

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Laura B. Zahodne, assistant professor of psychology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of psychology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2012	University of Florida
M.S.	2008	University of Florida
B.S.	2005	University of Michigan

Professional Record:

2016-current	Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Michigan
2016-current	Faculty Associate, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan
2014-2016	Associate Research Scientist, Neurology, Columbia University
2012-2014	Post-doctoral Fellowship, Neuropsychology, Columbia University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Zahodne has an excellent record of teaching and mentoring. She has taught an undergraduate lecture-based course titled Introduction to Human Neuropsychology (Psych 345) three times with class size ranging from 60 to 216 students. Q1s and Q2 were invariably excellent with ratings ranging from 4.6 to 4.8. In addition, she mentors many undergraduates in her lab, including 11 honors students, six SROP students, and 20 research assistants. For graduate instruction, she taught Psychological Assessment I (Psych 775) and Psychological Assessment II (Psych 778). These intense courses are required of all clinical students. Despite the heavy workload in this course, Professor Zahodne received strong Q1 and Q2 course ratings ranging from 4.2 to 5.0. She is the primary advisor to four Ph.D. students and one master's student. Evidence of her exceptional mentoring comes from a highly competitive NRSA fellowship to one student and funding from an NIH administrative supplement to another. In addition, a post-doctoral fellow who works with her won an American Psychological Association research award.

Research: Utilizing longitudinal approaches, neuropsychological measures, survey methods, neuroimaging techniques, and advanced statistical methodology, Professor Zahodne examines age-related neurodegenerative disorders, including Alzheimer's disease (AD), with the goal of reducing the burden of these conditions. More specifically, she seeks to identify environmental/contextual conditions, such as racial discrimination, educational attainment, and social support, that increase risk of neurodegenerative disorders. She has earned many prestigious awards, including the Margaret M. and Paul B. Baltes Award from the Gerontological Society of America, the Distinguished Scientific Award for Early Career Contribution to Psychology from the American Psychological Association, the Levitt Early Career Award from the Society for Clinical Neuropsychology, Early Career Awards from the International Neuropsychological Society as well as the American Psychological Association, the Rising Star Award from the

Association for Psychological Science, and the Faculty Diversity award from the psychology department. Her research program currently has grant funding totaling about \$20 million.

Recent and Significant Publications:

- Kraal, A.Z., Dotterer, H.L., Sharifian, N., Morris, E.P., Sol, K., Zaheed, A.B., Smith, J., & Zahodne, L.B. (2021). "Physical activity in early- and mid-adulthood are associated with longitudinal memory trajectories in later-life." *Journal of Gerontology: Medical Sciences*, 76(8), 1495-1503.
- Zahodne, L.B., Mayeda, E.R., Hohman, T.J., Fletcher, E., Racine, A.M., Gavett, B., Manly, J.J., Schupf, N., Mayeux, R., Brickman, A.M., & Mungas, D. (2019). "The role of education in a vascular pathway to episodic memory: brain maintenance or cognitive reserve?" *Neurobiology of Aging*, 84, 109-118.
- Zahodne, L.B., Ajrouch, K., Sharifian, N., & Antonucci, T. (2019). "Social relations and age-related change in memory." *Psychology and Aging*, 34(6), 751-765.
- Zahodne, L.B., Kraal, A.Z., Sharifian, N., Zaheed, A.B., & Sol, K. (2019). "Inflammatory mechanisms underlying the effects of everyday discrimination on age-related memory decline." *Brain, Behavior, and Immunity*, 75, 149-154.

Service: Professor Zahodne has an excellent level of service within the university and broader research community. She has served on the Department of Psychology's Executive Committee, which meets weekly and involves a heavy workload. In addition, she has also chaired the Clinical Science Awards and Admissions Committees. As the co-director of the NIH-funded Michigan Center for Contextual Factors in Alzheimer's Disease (MCCFAD), she has mentored faculty from underrepresented groups who are interested in AD research. Nationally, she is an associate editor for the following three journals: *Journal of Gerontology*, *Psychological Sciences* and the *Journal of Alzheimer's Disease*. She is also a consulting editor for *Psychology & Aging* and the *Journal of Clinical and Experimental Neuropsychology*. Importantly, she has served on five NIH study sections between 2018-2020. Her service to scientific organizations is also impressive. She was the program chair for the Adult Development and Aging Meeting at the APA Convention in 2019 and 2020. She also served on the Executive Leadership Board of an APA Division and the Scientific Advisory Committee of APA's Society for Clinical Neuropsychology. She is currently a member of the Program Committees for the International Neuropsychological Society and the Alzheimer's Association International Conference.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A): "...Dr. Zahodne has distinguished herself as an outstanding early investigator in Clinical Neuropsychology, focusing on enhancing understanding of racial and ethnic disparities in cognitive aging and Alzheimer's disease...During a relatively short period of time, Dr. Zahodne has been exceptionally productive both in scholarship and in obtaining external grant funding."

Reviewer (B): "My impression is that Dr Zahodne's work is of outstanding quality, that she is an intellectual leader, driving forward her own ideas and programs. Review of her publications and Vitae also demonstrates clear career progression and development...Dr Zahodne is in the top group of scholars in her cohort and is clearly a rising star who will become a significant opinion leader."

Reviewer (C): “Dr. Zahodne is most deserving of promotion to associate professor with tenure...Dr. Zahodne has made profound and important discoveries that have advanced the fields of cognition, brain functioning, and gerontology. Her scientific achievements place her within an elite group of scholars in the field, and indeed at the top of that group.”

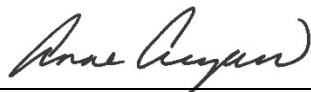
Reviewer (D): “It is particularly laudable that Dr. Zahodne generally studies phenomena of interest longitudinally, using advanced multivariate statistical modeling techniques.”

Reviewer (E): “To cut to the chase, this is among the strongest tenure cases I have ever reviewed (typically, I write one or two of these external letters each year and served for three years on my university’s promotion and tenure committee)...This is an extraordinary record for an individual coming up for tenure, comparable to some of the cases I have reviewed for individuals being considered for promotion to professor.”

Reviewer (F): “Dr. Zahodne has been remarkable in establishing a truly national reputation at such an early stage in her career...Her mentorship of students and trainees is absolutely first rate. She would certainly meet the requirements for promotion to Associate Professor with tenure at [my institution].”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Zahodne has made a substantial number of important contributions in research, teaching, and service and her work reflects very well on the Department of Psychology, the College of LSA, and the University of Michigan. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Laura B. Zahodne be promoted to the rank of associate professor of psychology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



Anne Curzan, Dean
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