

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning

Larissa S. Larsen, associate professor of urban and regional planning, with tenure, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, is recommended for promotion to professor of urban and regional planning, with tenure, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1997	University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL
ML.Arch.	1992	University of Guelph, Guelph, ON, Canada
BS.	1989	University of Guelph, Guelph, ON, Canada

Professional Record:

2021 – Present	Academic Program Chair of Urban and Regional Planning, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
2019 – 2021	Director of Doctoral Studies of Urban and Regional Planning, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
2010 – Present	Associate Professor of Urban and Regional Planning, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
2005 – 2010	Assistant Professor of Urban and Regional Planning, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
2002 – 2005	Assistant Professor of Landscape Architecture, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
2000 – 2002	Assistant Professor of Planning Landscape Architecture, Arizona State University, Tempe AZ
1997 – 1999	Landscape Architect and Urban Planner, Thomas Dyke & Associates, Chicago, IL

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Larsen’s teaching expertise is in three primary areas: planning process/ planning fundamentals, urban sustainability and environmental planning, and multidisciplinary problem-solving. Drawing from her own professional experience as an urban planner and landscape architect, her teaching emphasizes the development of real-world methodical skills integrating enriching service and action-based learning opportunities, which has had long lasting impacts on students’ professional successes. She is a highly competent and dedicated teacher whose student numeric evaluations for all her courses have been overwhelmingly strong.

Research: Professor Larsen’s research examines the intersection of physical and human systems focused on human health and sustainable approaches to enhancing cities’ livability. Her major current contribution is in the disparate impacts of, and approaches to, mitigation of the urban heat island effect, a health threat that is growing alarmingly with climate change. Professor Larsen’s research is intimately connected with urban and regional planning practice as it delves into nuances of impacts and interventions that are particularly policy relevant. She is one of the few scholars studying urban microclimates using a planning lens. More importantly, her training as a landscape architect and planner in interdisciplinary teams, provides some important insights beyond those of

conventional physical scientists. Professor Larsen has published twenty articles, five of which are primary- or sole-authored, and two book chapters. Her publication venues have included the most visible in the urban and regional planning field (*Journal of the American Planning Association*, *Journal of Planning Education and Research*) as well as high-profile journals in her specialized scientific and professional areas (*Landscape and Urban Planning*, *Landscape Ecology*, *Environmental and Health Perspectives*).

Recent and Significant Publications, Exhibitions, and Awards:

Larsen, L., et al. "Safe at Home?: A Comparison of Factors Influencing Indoor Residential Temperatures During Warm Weather Among Three Cities" *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 2022, pp.1-13

University of Michigan, Distinguished Service Certificate for Participation on the University of Michigan President's Commission on Carbon Neutrality (appointed), UM Carbon Neutrality Plan, Larissa Larsen, 2021

Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, Outstanding Faculty Teaching Award in Urban and Regional Planning, Larsen, Larissa, 2018

National Science Foundation, International Research Experiences for Students (IRES), Larsen, L., Love, N. Branko, K., Bertacco, V. Project: Advancing Cyber-Enabled, Decentralized Water Systems in Rapidly Developing Cities University of Michigan and Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia, Award: \$249,989, 2017

National Science Foundation, Stone, B., Larsen, L., Project: Hazard SEES: Enhancing emergency preparedness for critical infrastructure failure during extreme heat events, Total Award: \$2,400,000, Larsen Award: \$107,000, 2015

Service: Professor Larsen's various service activities span the Urban and Regional Planning Program, Taubman College, the University of Michigan, the planning profession, and the planning academy. At the Taubman College, she is currently serving as the urban and regional planning program chair and has also served multiple terms as director of the doctoral program in urban and regional planning. At the university level, Professor Larsen has similarly served on an array of committees. Most notably, she served on the President's Commission on Carbon Neutrality from 2019-2022, for which she recently received a Distinguished Service Certificate for Participation. For the planning profession and academy, she has provided critical review for the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. She currently serves on the editorial board of one of the preeminent academic journals for urban and regional planning, the *Journal of the American Planning Association*; and recently joined a working group convened by the World Health Organization to provide support to decision makers regarding heat risks to human health.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "Professor Larsen stands out as an all-around academic, with solid accomplishments in teaching, research, and service. Her scholarship is very well-respected and well-cited. She has established herself as a leading authority in the area of urban microclimates and is an excellent teacher and mentor."

Reviewer B: "...she has made significant contributions to the body of scholarship in her areas of research. Her work on urban climate and heat is delving into nuances of impacts and interventions in a fashion that is particularly policy relevant. She is an important thought leader in both her department and field."

Reviewer C: “Her scholarship addresses some very important issues in environmental planning today, even more so given the press and severity of climate change...including rising urban heat, the need for investments in green infrastructure and more effective storm water management, climate-adaptive urban plans and policies and design strategies, and the challenge of achieving social equity and social justice in the face of serious climate and environmental pressure.”

Reviewer D: “Her commitment to multidisciplinary research is to be commended...her work, particularly around heat, heat stress and urbanization/land use has been very influential in how these fields have developed subsequently...Larissa has an excellent and innovative teaching portfolio that has been recognized by receiving teaching awards....and is strongly related to real world, practical solutions and problems.”

Reviewer E: “She is one of the few scholars studying urban microclimates using a planning lens. ...she is among the pioneers in using an environmental justice lens to heat stress. While urban heat island and greenhouse gas effects has been studied for a longtime, her work (along with her colleagues) started the conversation about the unevenness of the difference in temperature in different neighbourhoods (characterised by race and income), coupled with differential adaptive and coping capacities in these neighbourhoods resulted in disproportionate risks.”

Reviewer F: “Dr. Larsen seems to be a versatile scholar and educator, who has made significant and consistent contributions to supporting various research and teaching missions of the program/college/university. Her research record shows an active and engaged research program anchored around three main areas of scholarly interest that are timely and important.”

Reviewer G: “Dr. Larsen has a great intellect and is applying her skills effectively to address highly important and relevant issues in a collaborative and interdisciplinary way. Her scholarship is very strong with an excellent record of research and publication.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Larsen is a proven faculty leader whose pedagogy has engendered the urban and regional planning curriculum. She is a ground-breaking urban planner whose work is highly influential in the realm of urban sustainability and environmental planning. She is also an authoritative voice at the intersection of urban planning and social justice issues. It is with the support of the Taubman College Promotion and Tenure Committee and the Executive Committee that I recommend Larissa S. Larsen for promotion to professor of architecture, with tenure, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning.



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

May 2023