

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan – Flint
School of Education and Human Services
Department of Education

Melissa Sreckovic, assistant professor of education, Department of Education, School of Education and Human Services, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of education, with tenure, Department of Education, School of Education and Human Services.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2015	University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill
M.Ed.	2009	Michigan State University, Special Education and Literacy, East Lansing
B.S.	2006	Michigan State University, Elementary Education, East Lansing

Professional Record:

2017 – present	Director of MA in Inclusive Education Program, University of Michigan-Flint
2015 - present	Assistant Professor of Education, University of Michigan-Flint
2014 – 2015	EMBRACE Educator, Spectrum Services, Durham, North Carolina

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Sreckovic's teaching materials (syllabi, course evaluations, and peer observations) illustrate her deep dedication to classroom teaching. She has taught three undergraduate courses and five graduate courses in varying modes: in-person, mixed-mode and fully online. Professor Sreckovic's dedicated focus to inclusivity is expressed in her theme, "You're welcome here." Patterns in student evaluation surveys show positive responses to Professor Sreckovic's respect for students and community building, the accessibility of her courses and how supported they feel to be successful in her classes, and her passion for the subject matter and extensive expertise. Student evaluations evidence her skill in engaging students in rigorous, supportive learning such that they report finding meaning in her courses to prepare them for their careers with children. Professor Sreckovic reflects on her course evaluations and responds to student concerns by making changes in her practices, ever working to improve her practice to suit students' needs. She consistently seeks ways to improve her practice and develop as a teaching scholar.

Research: Professor Sreckovic has been a remarkably active scholar. Since coming to UM-Flint, she has published twelve peer-reviewed co-authored pieces, and she is first author on four of them. In addition, she has published two book chapters, one encyclopedic entry, one invited publication, and she also has one article submitted and under consideration. Additionally, Professor Sreckovic has delivered or co-delivered 21 peer-reviewed presentations across a range of scholarly and teaching-focused conference venues.

Professor Sreckovic is focused on teaching and learning and on the connection between the development of new knowledge and its dissemination, to improve the practice of teachers and educators she is preparing. Over time, she has become increasingly impassioned about her scholarship as a tool of teacher preparation and professional development. Her work with Mesibov and the article written with Carter and colleagues have been particularly influential. This level of scholarly productivity and her articulate statements attesting to her ability to relate the import of research to practitioners and her own students is notable and unusual for a junior faculty member.

Recent and Significant Publications:

- Sreckovic, M. A., Schultz, T. R., Kenney, C., & Crenshaw, K. (in press). Supporting families of students with ASD through early collaboration. *Young Children*.
- Kenney, C. K., & Sreckovic, M. A. (2019). Examining language in higher education courses: Creating opportunities for critical reflection. *Journal of Effective Teaching in Higher Education*, 2(2), 85-101.
- Sreckovic, M. A., Schultz, T. R., Common, E. A., & Kucharczyk, S. (2019). "I have autism": A review of the literature on sharing diagnosis with peers. *Division on Autism and Developmental Disabilities Online Journal*, 6(1), 22-37.
- Kucharczyk, S., Sreckovic, M. A., & Schultz, T. R. (2019). Practical strategies to promote reflective practice when working with young children with and at-risk for disabilities. *Early Childhood Education Journal*, 47(3), 343-352. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10643-019-00932-w>
- Schultz, T. R., Kucharczyk, S., Sreckovic, M. A., & Fettig, A. (2018). Teaming with families of young children with ASD to prevent challenging behavior. *Perspectives on Early Childhood Psychology and Education*, 3(1), 111-135.
- Mesibov, G. & Sreckovic, M. (2017). Child and juvenile pornography and autism spectrum disorder. In L. A. Dubin & E. Horowitz (Eds.), Caught in the web of the criminal justice system: Autism, developmental disabilities, and sex offenses (pp. 64-93). Jessica Kingsley Publishers.
- Sreckovic M.A. (2020). Efficacy of peer network interventions. In F. R. Volkmar (Ed.), Encyclopedia of autism spectrum disorders (2nd ed, 1-9). Springer. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-4614-6435-8_102383-1
- Sreckovic, M. A. (2017, July). Navigating the college social scene: Tips for success within and beyond the classroom. *Organization for Autism Research*. Retrieved from <https://researchautism.org/navigating-the-college-social-scene-tips-for-success-within-and-beyond-the-classroom/>.

Service: Professor Sreckovic meets and exceeds expectations in the area of service. She has served on numerous department, school, and university committees. She has taken leadership positions in the course of her service work. Her commitment to inclusivity is as consistent in her service as it is in her teaching and scholarship.

Professor Sreckovic has made being collaborative and inclusive a central tenet of her work. From service to the department and school, to the university and the professional community, Professor Sreckovic has grounded all her activities with these underlying principles to great effect. The Alvin D. Loving Junior Faculty Initiative Award, which she received in winter 2020, is testament to her colleagues' appreciation of her work with individuals with disabilities and their families. The contribution that she made with regard to creating a master's program focusing on inclusive education is a hallmark of this work on inclusivity.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A): "I would rank Dr. Sreckovic among the echelon of promising, junior scholars. She clearly has had high-quality training and must be a reliable and competent team member since she has served as co-author with so many highly regarded scholars."

Reviewer (B): "My impressions about the quality, quantity, focus and scholarly impact of Dr. Sreckovic's works are that she conducts state-of-the-art research resulting in top level research writing that is published in highly respected journals, as well as in book chapters."

Reviewer (C): “Dr. Sreckovic’s contribution to the burgeoning area of autism spectrum disorders (ASD) is very important to the field of special education.”

Reviewer (D): “I believe Dr. Sreckovic has demonstrated a solid track record in scholarship in the areas of publications, grant writing, and dissemination of her work. She is developing a reputation in the field within her areas of expertise and it will be exciting to see how she grows over the next few years.”

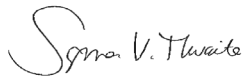
Reviewer (E): “My evaluation of Dr. Sreckovic is that she has the potential to grow as a visible leader in her areas of scholarship and the field.”

Reviewer (F): “I am impressed by her competent use of a variety of research methods including both qualitative (e.g., Schultz et al., 2016) and single-case design research methods (Carter et al., 2017) to examine important questions.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Sreckovic has established herself as an excellent teacher, scholar, and citizen of the university and community. Across all areas, teaching, scholarship, and service, her efforts to develop and improve, reflect and share with students, have resulted in continuously developing expertise and elegant practice. Professor Sreckovic has met and exceeded expectations in the areas of teaching, scholarship, and service. I recommend Melissa Sreckovic for promotion to associate professor of education, with tenure, Department of Education, School of Education and Human Services.

Recommended by:



Sapna V. Thwaite, Ph.D.
Interim Dean, School of Education and Human Services

Recommendation endorsed by:



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



Debasish Dutta, Chancellor
University of Michigan-Flint

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