

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

Rose E. Wellman, assistant professor of anthropology, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of anthropology, with tenure, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2014	University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA
M.A.	2009	University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA
B.A.	2005	Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, MA

Professional Record:

2017-present	Assistant Professor, Behavioral Sciences, University of Michigan-Dearborn
2014-2017	Post-doctoral Research Associate, Center for Iran and Persian Gulf Studies, Princeton University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Wellman’s teaching is rated excellent. She has taught nine different courses: Introduction to Anthropology, Anthropology of the Middle East, Kinship and Marriage, Anthropology Capstone, Anthropological Theory, Religion and Culture, Islamophobia, and Anthropology of Food. She has introduced two new courses (Islamophobia and Anthropology of Food) to the anthropology curriculum and revised and revitalized existing courses. Her courses support not only anthropology but a range of interdisciplinary programs including Arab American Studies, Food Studies, and Women’s and Gender Studies. Her involvement has been instrumental to the creation of a Certificate in Food Studies. She consistently receives outstanding student evaluation ratings, with her courses averaging 4.73 on the instructor rating (on a 5 point scale). Professor Wellman’s courses are well-structured and emphasize critical thinking and project-based learning. Observations of Professor Wellman’s classes by faculty colleagues confirm the high quality of her teaching and the enthusiastic reception of her courses by her students.

Research: Professor Wellman’s research is ranked excellent. She is a rising authority on post-revolutionary Iran. Since 2017, she has published nine peer-reviewed manuscripts, including two books, three articles and four peer-reviewed book chapters. Her research focuses on the relationship between Islam, kinship, and nation-making in the modern Middle East. She studies what an analysis of home life and everyday piety says about state power. Her recently-published monograph, *Feeding Iran*, noteworthy for its study of state-supporting families outside of Iran’s urban centers, is already making an impact on studies of Iran, Islam, kinship, and foodways. Since her arrival at UM-Dearborn, Professor Wellman has begun to study the local Iraqi community, a project that promises to shed light on Muslims and immigrants in Southeast Michigan.

Recent and Significant Publications:

- Wellman, R. Feeding Iran: Shi'i Families and the Making of the Islamic Republic. University of California Press, Berkeley, CA, 2021.
- Price, C., Draus, P., Wellman, R., Gleicher S., Alazzawi, H., Pepin, K., Norwood, D., and Sampson, N. "The Healthy Dearborn Coalition: An Interdisciplinary, Continuing Collaboration between University, Health, Government and Community in Southeast Michigan." In Leslie Hossfeld, E. Brooke Kelly, and Cassius Hossfeld (Eds.), International Handbook on Public Sociology, Routledge New York, 2021, pp. 121-133.
- Wellman, R. "Kinship and New Social Forms: Kindred Politics, Biotechnology, and Feminist Activism." In Lene Pedersen and Lisa Cliggett (Eds.), The Sage Handbook of Cultural Anthropology, 2021, pp. 72-90.
- Wellman, R. "In a Basiji Kitchen: Halal Jello, Biomorality, and Blessing in the Islamic Republic of Iran" *Gastronomica: The Journal of Critical Food Studies*. Vol. 20, no.1, 2020, pp. 23-33.
- Wellman, R. "'Almost Mahram': Moments of Trust and Kinship in Iran." *Anthropology of the Middle East* vol. 13, no. 1, 2018, pp. 117-120.
- Thomas, T., Malik, A., and Wellman, R. (Eds), New Directions in Spiritual Kinship: Sacred Ties across the Abrahamic Religions, Palgrave Macmillan, NY, 2017.
- Wellman, R. "Sacralizing Kinship, Naturalizing the Nation: Food and Prayer in Post-revolutionary Iran," *American Ethnologist* vol. 44, no. 3, 2017, pp. 503-515.
- Wellman, R. "Substance, Spirit, and Sociality among Shi'i Muslims in Iran." In Todne Thomas, Asiya Malik and Rose Wellman (Eds.), New Directions in Spiritual Kinship: Sacred Ties across the Abrahamic Religions, Palgrave Macmillan, New York, 2017, pp. 171-194.
- Thomas, T., Wellman R., and Malik, A. "Resacralizing the Social: Spiritual Kinship at the Crossroads of the Abrahamic Religions," In Todne Thomas, Asiya Malik and Rose Wellman (Eds.), New Directions in Spiritual Kinship: Sacred Ties across the Abrahamic Religions, Palgrave Macmillan, New York, 2017, pp. 1-28.

Service: Professor Wellman's service is ranked excellent. Her record of service is strong at all levels. She is an active member of the anthropology discipline and of the interdisciplinary programs in Arab American Studies, Middle East Studies, Food Studies, and Women's and Gender Studies, and she has served the campus as a member of the Research Support Committee. She has been particularly active in community and professional service. She is a member of the Arab American Research Initiative, a national project working to improve data on Arab Americans, including the inclusion of an Arab or MENA category on the U.S. Census. Professor Wellman has also been involved as a Research Committee member for the Healthy Dearborn Coalition. Her work as a contributing editor to *Anthropology News* is significant, and she is an elected Council Member of the Association for Iranian Studies.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "Dr. Wellman would qualify for promotion at any research university. She would certainly be a strong candidate for promotion at the University of Minnesota, or at Brown University...I think you are extremely lucky to have her as a colleague."

Reviewer B: “I regard Professor Wellman as remarkable in her peer group for the high quality of her research, which I’m sure was not always easy to conduct, the subtlety and importance of her arguments, and her fluid writing.”

Reviewer C: “In my view, she is at the forefront of her generation of anthropologists; her scholarship is outstandingly original and important, and shows enormous potential for development in the future. She has published in high-profile destinations and, compared to colleagues at a similar career-stage, she is clearly on a strong upward trajectory.”

Reviewer D: “Given the scholarly impact of Professor Wellman’s work, I would place her above others in her peer group who are working in the same field. In short, it is not just that she has made her mark by publishing a book and numerous well-placed peer-reviewed articles and book chapters, but also that a clear trajectory is evidenced in her publications as she has broadened and advanced her theorization of kinship during this first part of her career.”

Reviewer E: “Reading her dossier, I am stunned. Her productivity--in both quality and quantity--is unparalleled for an assistant professor, surpassing many of us. This she has done in the critical areas of anthropology and beyond--foodways, the most important activity for the survival of individual humans and also for any society; kinship; religion; nation-building with a focus on Iran and Iranians, when the Middle East, Muslims, and Islam are perhaps the most eagerly sought topics and geographic area of research today and are also highly important in the international political situation.”

Reviewer F: “Dr. Wellman’s work is superlative in terms of quality, quantity, focus, and scholarly impact.”

Summary of Recommendation: Professor Wellman has published high quality research and shows promise for continued scholarly work. She is an outstanding teacher, rated very highly by students and peers. She is a highly valued colleague and makes significant contributions to the university, community and profession. It is with the support of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters Executive Committee that I recommend Rose E. Wellman for promotion to associate professor of anthropology, with tenure, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.



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



Domenico Grasso, Chancellor
University of Michigan-Dearborn

May 2022