

## PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION

The University of Michigan

A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning

Ana P. Pimentel Walker, assistant professor of urban and regional planning, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of urban and regional planning, with tenure, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning.

### Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2013	University of California, San Diego, Socio-cultural Anthropology
M.U.R.P.	2005	University of California, Los Angeles, Urban and Regional Planning
M.A.	2005	University of California, Los Angeles, Latin American Studies
J.D.	1998	University of Cruz Alta, Brazil

### Professional Record:

2013 – present      Assistant Professor of Urban and Regional Planning, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan

### Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Pimentel Walker is an excellent teacher and her courses are important to the planning program, particularly for helping to globalize the curriculum. Her syllabi and course material demonstrate her attention to diverse learning styles and pedagogies. She pushes students to read outside mainstream canons, including perspectives of LGBTQI+ groups, immigrants and refugees, and women. Professor Pimentel Walker's progressive efforts to globalize her courses resulted in the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning Global Planning Education Committee inviting her to present strategic ideas to chairs and directors at the 2021 Administrators Conference.

Professor Pimentel Walker's contribution to the capstone courses which produce a deliverable for a community partner and are the primary way Master of Urban and Regional Planning students fulfill their exit project requirement is especially notable. Her capstone courses have motivated students to rise to the challenge of producing high quality, participatory plans that have received the most awards of any current faculty member. This includes three state-level awards from the Michigan Association of Planning and two national awards from the American Planning Association and Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture. Apart from her course instruction, Professor Pimentel Walker has also mentored numerous students on Ph.D. committees and master's theses. She regularly hires students to work as research assistants and to co-author, and she has secured considerable funding so that former capstone students can continue working with community partners long after the capstone is completed to implement their plans.

Research: Professor Pimentel Walker is a scholar who successfully conducts rigorous ethnographic and qualitative field work in international and domestic settings. Her research centers on three interrelated themes: the potential of participation-based institutional reform to improve people's lives in informal settlements of the Global South, particularly Brazil; the

interrelationship between law, institutions, and planning in slum-upgrading policy; and the role of community-based organizations in refugee resettlement in the United States. Her publications are the result of empirically rigorous research, characterized by sophisticated and creative theoretical analysis, and are in top-tier journals in urban and regional planning, urban studies, and international development, including: *Habitat International*, *The Journal of Planning Education and Research*, *The Journal of Urban Affairs*, *Urban Studies*, *Environment and Urbanization* and *Housing Policy Debate*. *Habitat International* is perhaps the world's leading journal for cutting-edge research on policy and planning concerning informal settlements, which underscores the significant policy implications of Professor Pimentel Walker's work and her global standing as a scholar with deep expertise on this topic. Professor Pimentel Walker has also demonstrated a sustained commitment to generating research funding and to the opportunities that this creates for her students as well as her service work.

#### Recent and Significant Publications:

Pimentel Walker, A.P., Arquero de Alarcón, M., Santo Amore, C., Lopes dos Reis, N. Nair, N. Yelk, J., Liu. Y. Young Land Occupations and the Failure of Housing Policy in Brazil. 2021, *Housing Policy Debate*.

Pimentel Walker, A.P., Friendly, A. *The Value of Participatory Urban Policy Councils Engaging Actors through Policy Communities*. 2021, *Environment and Urbanization*.

Pimentel Walker, A.P., Sanga, N., Gonzalez, O. Yoshihama, M. Risk Communication and Institutional Racism: The Protective Health Effect of Refugee Community Organizations, 2021, *Health Security*, 19(S1): 89-94.

Pimentel Walker, A.P., Arquero de Alarcón, M.; Penha Machado, M.F.; Avanci, J. The Judicialization of the Planning Process in São Paulo's Informal Settlements: Enforcing Housing and Environmental Rights through the Courts? 2020, *Journal of Planning Education and Research*.

Pimentel Walker, A.P. and Arquero de Alarcón, M. The Competing Social and Environmental Functions of Private Urban Land: The Case of an Informal Land Occupation in São Paulo's South Periphery. 2018, *Sustainability* 10(11): 4160.

Pimentel Walker, A.P. Self-Help or Public Housing? Lessons from Co-Managed Slum Upgrading via Participatory Budget. 2016, *Habitat International* 55: 58-66.

Service: Professor Pimentel Walker has made a significant contribution in service to the Taubman College, the university, and off-campus communities. Her commitment to improving the lives of marginalized communities inspires her capstone students to do the same in their future careers. She has also proactively connected with non-governmental organizations and national and global scholar associations that have enhanced the reputation of Taubman College.

#### External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "Professor Pimentel Walker is establishing herself as a leading figure in urban studies, with a special focus on the political economy of participation and resettlement in Brazil and in cities more broadly...Dr. Pimentel Walker has produced an impressive and highly productive record of important and innovative scholarship..."

Reviewer B: "Overall, her research is of high quality—creative, theoretically sound, empirically rigorous, urgent, and has strong practical relevance for being lucid and accessible. Her

publications, especially those about participatory planning with squatter communities in Brazil and elsewhere in Latin America, exemplify richness, nuance, and depth.”

Reviewer C: “...I find her methodological approach inspirational and productive and her findings unique and grounded in deep, hard-sought understanding of community conditions... Pimentel Walker personifies the ethos of the planning discipline: to link theory and action and to serve the public good... I’m at awe at the high level of community engagement, socio-spatial justice commitment, and research and teaching productivity that Pimentel Walker has attained and sustained.”

Reviewer D: “Dr. Pimentel Walker has developed an innovative, productive and impactful research agenda that is engaging with some of the foundational questions for urban planning and international development planning in the 21st century.”

Reviewer E: “...her publications represent an important contribution to research in the area of international planning and governance in and for informal settlements. I would estimate her a scholar of very high standing in this subfield of planning...”

Summary of Recommendation: Professor Pimentel Walker is a productive urban and regional planning scholar who has made significant contributions to the field. She is an excellent teacher and mentor and she provides important internal and external service. It is with the support of the Executive Committee that I recommend Ana P. Pimentel Walker for promotion to associate professor of urban and regional planning, with tenure, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning.



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Jonathan Massey  
Dean and Professor  
A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning

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