

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION  
The University of Michigan  
School of Public Health  
Department of Epidemiology

Lindsay Kobayashi, assistant professor of epidemiology, and assistant professor of global public health, School of Public Health, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of epidemiology, with tenure, and associate professor of global public health, without tenure, School of Public Health.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2016	University College, London, United Kingdom
M.Sc.	2012	Queen's University, Kingston, Canada
B.Sc.	2010	Queen's University, Kingston, Canada

Professional Record:

2023 - Present	Assistant Professor of Global Public Health, Office of Global Public Health, School of Public Health, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
2022 - Present	John G. Searle Assistant Professor of Epidemiology, Department of Epidemiology, School of Public Health, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
2022 - Present	Faculty Associate, Demography of Aging, Disability, and Care Program, Survey Research Center, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
2022 - Present	Honorary Senior Researcher, MRC/Wits Rural Health and Health Transitions Research Unit (Agincourt), School of Public Health, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa
2019 - Present	Assistant Professor, Department of Epidemiology, School of Public Health, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
2018 - 2019	Assistant Professor, Population Sciences Division, Lombardi Comprehensive Cancer Center, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.
2016 - 2017	David E. Bell Postdoctoral Fellow, Harvard Center for Population and Development Studies, Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health, Cambridge, MA

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Kobayashi has made significant contributions to the master's and doctoral programs in the Department of Epidemiology. Her teaching portfolio includes EPID 617 (Social and Economic Determinants of Population Health), EPID 601 (Principles and Methods of Epidemiology), and EPID 506 (Health of Nations: Introduction to International Health). Professor Kobayashi redesigned EPID 617, an elective social epidemiology course, to focus on current debates and topics in the theory and methodology of social epidemiology. Professor Kobayashi's courses are highly rated by students, who have commented on her respect for students and her ability to explain complex material clearly. Professor Kobayashi has also been engaged in teaching activities outside the university, including developing and co-leading a

two-day data analysis workshop for doctoral and master's students at the University of Witwatersrand in South Africa as part of an international capacity-building effort.

In addition to her strong record of didactic teaching, Professor Kobayashi is an outstanding mentor. During her time in rank, she has mentored 12 Ph.D. students (three as committee chair, one as committee co-chair, and eight as a committee member), 16 M.P.H. Integrated Learning Experience (ILE) students, one M.P.H. global internship student, two undergraduate students, three post-doctoral fellows, and two junior faculty. Her mentees have published 26 peer-reviewed journal articles. In recognition of her strong mentorship, Professor Kobayashi was nominated by her mentees for the Advising Council of the University of Michigan Outstanding Advisor Award. Since 2020, Professor Kobayashi has served as the director of the Interdisciplinary Research Training on Health and Aging T32 program. As the director, she has redesigned the program to include monthly mentorship meetings between the trainees and directors focused on professional development topics for careers in aging.

Research: Professor Kobayashi is a social epidemiologist who studies the social and economic determinants of cognitive aging over the life course. Her research often takes her abroad to foreign countries that have quite different social and economic settings than the United States. Professor Kobayashi studies the social and economic determinants of cognitive decline and dementia risk in rural South Africa. In particular, she has collected longitudinal data since 2020 and made the information publicly available. She also compares determinants of cognitive aging across countries; part of her efforts have been to harmonize data and measures so that such comparisons are meaningful. A third research area focuses on the increasing rates of cancer survivorship at older ages, how that may affect the distribution of population health, and how cancer in later-life affects long-term healthy aging. Part of this research explores the paradoxical inverse association between cancer and dementia. Finally, she has led a study since 2020 of how social and economic changes associated with the COVID-19 pandemic have affected the mental and cognitive health of older adults.

Professor Kobayashi has a high level of research productivity. By the numbers, she has 3,541 citations on Google Scholar (as of November 13, 2023), an h-index of 31, and 116 peer reviewed publications total. Of those publications, 81 have been in rank at the University of Michigan (since 2019). She is first author on all three of her most cited papers, and of her 11 most cited papers, she is first author on six and senior author on one. Her most-cited papers are published in highly regarded journals such as *Social Science & Medicine*, *Journal of Gerontology*, and *Cancer*. Professor Kobayashi has been highly funded. She is currently a multiple principal investigator (MPI) on four R01 grants from the National Institute on Aging (NIA). In addition, she has been the PI on five smaller grants. She has been well-funded on numerous other grants as a co-investigator and has three large grants pending, including an R01 from NIA on which she would be MPI.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Yu X, Westrick AC, Kobayashi LC. Cumulative loneliness and subsequent memory function and rate of decline among adults aged  $\geq 50$  in the United States, 1996 to 2016. *Alzheimers Dement* 2023;19(2):578-588. doi: 10.1002/alz.12734.

