

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
School of Public Health

Briana Mezuk, associate professor of epidemiology, with tenure, School of Public Health is recommended for promotion to professor of epidemiology, with tenure, School of Public Health.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2007	Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD
B.S.	2002	University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA
B.Phil.	2002	University of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA

Professional Record:

2022 - Present	Co-Director, Data and Design Core, Eisenberg Family Depression Center, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
2021 - Present	Associate Chair, Department of Epidemiology, School of Public Health, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
2021 - Present	Director, Center for Social Epidemiology and Population Health, Department of Epidemiology, School of Public Health, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
2018 - 2021	Co-Director, Center for Social Epidemiology and Population Health, Department of Epidemiology, School of Public Health, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
2017 - Present	Associate Professor, Department of Epidemiology, School of Public Health, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
2017 - Present	Faculty Associate, Research Center for Group Dynamics, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
2017 - Present	Adjunct Faculty Affiliate, Department of Family Medicine and Population Health, Virginia Commonwealth University, Petersburg, VA
2017 - Present	Adjunct Faculty Affiliate, Department of Psychology, Virginia Commonwealth University, Petersburg, VA
2015 - 2016	Associate Professor, Division of Epidemiology, Virginia Commonwealth University, Petersburg, VA
2015 - 2016	Associate Professor, Department of Family Medicine and Population Health, Virginia Commonwealth University, Petersburg, VA
2011 - 2016	Adjunct Faculty Affiliate, Research Center for Group Dynamics, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
2009 - 2016	Faculty Affiliate, Virginia Institute for Psychiatric and Behavioral Genetics, Virginia Commonwealth University, Petersburg, VA
2009 - 2015	Assistant Professor, Division of Epidemiology, Virginia Commonwealth University, Petersburg, VA
2009 - 2015	Assistant Professor, Department of Family Medicine and Population Health, Virginia Commonwealth University, Petersburg, VA
2007 - 2009	Robert Wood Johnson Health and Society Scholars Fellow, Center for Social Epidemiology and Population Health, Department of Epidemiology, School of Public Health, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Since being appointed as an associate professor, Professor Mezuk has taught three courses: the undergraduate course Public Health 414: Public Mental Health, the epidemiology master's elective course Epidemiology 679: Epidemiology of Psychiatric and Substance Use Disorders, and the online master's course Public Health 512: Principles of Epidemiology for Public Health. Her evaluations in PH414 and EPID679 have been consistently outstanding, with Q1 and Q2 scores of 4.8 and above. Professor Mezuk won the Distinguished Clinical and Translational Research Mentor Award in 2022 from the Michigan Institute for Clinical and Health Research and was nominated for a University of Michigan Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching in 2021.

In addition to her classroom teaching, Professor Mezuk led the development of a certificate program in social epidemiology at the School of Public Health. She is the principal investigator (PI) of and directs the R25-funded Michigan Integrative Well-Being and Inequality (MIWI) Training Program. She co-directs the Michigan Center for Urban African American Aging Research (MCUAAAR) Analysis Core, providing expert consultation on study design and analytic approaches to early-career scientists. During her time in rank, Professor Mezuk has chaired four doctoral committees, mentored 21 master's students, mentored four post-doctoral fellows, and supervised two undergraduates. Notably, she has co-authored 32 peer-reviewed manuscripts with her trainees.

Research: Professor Mezuk is an expert in the investigation of physical-mental health comorbidity. She uses the tools of epidemiology to investigate the intersections of mental and physical health in mid and late life, with an emphasis on how these intersections relate to health disparities. She uses an interdisciplinary, integrative approach to leverage expertise in study design and epidemiologic fieldwork, proficiency in longitudinal, multi-level analysis, structural equation modeling, and latent variable analysis to provide new insights into how mental disorders relate to overall health and functioning over the life course. She uses partnerships to translate research into public health practice. For example, she has partnered with the Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) of Greater Richmond since 2013 to evaluate engagement in and effectiveness of the Diabetes Control Program (DCP), demonstrating the clinical effectiveness of the DCP on glycemic control and improvements in depressive symptoms. Professor Mezuk's work on the epidemiology of depression revealed that the diagnostic criteria for depression and frailty identify distinct but highly correlated syndromes and clarified the importance of medical morbidity and functioning for depressive symptomatology in older adults. Her work on suicide risk in mid and late life provided some of the first estimates of the cumulative incidence of completed suicide in residential long-term care settings. She has provided evidence that shared environmental factors influence risk of depression and diabetes. Her work illustrates the importance of efforts to support aging in place.

Professor Mezuk has published 138 peer-reviewed manuscripts. During her time in rank at the University of Michigan (since 2017), she has published 62 peer-reviewed manuscripts, including 13 as first author and 31 as senior author, two invited commentaries, and three book chapters (two as senior author). Her work has appeared in such journals as the *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA) Open Network*, *PLOS ONE*, *Psychosomatic Medicine*, *Gerontologist*, *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, and *Journal of Affective Disorders*. According to Scopus, her h-index is 34. Professor Mezuk has a solid record of external grant support from the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and other foundations. She currently is the PI on an R01 from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) in which she is examining how transitions in work, housing, social relationships, and health contribute to depression and suicidality over the lifespan. She continues as the PI on a Distinguished Investigator Award from the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention,

now in no-cost extension. Profesor Mezuk also currently serves as co-investigator on two NIH-funded studies related to racial disparities in health and aging.

