PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy

John D. Ciorciari, assistant professor of public policy, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of public policy, with tenure, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy.

Academic Degrees:

D.Phil.  2007  St. Antony’s College, University of Oxford
J.D.    1998  Harvard Law School
M.Phil. 2002  Christ Church, University of Oxford
A.B.    1995  Harvard College

Professional Record:

2009-present  Assistant Professor (without tenure), Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy
2008-09       National Fellow, Hoover Institution, Stanford University
2007-08       Shorenstein Fellow, Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center, Stanford University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Ciorciari has taught our required undergraduate politics course every year that he has been here. In three of those years, he also taught a core course for our master’s program, and in one of those years he taught and managed the required Integrated Policy Exercise. Thus, he has done far more teaching of required courses than we normally expect even of senior faculty. In addition, he has taught his elective course four times and the International Economic Development Program course and trip (to Columbia) once. His teaching is exemplary, with scores consistently at the very top of the distribution. He has also served on eight Ph.D. dissertation committees at UM, as well as on three more at other institutions, and five M.A. or B.A. thesis committees. He has also supervised eight independent study opportunities to UM students. Students cite his deep knowledge and objectivity, as well as his influence both inside and outside of class.

Research: Professor Ciorciari is an exemplary educator. A rising star in the fields of transitional justice and international relations, his work is highly multi-disciplinary and bridges international law, politics and public policy, with a special focus on Southeast Asia. His current research projects examine foreign policy strategies, human rights, and the reform of international economic institutions.

Since coming to Michigan in 2009, Professor Ciorciari has published two books, sixteen articles, and ten book chapters. This quantity of published research is very impressive. More importantly, the work is varied and high quality. Most of his research falls into three topical areas: (a) International Relations of Southeast Asia, (b) Transitional Justice & Human Rights,
and (c) International Monetary Affairs. His most important contributions are in the first two of these. Specifically, Professor Ciorciari’s first book, Limits of Alignment (Georgetown University Press, 2010), is a sophisticated analysis of the relationships between the ten Southeast Asia countries and the three great powers (US, China, and the Soviet Union and its Russian successor) since 1975. A key finding is that these Southeast Asia countries tend to avoid either of the paradigmatic policies of balancing (to counteract the stronger side) or bandwagoning (to join the stronger side). Professor Ciorciari’s second book is Hybrid Justice: The Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, (University of Michigan Press, 2014). This co-authored book provides a nuanced case study of a novel court system adopted to try individuals accused of atrocities in Cambodia during the reign of Pol Pot from 1975-79. It contributes importantly to our understanding of the challenges of exacting accountability for the crimes of the Khmer Rouge through the legal system.

In sum, Professor Ciorciari is a very productive scholar. His work reflects his excellent appreciation of subtle political and institutional issues, and his ability to craft clear presentations of very complicated developments. Methodologically, his work is interdisciplinary, combining legal and political analysis. He makes clear arguments based on extensive evidence, and makes judgments that are well supported and often highly policy relevant.

Recent and Significant Publications:


Policy Engagement: For someone at his career stage, Professor Ciorciari’s policy engagement has been remarkable. He serves as the senior legal advisor to the Documentation Center of Cambodia, which promotes historical memory, justice and reconciliation in Cambodia. His work on both hybrid justice and international relations has been well received by policy makers. His book, The Limits of Alignment, prompted a 60 page report commissioned by the U.S. Intelligence Community and he has made presentations on this book to policy audiences in the U.S. and abroad, including an address to the U.S. War College. He has made several
presentation of his book, Hybrid Justice, including to the International Center for Transitional Justice and the East-West Center. He participated in the U.N. General Assembly’s thematic debate on international criminal justice. He has been quoted in 85 newspaper and magazine articles, including the New York Times and The Economist, has made several television appearances and has been on more than a dozen radio programs.

**Service:** Professor Ciorciari has served on faculty search committees as well as program committees for our undergraduate and masters programs. His most unusual service, as an assistant professor, has been as the co-director of the International Policy Center at the Ford School, from 2014 to the present. With a former colleague, he initiated the international politics seminar services, which has expanded the Ford School’s and the IPC’s interactions with internationally-inclined social scientists, bringing an impressive set of speakers to campus. With his co-director, he has launched a film series that engages students with thought-provoking films and discussions about international issues. He has also served on a number of committees at the International Institute and serves on the advisory board for the Human Rights Initiative. He is a regular participant in national meetings of the International Studies Association and is a reviewer of manuscripts and articles for presses and journals in his field.

**External Reviewers:**
Reviewer A: “The distinguishing feature of his work is its multidisciplinary character, a facile and insightful mix of legal and political analysis, both grounded in a well-informed awareness of regional and historical context. He displays all these traits in The Limits of Alignment, an important contribution to understanding the foreign relations of the states of South East Asia since 1975.”

Reviewer B: “…unlike many junior faculty members he has not limited himself to mining the themes of his doctoral dissertation. He has instead built on the foundation of that work to branch out and pursue projects that represent new contributions…Ciorciari brings to the table a remarkable portfolio of talents.”

Reviewer C: “Dr.[.] Ciorciari’s scholarship is characterized both by its breadth and rigor, but the research is also notable for detailed empirical evidence he offers in support of his arguments…Considering that he only received his PhD eight years ago, Dr.[.] Ciorciari has already authored or co-authored a highly impressive number of scholarly publications in multiple excellent journals/presses.”

Reviewer D: “…John has been highly productive as an assistant professor with two books (one co-authored), three edited books, 20 articles and 15 book chapters; needless to say, this is a substantial corpus.”

Reviewer E: “The quality of his publications on transitional justice and the Khmer Rouge tribunal is all the more remarkable given that this is simply one of Dr.[.] Ciorciari’s areas of interest…In my view, John Ciorciari is a rising star in the field of both transitional justice and international relations…”
Reviewer F: "I find in Ciorciari a highly dedicated scholar who wants to understand the IR of the global south, justice in the world’s underdeveloped areas, great power involvement in these theaters as well as someone with a passion for transnational justice....I am also very much impressed by his interactions with policymakers in Washington DC and the UN as well as his public service."

Summary of Recommendation:
Professor Ciorciari is a productive and well-regarded scholar, a fabulous teacher and mentor, an exemplary citizen and a valued colleague. His research impact has been significant and he is well positioned for continued success. In addition, he is very active in international policy circles focused on transitional justice and Southeast Asia. His unique inter-disciplinary perspective makes him a particularly valuable addition to our faculty. I strongly recommend John D. Ciorciari for promotion to associate professor of public policy, with tenure, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy.

Susan M. Collins
Joan and Sanford Weill Dean
Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy

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