- Eastman MR, Ospina-Romero M, Westrick AC, Kler JS, Glymour MM, Abdiwahab E, Kobayashi LC. Does a cancer diagnosis in mid-to-later life modify racial disparities in memory aging? *Alz Dis Assoc Disord* 2022;36(2):140-7. Doi: 10.1097/WAD0000000000000493.
- Kobayashi LC, Gross AL, Gibbons LE, Tommet D, Sanders E, Choi S, Mukherjee S, Glymour MM, Dufouil C, Manly JJ, Berkman LF, Crane PK, Mungas DM, Jones RN. You say tomato, I say radish: can brief cognitive assessments in the US Health and Retirement Study be harmonized with its International Partner Studies? *J Gerontol B Psychol Sci Soc Sci* 2021;76(9):1767-76. doi: 10.1093/geronb/gbaa205
- Kobayashi LC, Farrell MT, Payne CF, Mall S, Montana L, Wagner RG, Kahn K, Tollman SM, Berkman LF. Adverse childhood experiences and domain-specific cognitive function in a population-based study of older adults in rural South Africa. *Psychol Aging* 2020 35(6):818-30.
- Kobayashi LC, Farrell MT, Langa KM, Mahlalela N, Wagner RG, Berkman LF. Incidence of cognitive impairment during aging in rural South Africa: evidence from HAALSI, 2014 to 2019. *Neuroepidemiol* 2021;55(2):100-8. doi:10.559/000513276.

Service: Professor Kobayashi has a strong record of internal and external service. Within her department, she has served as a member of the Admissions Committee and the Doctoral Committee, where she plays an important role in preparing and scoring the competency exam. At the university level, Professor Kobayashi has served as the associate director of program development for the Michigan Center on the Demography of Aging and as a member of the Africa Social Research Initiative Steering Committee for the African Studies Center. In addition, she has served in a number of roles in the Rogel Cancer Center, including as a grant reviewer, co-leader of the Cancer and Aging Working Group, and a member of the Editorial Board.

Outside the university, Professor Kobayashi is an active member of the Society for Epidemiologic Research and the Gerontological Association of America. She has served as a grant reviewer for the Social Sciences and Humanities Council of Canada and the UK Medical Research Council. In addition to serving as an ad hoc reviewer for leading journals such as *American Journal of Epidemiology*, *Social Science & Medicine*, *Alzheimer's and Dementia*, and *American Journal of Public Health*. Professor Kobayashi served as an external reviewer for the "Africa Aging: 2020" report, part of the US Census Bureau's International Population Reports series. In recognition of her national reputation as an aging scholar, she was invited to serve as a guest editor for a special issue of the *Journals of Gerontology: Series A: Medical Sciences and Biological Sciences*.

#### External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "Dr. Kobayashi has clearly established herself as one of the most prominent scholars in her field. She is among the most accomplished in terms of the quantity and quality of her publications and her funding success. She would most certainly also meet the requirements to be considered for promotion to Associate Professor at my institution."

Reviewer B: "I would say that Dr. Kobayashi is in the top 5% of social and aging epidemiologists at her ranking based on her international presence and recognition, scholarly output, and leadership roles, as well as her ability to communicate her findings in an engaging

and informative manner. Yes, Dr. Kobayashi would absolutely meet the requirements for promotion to associate professor with tenure at my institution based on demonstrable excellence in the areas of research and teaching as well as her leadership roles.”

Reviewer C: “Her work is making a solid contribution to the area of the social determinants of cognitive aging. I especially appreciate that she works both with international and US based populations as this is relatively rare in social epidemiology. Yes, I am confident that Dr. Kobayashi’s portfolio of publications, grants, teaching, and mentoring doctoral students would result in a successful application for tenure at the Associate Professor level at my institution.”

Reviewer D: “Dr. Kobayashi’s ideas, and scholarship are thus shifting the field, as important contributions of global social epidemiology, and strong examples of a consequential epidemiology. I am confident that her record of accomplishments would earn her tenure and promotion at my own institution,...as well as at other leading Universities and top Schools of Public Health.”

Reviewer E: “Her work in global aging has made her a rising star in the areas of cognitive assessment and data harmonization. Yes, Dr. Kobayashi fulfills the requirements for promotion to Associate Professor at [my institution].”

Summary of Recommendation: Professor Kobayashi has a national reputation as a scholar on aging. Her research focuses on the social epidemiology of aging, cognitive aging and dementia, education, literacy and health at older ages, and healthy aging of cancer survivors. She has an excellent record in research, teaching, and service. It is with the support of the School of Public Health Executive Committee that I recommend Lindsay Kobayashi be promoted to the rank of associate professor of epidemiology, with tenure, and associate professor of global public health, without tenure, School of Public Health.”



---

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

May 2024