

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

Dale E. Thomson, associate professor of political science, with tenure, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, is recommended for promotion to professor of political science, with tenure, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2001	University of Maryland-Baltimore, Baltimore, MD
M.P.S.	1997	University of Maryland-Baltimore, Baltimore, MD
B.S.	1991	University of Detroit, Detroit, MI

Professional Record:

2014-2020	Chair, Department of Social Sciences, University of Michigan-Dearborn
2012-present	Associate Professor of Political Science (with tenure), Department of Social Sciences, University of Michigan-Dearborn
2008-2012	Assistant Professor of Political Science, Department of Sciences of Social Sciences, University of Michigan-Dearborn
2005-2008	Assistant Professor of Political Science, School of Education, University of Michigan-Dearborn

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Thomson is rated as excellent in teaching. Since being promoted to associate professor, he has taught ten unique courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels, including Introduction to American Government, Policy Analysis & Development, Government of Michigan, Revitalizing Cities, Urban Politics, Administration of Financial Resources, Government and Nonprofit Finance, and American Policy Process. He has been active in curriculum development having created the Revitalizing Cities course for both undergraduate and graduate students; revamped six courses for online/hybrid teaching; and secured two other courses for approval in the Dearborn Discovery Core program. He consistently receives high student evaluation ratings, with a mean score of 4.84 (out of 5.0) on instructor knowledge and a mean score of 4.53 overall. He has supervised graduate student internships and directed students for both undergraduate and graduate students, several of those including project-based learning opportunities which included pairing students with a local government agency or nonprofit to conduct research and analysis for an administrative or policy-related project.

Research: Professor Thomson is rated excellent in research. Since receiving tenure, he has published four articles and a book chapter. He has several projects underway, including a draft manuscript which explores the pathways of foundation influence on the city governance and policy. Professor Thomson's research is primarily focused on policy and politics of urban revitalization and the nature, impacts, and limitations of foundation activism in community development. These are important and relevant areas of focus as U.S. cities confront rising costs; increased demand for services from its citizens; declining state and federal resources; and limitations on revenue sources. He combines the use of qualitative and quantitative methods and

an excellent writing style to build new ways of understanding and knowledge to inform policy, politics, and practice. In particular, Professor Thomson's research has revealed a more nuanced understanding of how cities engage in community revitalization and seeks to place complex issues into a broader political and policy framework.

Recent and Significant Publications:

- Thomson, D. 2021. "Foundation activism in urban revitalization: Effects on institution and political agency," *Journal of Urban Affairs*, pp. 1-24.
- Thomson, D. 2020. "Philanthropic funding for community economic development: Exploring potential for influencing policy and governance," *Urban Affairs Review*, pp. 1-41.
- Thomson, D. 2019. "Donor-driven democracy?: Governance implications of foundation-dependent revitalization," *Journal of Urban Affairs*, vol. 41, pp. 551-569.
- Thomson, D. and Etienne, H. 2017. "Fiscal crisis and community development: The Great Recession Support Networks, and community development corporation capacity," *Housing Policy Debate*, vol. 27, pp. 137-165.
- Thomas, D. 2017. "Federalism and intergovernmental relations." In John Klemanski and David Dulio (Eds.), Michigan Government, Politics, and Policy, University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor, MI, pp. 52-77.

Service: Professor Thomson is rated excellent in service. Since receiving tenure, Professor Thomson has been involved in a significant and time consuming leadership position as the chair of the Department of Social Sciences (2015-2020). In addition, he has served in leadership positions as the director of the Institute for Local Government (2006-2014); chair of the University Budget Committee (2012-2013); director of the Master of Public Administration and Master of Public Policy programs (2013-2014); and co-chaired the CASL's Undergraduate Research Task Force (2015-2016) along with CASL's Strategic Planning Priority 4 Writing Group (2015-2016). Professor Thomson's service spans not only the department and college but also the campus, his profession, and community. He has served as a member of Advisory Committee for the Chancellor's Conversations on Race (2017-2018); Gateways to Completion Steering Committee (2015-2017); Institutional Review Board (through 2012-2018); Strategic Planning Environment Scan Working Group (2019); Scheduling Advisory Team (2019-2020); and the Search Committee for the Vice Chancellor of Business Affairs (2020). For his profession, Professor Thomson has served as a governing board member of the Metro Detroit Chapter of the American Society for Public Administration (2010-2014) where he also served as the president of the board from 2012-2013. He is also a longtime member of the Urban Affairs Association. More broadly, his expertise has been called upon when he served as a member of a group assembled by the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago and the White House Detroit Working Group to discuss policy options for improving access to homeownership within Detroit.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "I highly recommend Dr. Thomson's promotion to the rank of Professor with tenure. Through his excellent scholarship, he is making important contributions to the field. In my view, he has also shown himself to be an outstanding citizen of the university and of the academic community."

Reviewer B: “I am most impressed by Thomson’s investigations into the influence of philanthropic foundations on public policy. In an era of privatization of much of the public sphere and the intervention of both national and local foundations in policy making at the municipal level, Thomson’s work is a significant contribution to our knowledge.”

Reviewer C: “[T]he primary focus of his research... will become increasingly salient in the years ahead as major US cities face rising costs, increasingly complex citizen demands for services, declining state and federal resources, and constraints on raising own-source revenues. His work is theoretically informed and makes contributions to scholarly literature in urban policy and politics...but...it will also attract the attention of city managers, policy makers, foundation program officers, and other professionals doing the work of running cities with increased frequency over time...I anticipate his work to have sustained impact, and with audiences beyond that of the academy.”

Reviewer D: “This work clearly demonstrates the career trajectory of a thoughtful scholar who has continued his research in community development by delving deeply into critical issues and doing so through time-consuming qualitative and quantitative often comparative research.”

Reviewer E: “His scholarly accomplishments and contributions to date are very noteworthy, of strong quality, and impactful for both theory and practice. Methodologically, his work is creative, sophisticated, and appropriate for the research questions being asked. In conclusion, I strongly believe that Professor Thomson’s scholarship evidences a high level of academic distinction.”

Summary of Recommendation: Professor Thomson has published outstanding research and clearly demonstrates promise for continued scholarly productivity. He is an excellent teacher who is highly rated by his students and peers. Professor Thomson is a committed department, college, university, and community citizen who has made significant contributions wherever he has served. It is with the support of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters Executive Committee that I recommend Dale E. Thomson for promotion to professor of political science, with tenure, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.



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Martin J. Hershock, Dean  
College of Arts, Sciences and Letters



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Domenico Grasso, Chancellor  
University of Michigan-Dearborn

May 2022