

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION  
The University of Michigan-Dearborn  
College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters

Robert W. Anderson, assistant professor of economics, Department of Social Sciences, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of economics, with tenure, Department of Social Sciences, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2011	George Mason University, Economics, Fairfax, VA
M.A.	2007	George Mason University, Economics, Fairfax, VA
B.A.	2004	Brigham Young University, Economics, Provo, UT

Professional Record:

2011 – present	Assistant Professor, University of Michigan-Dearborn
2010 – 2011	Lecturer, Southern Virginia University, Buena Vista, VA
2008	Adjunct Professor, University of Mary Washington, Fredericksburg, VA

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Anderson is rated excellent in teaching. He is a vital member of the economics discipline, teaching core courses in Macroeconomics and Money & Banking and specializing in economic history courses serving students of both economics and history. Professor Anderson has taught six different courses since coming to UM-Dearborn, two of which he completely revamped, and one, Comparative Institutions, he created. A theme of institutions and their role in the economy permeates all of his courses.

Professor Anderson is a talented teacher. The qualitative portion of his student evaluations abounds with praise about his teaching, while the quantitative section of his evaluations put him among the department's highest rated teachers. From fall 2011 through winter 2016, Professor Anderson's average score for "evaluation of instructor" was 4.72, exceeding the departmental average. The frequency distribution of his scores is even more impressive; 54% of his courses received a score of 4.75 or higher for evaluation of instructor, and 85% had a rating of 4.50 or above. Almost three-quarter of his courses received a score of 4.5 or higher in the "evaluation of course" category. What especially impresses students about Professor Anderson is his ability to make complicated material easy to understand and convey the real-world, practical applications of economic concepts.

Research: Professor Anderson is rated excellent in research. He has six articles published since his arrival at UM-Dearborn, five of which are sole-authored, and three more currently under review. Three of his published articles have applied economic analysis and concepts to persecutory practices during the Portuguese Inquisition. A fourth examines factors affecting Jewish persecution. He has documented relationships between characteristics of the persecuted and their sentences, shown the rationality of inquisitors' behavior, demonstrated the impact of the Inquisition on where scholars lived, and uncovered relationships between weather patterns

and persecution. Each of these works required painstaking construction of databases from historical records and application of economic analysis to derive findings. His two other publications continue this combination of historical and economic approaches. One challenges the core economic assumption regarding the role of comparative advantage in driving trade by highlighting the political factors impacting a trade agreement between Portugal and England. The other dissects the variables affecting the timing and content of constitutions crafted by Native American tribes. His research record, including publication under review and in progress suggests that Professor Warren will continue to be a productive scholar.

#### Recent and Significant Publications:

- Anderson, R. Warren, Mark Koyama and Noel Johnson, "Jewish Persecutions and Weather Shocks from 1100 to 1800," *Economic Journal*, 2016, Advance online publication. doi: 10.1111/eoj.12331.
- Anderson, R. Warren, "Determinants and Effects of Indian Reservation Constitutions," *Constitutional Political Economy*, 2016, 27(4): 377-398.
- Anderson, R. Warren, "Rent Seeking and the Treaty of Methuen," *Journal of Public Finance and Public Choice*, 2016, XXXII (1-3): 113-122.
- Anderson, R. Warren, "The Inquisition and Scholarship," *Social Science History*, 2015, 39 (4): 677-702.
- Anderson, R. Warren, "The Portuguese Inquisition Sentencing Trends," *Homo Oeconomicus*, 2013, 30 (1): 37-59.
- Anderson, R. Warren, "Inquisitorial Punishments in Lisbon and Évora," *e-Journal of Portuguese History*, 2012, 10 (1).

Service: Professor Anderson is rated excellent in service. He has engaged in important service to the discipline, department, and college. He has fostered community and professional growth among students by serving as faculty moderator of the Economics Club, aided curricular development by representing our department on the college's curriculum committee, and helped spawn intellectual discussions by arranging presentations from outside speakers and presenting his own research as part of the Social Sciences Research Colloquium. He has also served aided program assessment, conducted reviews of LEO faculty members, and served on search committees, and scholarship committees. Professor Anderson will play an important role in strengthening the university through on-going service in the future.

#### External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "There is no question that Dr. Anderson's research is important, visible, and of high quality. His work on religious persecutions is important not for just historical interest but for its contributions to our understanding of the causes and consequences of religious differences and conflict. His papers have been published in high-quality economics and interdisciplinary journals."

Reviewer B: "Anderson does the hard data and econometric legwork and quantitatively establishes the result, rather than offering simple speculation ... the piece is well researched and intellectually stimulating. ... The value of the article is that it focuses on perhaps the most well-known example of comparative advantage and shows it to have been artificially created, opening

the door for deep discussions on the role and effects of artificial restrictions and rent-seeking efforts on international markets. This article will be very useful in a classroom setting. [I] have already included it in my upcoming Economics 101 syllabus.”


Reviewer C: “... his *Social Science History* paper on the negative effects of inquisitions on scholarship is particularly important. Recent work by other economic historians has shown that religious persecutions in China and in the Middle East had negative effects on intellectual activity and innovation in those areas. Dr. Anderson shows that there was a similar effect within Europe that may help to explain lower rates of innovation in the Iberian Peninsula and Italy. Social scientists have argued for a long time that religion played a role in economic growth, but Dr. Anderson’s work provides empirical evidence for one way in which religion negatively affected development in parts of Europe.”


Reviewer D: “I found his two papers on sentences handed down by the Portuguese Inquisition works of detailed scholarship ... His joint paper on Jewish persecutions and weather shocks is an extraordinary piece of research that shows how exogenous events influence the emotions underlying blaming and persecuting innocent people over time ... Professor Anderson’s paper on ‘Inquisition and scholarship’ is an excellent investigation on the same theme of the consequences of prejudice and superciliousness ... the competent study of past prejudice as conducted by Professor Anderson is of the utmost importance.”

Reviewer E: “Robert Warren Anderson is an outstanding scholar with great promise. His work shows that he is very intelligent, hard working, and courageous in the choice of research topics which he carries on with efficiency and focus. The evolution of his published research in the short time span of four years is an enormous achievement. His work is very interesting to read, covers a wide range of topics and is connected in a most relevant way.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Anderson is a talented classroom instructor who fosters student growth. His research addresses important issues in economic history and is recognized as providing important contributions to the scholarly field by external reviewers. His service greatly benefits our students and academic programs. We are pleased to recommend, with strong support of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters Executive Committee, Robert W. Anderson for promotion to associate professor of economics, with tenure, Department of Social Sciences, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.

  
Martin J. Hershock, Dean  
College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters

  
Daniel Little, Chancellor  
University of Michigan-Dearborn

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