Recent and Significant Publications:

- Mezuk, B., Kalesnikava, V.A., Kim, J., Ko, T.M., Collins, C. (2021) Not discussed: Inequalities in narrative text data for suicide deaths in the National Violent Death Reporting System. *PLoS One*. Jul 16;16(7):e0254417. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0254417. PMID: 34270588; PMCID: PMC8284808.
- Mezuk, B., Lexima, E., Kalesnikava, V.A., Fleming, J., Montgomery, J., Tuktur, W., Winston, J., Perrin, P.B., Green, T., Wheeler, D.C. (2020) Stress Reactivity as a Contributor to Racial and Socioeconomic Disparities: Rationale and Baseline Results From the Richmond Stress and Sugar Study. *Psychosom Med*. Sep;82(7):658-668. doi: 10.1097/PSY.0000000000000830. PMID: 32541545.
- Mezuk, B., Ko, T.M., Kalesnikava, V.A., Jurgens, D. (2019) Suicide Among Older Adults Living in or Transitioning to Residential Long-term Care, 2003 to 2015. *JAMA Netw Open*. Jun 5;2(6):e195627. doi: 10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2019.5627. PMID: 31199445; PMCID: PMC6575144.
- Dang, L., Dong, L., Mezuk, B. (2020) Shades of Blue and Gray: A Comparison of the Center for Epidemiologic Studies Depression Scale and the Composite International Diagnostic Interview for Assessment of Depression Syndrome in Later Life. *Gerontologist*. May 15;60(4):e242-e253. doi: 10.1093/geront/gnz044. PMID: 31112598; PMCID: PMC7228460.
- Dong, L., Kalesnikava, V.A., Gonzalez, R., Mezuk, B. (2019) Beyond Depression: Estimating 12-Months Prevalence of Passive Suicidal Ideation in Mid- and Late-Life in the Health and Retirement Study. *Am J Geriatr Psychiatry*. Dec;27(12):1399-1410. doi: 10.1016/j.jagp.2019.06.015. Epub 2019 Jul 2. PMID: 31353189; PMCID: PMC6842696.

Service: Professor Mezuk's service record locally is strong. She has served as the associate chair in the Department of Epidemiology since 2021 and co-chaired the department's master's committee since 2017, leading efforts to revise the master's of public health curriculum. She is the director of the Center for Social Epidemiology and Population Health, a critical center to the Department of Epidemiology and School of Public Health that attracts a large number of trainees. She is a member of the school's Advisory Committee on Academic Programs, the Institute for Social Research Director's Advisory Committee on Diversity, and the Eisenberg Family Depression Center Executive Committee. Professor Mezuk's service at the national level is appropriate for her rank. She has reviewed for the NIH, the Veterans Health Administration, and Diabetes UK. She served as a technical expert for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, a member of the NIMH Workshop on Social Disconnection in Late Life Suicide, and as co-chair of the American Psychosomatic Society's Anti-Racism Task Force. Since 2022, she has served as section editor for *Current Epidemiologic Reports* and associate editor for the *Annals of Epidemiology*. She is a frequent reviewer for *JAMA*, *American Journal of Epidemiology*, *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, and *Diabetes Care*. She also writes the "Ask an Epidemiologist" blog for *Psychology Today*, and volunteers with Skype with a Scientist.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "Dr. Mezuk continues to lead the field in the investigation of physical-mental health comorbidity, particular[l]y around chronic physical health conditions such as diabetes... Dr. Mezuk continues to push the field to better understand the mechanisms underlying these comorbidities – including biological mechanisms as well as social and structural factors that increase the risk for both types of conditions among marginalized populations... Dr. Mezuk works with community partners,

such as the YMCA, to translate the research findings into practical guidelines and programs to support reducing disparities in service use and in reducing the burden of these conditions in the long term...Her CV is impressive in its depth and breadth – for research, service and teaching – and I would imagine she would be approved for promotion at my institution if she were part of our department.”

Reviewer B: “...the research is rigorous and the writing is lively and engaging. Some of the topics she has chosen to explore are particularly interesting and novel...She has an excellent publication record, active NIH grants, an outstanding teaching record, and clear commitment to professional service, community engagement, and diversity, equity, and inclusion...I am confident that we would receive approval from the Provosts and Chancellor to offer Dr. Mezuk a position as Full Professor with Tenure.”

Reviewer C: “...her work is of high quality and leverages creative approaches, balances empirical and theoretical perspectives, is methodologically sophisticated, and has significant impact on our understanding of two important phenomena in late life: suicide and diabetes...she would certainly qualify for promotion to full professor in my institution, and I recommend her promotion without reservation.”

Reviewer D: “Dr Mezuk is a highly respected researcher and scholar, both nationally and internationally. Briana is very articulate and her work is of excellent quality. In my opinion, it is highly unlikely that a promotion to Professor would give rise to surprise or adverse comments among senior academics in the field. I wholeheartedly support her application.”

Reviewer E: “Dr. Mezuk’s research and scholarship investigates problems with significant public health importance – the comorbidity of physical and mental health particularly among older adults, and the contribution of that comorbidity to health disparities. While these are long standing areas of interest, particularly from within the stress paradigm that is the basis for much of Dr. Mezuk’s work, she approaches it from a fresh perspective that may yield new insights and applications. Her work spans methodologies and levels of organization that are not frequently found together – qualitative methods and machine learning, structural causes and the mechanisms of their embodiment, genetic study designs and community based participatory research...After carefully reviewing Dr. Mezuk’s promotion packet, I think that she clearly meets the standards for promotion to Professor with tenure and would meet the requirements for that position here at [my institution].”

Summary of Recommendation: Professor Mezuk has an excellent record in research as an expert in the investigation of physical-mental health comorbidity. She has an excellent record in teaching and a very good record in service. It is with the support of the School of Public Health Executive Committee that I recommend Briana Mezuk for promotion to professor of epidemiology, with tenure, School of Public Health.



F. DuBois Bowman, Ph.D.
Dean, School of Public Health

May 2023