leave matter? *Journal of Marriage and Family*. Published online. 2020.

Pilkauskas, N.V. & Michelmore, K. The effect of the Earned Income Tax Credit on housing and living arrangements. *Demography*, 56, 1303-1326. 2019.

Bruns, A. & Pilkauskas, N.V. Multiple job holding and mental health among low-income mothers. *Women's Health Issues*, 29, 205-212. 2019.

Pilkauskas, N.V. & Cross, C. Beyond the nuclear family: Trends in children living in shared households. *Demography*, 55, 2283-2297. 2018.

Pilkauskas, N.V. Living with a grandparent and a parent in early childhood: Associations with school readiness and differences by demographic characteristics. *Developmental Psychology*, 50, 2587-2599. 2014.

Pilkauskas, N.V., Garfinkel, I. & McLanahan, S.S. The prevalence and economic value of doubling up. *Demography*, 51, 1667-1676. 2014

Service: Professor Pilkauskas is an engaged, active and vibrant member of the Ford School community, the broader UM community, and her profession as a social policy scholar. Since joining the Ford School in 2015, she has served a term on the Master's Program Committee, five terms on the PhD Program Committee, and served on a hiring committee. She has served on the Executive Committees for UM's Children's Health, Evaluation, and Research Center (CHEAR) and the Center for Human Growth and Development. She is an active member of the Population Association of America and the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management. In 2019, she was appointed to the editorial board of the *Journal of Marriage and Family*.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "On the whole, the high quality of Professor Pilkauskas' scholarship has already established her as an exceptional social scientist. Indeed that the vast majority of her papers are published in top disciplinary and interdisciplinary journals in her fields is testament to their rigor, importance, and relevance to multiple lines of scholarly inquiry."

Reviewer B: "Her body of scholarship is high quality and has contributed to important advances in knowledge in several domains. I would surmise that, at least in the U.S., she is currently the most visible quantitative scholar studying multigenerational households and one of the three most visible quantitative scholars studying material hardship. Her paper in *Demography* (forthcoming) examining almost 150 years of data (1870-2018) on intergenerational household will be essential reading for family demographers/sociologists."

Reviewer C: "There is no question that Dr. Pilkauskas' most important contributions have come in the study of children's living arrangements, particularly multi-generational households. Even at this early stage of her career, she has a national reputation as one of only a few experts in multigenerational families...Importantly, Pilkauskas does not just document this important demographic shift but also draws on interdisciplinary theoretical frameworks to test hypotheses about its causes and consequences."

Reviewer D: "I find her newest work, which considers the evolution of family structure from 1870 to the present using historical census records, fascinating, and am excited by the new avenues of inquiry that might be sparked by this long-run historical perspective. Dr. Pilkauskas' finding that children's exposure to multigenerational living arrangements appears to be a uniquely American phenomenon (compared to similar Western countries) is equally interesting and also lays the groundwork for a set of cross-national comparative studies that digs further into this finding and that would be especially well-suited to a public policy lens."

Reviewer E: “In sum, Dr. Pilkauskas has an impressive research record evidenced by her high quality and high impact publications and successful grant record. She has established a body of work that pushes forward our understanding of children’s living arrangements and how low-income families navigate the social safety net. She is on an upward trajectory with tremendous promise.”

Reviewer F: “In addition to the important contributions her academic writings have had on advancing the scholarship in the field, she has made substantial in roads [sic] into translating her work for policy makers and leaders, particularly at this stage in her career. She has written numerous papers and briefs for government agencies (ACF, OPRE, and CMS to name a few), and is asked to speak at their events. Her work has also been picked up by news outlets and shared with wide audiences, which speaks to the relevance of her work in the policy sphere.”

Reviewer G: “Dr. Pilkauskas’ research is highly innovative. Whereas massive amounts of research considers how family context shapes child development, her approach is distinctive for its considerations of a broader set family and household relationships. Where Dr. Pilkauskas’ research has had its greatest impact on my own research is on the analysis of changes in children’s living arrangements. Dr. Pilkauskas’ work was some of the first to call our attention to other dimensions of family change, particularly the rises in household extension.”

Reviewer H: “Dr. Pilkauskas can clearly hold her own in comparison to peers in top schools of public policy or social work as well as human development programs. Both NAE/Spencer Foundation fellowship and the Russell Sage Foundation small grants program are highly competitive funding sources, so her recent awards from these speak to her strength. Dr. Pilkauskas’ publication record today is as strong or stronger than the record at tenure of two similar scholars from top-ranked schools of public policy.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Pilkauskas has established herself as a policy-focused scholar of the social and economic circumstances of low-income families in the United States. Her work poses interesting and important policy-relevant questions, and demonstrates careful data analytic skills and prowess. She is an excellent teacher and mentor and a valued member of the Ford School and University of Michigan communities. I am pleased to recommend Natasha Pilkauskas for promotion to associate professor of public policy, with tenure, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy.



Michael S. Barr
Joan and Sanford Weill Dean of Public Policy
Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy

May 2021