PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan-Dearborn
College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters

Maya Barak, assistant professor of criminology and criminal justice, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of criminology and criminal justice, with tenure, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.

**Academic Degrees:**
- Ph.D. 2016 American University, Washington, DC
- M.A. 2011 Eastern Michigan University, Ypsilanti, MI
- B.A. 2009 University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

**Professional Record:**
- 2016–present Assistant Professor, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, University of Michigan-Dearborn

**Summary of Evaluation:**

**Teaching:** Professor Barak has shown ingenuity in her teaching, especially with regard to her use of digital tools. She was the 2021 recipient of the University of Michigan-Dearborn’s Distinguished Digital Education Award. She has used technological tools such as Slack and podcasts in ways that students describe as interactive and engaging. Her approach to assignments and discussions are original and encourage creativity. Professor Barak also is universally adored by students, who describe her as passionate, caring, and knowledgeable. Professor Barak has taught seven different courses, ranging from Research Methods to her community-engagement course titled Crimmigration. Professor Barak also has taught seven unique independent studies at the undergraduate and graduate levels. She also has supervised five graduate non-thesis projects, chaired two graduate thesis committees, served as an external member on one doctoral dissertation committee, and has created and held CCJ Graduate Student Workshops since 2019.

**Research:** Professor Barak’s research appears in highly regarded journals and presses. Since 2016, Professor Barak has published a co-authored book in NYU Press and currently has a sole-authored monograph in production with NYU Press. She also has published six articles in peer-reviewed academic journals and numerous book chapters. One of Professor Barak’s sole-authored articles was a unanimous selection for the American Society of Criminology (ASC) Division of White-Collar and Corporate Crime’s 2021 Outstanding Article or Book Chapter Award. Professor Barak is a public-facing scholar whose research has significant impact in the study of the structural inequalities in the American criminal justice and immigration systems. She uses various research methodologies and an innovative interdisciplinary approach to the intersectionality of crime study. She also has demonstrated a unique ability both to publish independently and to work collaboratively with other researchers across institutions and disciplines.
Recent and Significant Publications:


Service: Professor Barak’s service to the department, college, university, profession, and community has been exemplary. In the department, she has served as a hiring committee co-chair, conducted multiple major LEO reviews, and served as a faculty advisor for the Student CCJ Collective. In the college, Professor Barak has served as the CASL Executive Committee’s At-Large Representative since 2019. She collaborated on the creation of CASL guidelines for reporting and reviewing faculty research, teaching, and service during the COVID-19 pandemic. She also was an integral member of CASL’s Task Force on Cross Listings and Equivalencies, where she co-developed recommendations to streamline CASL cross listing practices. At the university level, Professor Barak has served on the University Provost Care & Equity Task Force. She conducted a preliminary assessment for a care and equity campus survey and developed a COVID impact statement template for faculty and Guidelines for the Equitable Evaluation of the Impacts of COVID-19 on Research, Teaching and Service. In her profession, Professor Barak has served as a peer reviewer for a book proposal at NYU Press and for multiple academic journals. Outside of the university, Professor Barak has been a volunteer consultant with the Chicago Help Initiative, the Capitol Area Immigrants’ Rights Coalition, and Justice For Our Neighbors, where she became Program Committee Chair in the spring of 2020.
External Reviewers:
Reviewer A: “These analyses demonstrate the range and complexity of interpretation of texts about execution. Most viewers can intuit that death penalty films provide a variety of interpretive possibilities, but Dr. Barak brings a sophisticated theoretical lens that clarifies the phenomenon of creating and interpreting these texts.”

Reviewer B: “…the chapter, Collaborative state and corporate crime: fraud, union and elite power in Mexico included in her packet, I have personally drawn from and cited in my recent research.”

Reviewer C: “Dr. Barak has had a sustained and impactful record of scholarly activity, she has achieved a national and international reputation for excellence in research and scholarship within the discipline of criminology and in the closely related field of law and society, and she is on an impressive trajectory for generating future scholarly contributions.”

Reviewer D: “Dr. Barak has an impressive publication record, and the quality and quantity of scholarly pieces she has produced have made important contributions to the scholarly field of crimmigration, legal consciousness, procedural justice, and state-corporate crime.”

Reviewer E: “Having a decent familiarity with scholarship on procedural justice, I can say with some confidence she is pushing that research forward by calling on scholars to be more attentive to issues of identity and power when studying whether or not people view legal processes as fair and just. I also find her work on state violence and oppression to be quite novel.”

Summary of Recommendation: Professor Barak has published high-quality research and has a promising research trajectory. She also is an innovative and dedicated teacher, has transformed digital pedagogy on campus, and is beloved by students. She also is a valued colleague with numerous service contributions to the department, college, university, profession, and community. I am pleased to recommend, with support of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters Executive Committee, Maya Barak for promotion to associate professor of criminology and criminal justice, with tenure, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.

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Martin J. Hershock, Dean     Domenico Grasso, Chancellor
College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters   University of Michigan-Dearborn

May 2022