

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

Felix A. Warneken, 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:

Ph.D.	2007	Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology & University of Leipzig
M.A.	2003	Freie Universität, Berlin

Professional Record:

2017–present	Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Michigan
2013–2017	John L. Loeb Associate Professor of the Social Sciences, Department of Psychology, Harvard University
2009–2013	Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Harvard University
2007–2009	Post-doctoral Researcher, Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology
2006	Novartis Foundation Fellow, Department of Psychology, Harvard University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Warneken has an outstanding record of teaching and mentoring. Since 2018, he has successfully taught a mix of large lecture classes and small undergraduate seminars. In particular, he has taught “Introduction to Developmental Psychology” (Psych 250), which is a large class with 300 students. For smaller undergraduate classes, he has taught “Citizens in the Crib” and “Social Development” (Psych 353). Finally, he has taught one graduate-level course (Psych 808). He often receives stellar ratings and comments from students (over 4.8) and his Q1s and Q2 are always over 4.0. Since receiving his Ph.D., he has supervised 150 undergraduates, 14 graduate students, and seven post-doctoral scholars. The undergraduates receive a comprehensive training experience that includes a weekly lab meeting, hands-on research, and readings. Professor Warneken is very engaged in the training of his students and meets with the graduate students and post-doctoral scholars weekly as well.

Research: Professor Warneken examines the development of cooperation in humans and nonhuman primates. He has documented that cooperation emerges as two distinct processes: one that seeks collaboration and the other that seeks to distribute benefits. The first of these emerges early in development across humans as well as nonhuman primates. The second is thought to be more closely aligned with cultural learning. Professor Warneken has published 78 peer-reviewed articles with many placed in the very top scientific journals (e.g., *Nature*, *Science*, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*). He has received an array of impressive awards, and he is the principal investigator on two NSF awards. Professor Warneken’s stellar research program is well funded and productive and is expected to remain so into the future.

#### Recent and Significant Publications:

Blake, P. R., McAuliffe, K., Callaghan, T., Corbit, J., Barry, O., Bowie, A., Greaves, R., Kleutsch, L., Kramer, K., Ross, E., Vongsachang, H., Wrangham, R., and Warneken, F. (2015). The ontogeny of fairness in seven societies. *Nature*, 528, 258-261.

Liu, S., Gonzalez, G., and Warneken, F. (2019). Worth the wait: Children trade off delay and reward in self— and other—benefiting decisions. *Developmental Science*, 22(4), e12702.

McAuliffe, K., Blake, P. R., and Warneken, F. (2020). Costly fairness in children is influenced by who is watching. *Developmental Psychology*, 56(4), 773-782.

Warneken, F. (2018). How children solve the two challenges of cooperation. *Annual Review of Psychology*, 69, 205-229.

Service: Professor Warneken has provided a substantial amount of service. He launched and leads the Michigan Summer Program in Cognition and Early Development (MSPICED), a 10-week summer internship program that offers hands-on research experience to diverse cohorts of undergraduates from UM and across the country. He has served on a large number of time-intensive committees, including the Executive Committee for the Department of Psychology, the Executive Committee for the Center for Human Growth and Development, the Developmental Area Graduate Admissions Committee, and the Developmental Psychology Training Grant. Beyond UM, Professor Warneken founded and co-directs the Culture and Ontogeny Research Initiative (CORI), a network of researchers who design standardized testing across diverse social contexts. He is an associate editor for *Child Development* and he reviews for many high-impact journals, including *Nature* and *Science*, as well as more specialized journals. Finally, he has served on review panels for many funding agencies, and he has been a consultant for the MacArthur Fellowships and the Nobel Prize.

#### External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A): “His work is of exceptional quality, both theoretically and empirically.”

Reviewer (B): “He is without question among the most outstanding scholars of his cohort in developmental psychology. He has made seminal contributions to our understanding of the developmental and evolutionary roots of human cooperation and altruism and there is no doubt that he will continue to do so ... whereas he was a ‘rising star’ just a few years ago, he is now a well-established, very bright star.”

Reviewer (C): “Warneken is without doubt one of the leading members of his cohort, if not the leader, in both developmental and comparative psychology. [Professor Warneken uses] comparative methods in remarkably illuminating ways to understand the biological and evolutionary roots of altruism and cooperation ... Warneken uses deceptively simple and elegant experimental techniques to illustrate deeply important points in fields like philosophy, biology and economics.”

Reviewer (D): “Dr. Warneken is a leader in the area of prosocial development ... Dr. Warneken is conducting highly visible research that is both theoretically significant and scientifically

rigorous. His file is all strengths and no weaknesses, and the case for promotion is clear.”

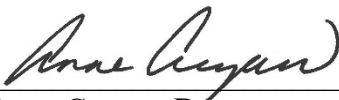
Reviewer (E): “Dr. Warneken is one of the most impressive scholars in the field of cognitive development ... Dr. Warneken has established himself as a leader in the field ... his contributions are important, distinctive and will have a lasting impact on the field ...

Dr. Warneken is an outstanding research scientist. His research tackles fundamental issues, is theoretically significant, is methodologically creative and rigorous, and has had a substantial impact on the field.”

Reviewer (F): “Dr. Warneken is a super star in the fields of comparative, cultural, and developmental psychology ... He is without question the world-expert on these topics ... According to every metric, Dr. Warneken’s work has been exceptionally impactful ... His scientific career will continue to skyrocket, and he will continue to make important scientific contributions over the course of his career.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Warneken has made numerous important contributions in research, in teaching, and in service and his work reflects very well on the Department of Psychology, the College of LSA, and the University of Michigan. He has emerged as an internationally recognized leader in his field of developmental psychology, and he is an excellent teacher, mentor, and citizen. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Felix A. Warneken be promoted to the rank of professor of psychology, 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,  
and Education

Arthur F. Thurnau Professor

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

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