

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION  
The University of Michigan  
School of Public Health  
Department of Health Behavior and Health Education

Roshanak Mehdipanah, assistant professor of health behavior and health education, Department of Health Behavior and Health Education, School of Public Health, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of health behavior and health education, with tenure, Department of Health Behavior and Health Education, School of Public Health.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2014	University of Pompeu Fabra, Biomedicine, Barcelona Spain
M.Sc.	2010	University of Waterloo, Health Studies and Gerontology, Waterloo, Canada
B.S.	2008	University of Toronto, Health Studies and Human Biology, Toronto, Canada

Professional Record:

2015 – present	Assistant Professor, Department of Health Behavior and Health Education, School of Public Health, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
2015 – 2015	Lecturer, Chang School of Graduate Studies, Ryerson University, Toronto, Canada
2014 – 2015	Post-doctoral Research Fellow, Collaboratory for Research on Urban Neighbourhoods, Community Health and Housing, McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada
2013 – 2013	Visiting Scholar, Department of Sociology, University of Leeds, Leeds, UK
2010 – 2014	Research Associate, Department of Health Information Systems, Public Health Agency, Barcelona, Spain

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Mehdipanah strives to teach her students about the social determinants of health and the root causes of health inequities, with the goal for them to become responsible agents of change addressing health equity gaps. She has taught two three-credit courses per year, including a large undergraduate course entitled Population Determinants of Health (PUBHLTH 382). In 2016, she began teaching the course Needs Assessment (HBEHE 624), which she redesigned, improving the course evaluations significantly from 3.88 to 4.59 for Q1 and 4.05 to 4.79 for Q2. She has developed a new course, Urban Health (HBHE 645), which relates to her research program and is designed to introduce students to urban health issues and teach them to critically think of the impact urban policies have had on health and health inequities. She also developed a new course for the undergraduate program, Population Determinants of Health (PUBHLTH 382) in 2018. When this course pivoted to an online teaching format due to COVID-19, she kept student's interests by discussing the pandemic and its intersections with several determinants of health. She encouraged students to expand on this work and write a reflective piece from their perspectives as future public health practitioners that was developed into a published piece in *Health Education & Behavior*. Her ratings for all of her courses have been consistently strong with Q1 ranging from 3.41 to 5 and Q2 ranging from 4.05 to 5.

Professor Mehdipanah is the chair for two Ph.D. dissertation committees and serves as primary advisor for one post-doctoral fellow and one Ph.D. student and secondary advisor for four additional Ph.D. students. She has advised ten masters level independent studies, three of which have resulted in published papers, and has supervised over 25 student research assistants. She also mentors students in public health, urban planning, and policy in her role as the public health representative for the Healthy Cities certificate program.

Research: Professor Mehdipanah studies the effects of urban policies on health and health inequities. Her program of research is centered on urban health equity, housing and health equity, and the built environment and health equity. Much of her work is community-engaged and involves interdisciplinary collaborations to better understand residents' perceptions of forces driving inequities to ensure that her research is relevant and responsive to community priorities. Through strong engagement in academic and policy communities, Professor Mehdipanah has sought to translate her research into policy improvement. Her housing work has resulted in policy briefs and recommendations for the state, county and City of Detroit Mayor's Office on various housing programs and policies. In 2020, she became a University of Michigan Public Engagement Faculty Fellow. She then received funding from the University of Michigan Center for Academic Innovation and support from the School of Public Health and Poverty Solutions to establish the first Midwest Housing Research and Policy Network at the School of Public Health and become a leader in examining and addressing housing issues as they intersect with health, aging and race, in the region. In recognition of her scholarly achievements, she was awarded the Henry Russel award in 2022, University of Michigan's prestigious award for early career scholars.

Professor Mehdipanah has a total of 32 publications and four book chapters. Twenty-nine of her papers have been published since 2016, including 11 as first author, eight as second author, and 13 including a student or mentee. She has published in prominent journals including the *American Journal of Public Health*, *Journal of Epidemiology & Community Health*, *Health & Place*, and *Journal of Urban Health*. Her i10-index is nine and her h-index is nine. Her work has been cited a total of 447 times, including 126 times so far in 2021, showing a strong upward trend. Professor Mehdipanah has been the principal investigator (PI) on an R03 award from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and several small internal and foundation grants from entities including the Michigan Center on the Demography of Aging, Michigan Institute for Clinical and Health Research, Poverty Solutions at the University of Michigan, and the World Health Organization totaling \$470,000 in direct costs. She is also the co-PI of a \$200,000 grant from the Quicken Loans Community Fund. She has been co-investigator on five other awards with \$23.7 million in direct costs. She currently has multiple grants under review including an NIH R01, an NIH R03, and a Quicken Loans Community Funding foundation grant.

#### Recent and Significant Publications:

- Mehdipanah, R., Martin, J., Eisenberg, A.K., Schulz, A.J., Morgenstern, L.B., Langa, K.M. (2021): Housing status, mortgage debt and financial burden as barriers to health among older adults in the U.S, *Housing and Society*, DOI: 10.1080/08882746.2021.1881373
- Mehdipanah, R., Bess, K., Tomkowiak, S., Richardson, A., Stokes, C., White Perkins, D., Cleage, S., Israel, B.A., Schulz, A.J. (2020) Residential racial and socioeconomic segregation as predictors of housing discrimination in Detroit metropolitan area. *Sustainability*, 12(24), 10429
- Mehdipanah, R., Schulz, A.J., Israel, B.A., Gamboa, C., Rowe, Z., Khan, M., Allen, A. (2017) Urban HEART Detroit: A tool to better understand and address health equity gaps in the city. *Journal of Urban Health*, 95(5), 662-671

Mehdipanah, R., Schulz, A.J., Israel, B.A., Mentz, G., Eisenberg, A., Stokes, C., Rowe, Z. (2017). Neighborhood Context, Homeownership and Home Value: An Ecological Analysis of Implications for Health. *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 14(10), 1098-1113

Mehdipanah, R., Marra, G., Melis, G., Gelormino, E. (2017) Urban renewal, gentrification and health equity: a realist perspective. *European Journal of Public Health*, 28(2), 243-248

Service: Professor Mehdipanah's service has consisted of committee memberships and review activities. At the department level, she has been a member of M.P.H. Curriculum Committee, a member of the M.P.H. Admissions Committee, and a grader for the preliminary exam. At the school level, she was a member of the Committee for Undergraduate Education. At the university level, she has been a reviewer for several internal grant mechanisms. At the national and international level, she has served as a grant reviewer for the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the National Institute for Health Research in the United Kingdom and served on a Delphi panel and as an external expert. She has also been a peer reviewer for a number of leading journals including the *American Journal of Public Health*, *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, *Health Affairs*, and *Social Science and Medicine*.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "Based on this knowledge and experience, I evaluate Dr. Mehdipanah as clearly demonstrating outstanding ability in her excellent scholarly contributions, high degree of independence and leadership in research and practice, and a growing national and international reputation as a top scholar of urban inequality, housing, and health... In my view, she clearly merits promotion to associate professor with tenure."

Reviewer B: "Dr. Mehdipanah's role as PI is somewhat limited to smaller and foundation grants, but she has served as co-I on a few CDC/NIH grants. It would have been helpful to better understand her role as co-I on the grants discussed in her narrative statement. The depth of involvement and influence can vary greatly with a co-I status – from very minor to very influential. The goal for the next several years would be to serve as PI on those grants and to lead a research team... Dr. Mehdipanah's standing in relation to others in her peer group working in the same field at the [my institution] and beyond is above average and meets the UM criteria shared with me in advance of this review. I strongly recommend her promotion to Associate Professor with tenure."

Reviewer C: "She appears to be an active researcher, an engaged teacher, and has a service profile in the university, profession, and community. I think she reaches the bar for being promoted to associate professor with tenure... Overall, Dr. Mehdipanah is making an interesting contribution to scholarship in on health equity and the urban environment, which is a growing area."

Reviewer D: "Over the six years Dr Mehdipanah has been an assistant professor, her rate of publications and citations have markedly increased... Most of her publications are in relative modestly-ranked, but reputable journals, although this is not unexpected at this stage of her career...Impressively, in 2016, her work was profiled as a case study in the 2016 WHO Global Report on Urban Health. Subsequently, she was selected to write two housing chapters in books. She also has a highly read piece in *The Conversation*, which indicates she is skilled in presenting her research ideas to the general public... In my view, Roshanak has very clearly met the requirements for promotion to Associate Professor with tenure,..."

Reviewer E: “In this first paper, she showed that housing discrimination was not entirely where one would have hypothesized based on neighborhood characteristics. I suspect this will be a fruitful line of research... Also in the area of housing affordability, she has received funding from Quicken Loans Community Fund to study right of first refusal where renters are offered the chance to purchased foreclosed homes. This also seems like a very important area... In other papers that were included in the promotion packet, she demonstrated expertise in using large datasets to look at the association between home ownership and health... Across her work, she has focused on community engagement. This approach is so crucial as it grounds the questions that are asked and answers that are crafted... In summary, Dr. Mehdipanah has a strong record of scholarly achievement focusing on the connection between housing, neighborhood environments and health and is poised to build on this foundation to become a leader in this rapidly growing field.”

Summary of Recommendation: Professor Mehdipanah studies the effects of urban policies on health and health inequities questioning the how, for whom and under what circumstances urban policies impact health and health inequities. She is an integral part of the Health Behavior and Health Education teaching mission, teaching students to become responsible agents of change addressing health equity gaps. She provides excellent service to the school, university, and professional communities. It is with the support of the School of Public Health Executive Committee that I recommend Roshanak Mehdipanah for promotion to associate professor of health behavior and health education, with tenure, Department of Health Behavior and Health Education, School of Public Health.



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F. DuBois Bowman, Ph.D.  
Dean, School of Public Health

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