

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Christopher L. House, associate professor of economics, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of economics, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2001	Boston University
M.A.	1994	Northeastern University
B.S.	1992	University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Professional Record:

2008 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Economics, University of Michigan
2005 – present	Research Associate, National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER)
2004 – present	Faculty Associate, Survey Research Center (SRC), Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan
2001 – 2008	Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor House is an outstanding instructor. He anchors both the undergraduate major and the doctoral programs in the Department of Economics. He regularly teaches a 400-level intermediate macroeconomics course, which is a challenging large-lecture class required by the undergraduate major. Students' E&E evaluations of this challenging course are excellent. He has also mentored other faculty who teach this course. In addition, Professor House teaches a 600-level macroeconomics theory course as part of the core first-year Ph.D. sequence. He is known for his care, dedication, and great success in advancing students' understanding of macroeconomic theory, empirics, and policy analysis. Since promotion to associate professor in 2008, Professor House has served on 25 dissertation committees, acting as the chair or co-chair on eight committees. To date, twenty have completed. He is a highly sought after advisor who is willing to work with students with a wide range of abilities.

Research – Professor House is a highly-regarded macroeconomist, who is recognized as an international leader in the study of the business cycle. He has made important contributions to understanding investment and tax policy, fiscal policy following financial crises, the interaction of financial shocks and monetary policy, and the cyclical nature of real wages. Underlying his work in these diverse areas is the theme that durability is a key feature of many important economic commodities. Durability has obvious relevance for the business fixed investment and the impact of temporary changes in tax policy. Professor House makes the non-obvious extension that durability of employment relationships in labor markets with search frictions has important effects on how real wages move in response to economic conditions. His work combines empirical work and theoretical analysis, using a wide range of cutting-edge methods, to study vital policy-relevant questions. He has a well-earned reputation within the profession for producing very high-quality research. His research accomplishments are recognized in his success in securing NSF funding.

Recent and Significant Publications:

“Allocative and remitted wages: New facts and challenges for Keynesian models,” with S. Basu in Handbook of Macroeconomics Vol. 2, J. Taylor and H. Uhlig eds., 2016.

“Greek budget realities: No easy options,” with L. Tesar, *Brookings Papers on Economic Activity*, 2, 2015.

“Managing markets for toxic assets,” with Y. Masatlioglu, *Journal of Monetary Economics*, 70, 2015, pp. 84-99.

“Fixed costs and long lived investments,” *Journal of Monetary Economics*, 68, 2014, pp. 86-100.

Service – Professor House has provided exceptional service to the Department of Economics, the college, and the university. He is an excellent team player. He has served on the department’s Executive Committee, as a graduate student placement director multiple times, as the chair of the Doctoral Admissions Committee multiple times, and as member of that committee multiple times. On the admissions committee he worked vigorously to recruit a diverse incoming class. He has also been an invaluable mentor for junior colleagues, providing advice and course materials.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“...Chris has chosen to locate in the high-quality region of the quality-quantity frontier, which makes his case for promotion to professor compelling. ...his published work and the promise of more to come in the form of written and submitted papers, make a strong case for promotion to the rank of professor.”

Reviewer (B)

“...I find all of these papers to be very well executed and enlightening. ...what one sees in these papers is a serious attempt to incorporate the necessary features rather than any tendency to gloss over difficult-to-explain empirical anomalies. ...the subset of papers I have reviewed are part of a coherent and productive research program.”

Reviewer (C)

“I see this as a clear-cut case for promotion. House has maintained a strong research program, marked by cleverly applying models to data, showing care with the data, and focusing on topics of policy importance. ... I expect he will continue to produce high quality work that receives attention throughout the profession.”

Reviewer (D)

“Chris is consistent in specifying a clear question and then using a well-articulated conceptual structure to address the problem. He is eclectic methodologically, which suits the broad range of questions he addresses. ... Chris’ earlier work continues to be influential, and he has a pipeline of newer work relevant to the question of promotion to full Professor. This post-tenure work builds on his earlier expertise in interesting ways, but also explores new questions.”

Reviewer (E)

“...this strikes me as a straightforward case for promotion. Chris has a good record overall and was a very strong case for promotion from assistant to associate with tenure. The four new published papers are all substantial pieces of work.”

Reviewer (F)

“Chris combines both empirical and theoretical work to explore a variety of questions of interest to macroeconomists. ... He seems to be accelerating his output! ...the trajectory of Chris’s work will only continue to grow.”

Reviewer (G)

“...I strongly endorse promoting Chris House to professor with tenure in the Department of Economics at the University of Michigan. He is an international leader in the study of business cycles.”

Reviewer (H)

“He shows every indication that he will continue to produce important contributions to the field, as evidenced by his recent working papers. ... I frequently mention his papers and their insights to my graduate students. Chris House is receiving prominent recognition from the profession. He has received a number of grants, he is a member of NBER, he is currently an associate editor of the JMCB [*Journal of Money, Credit & Banking*], and has co-organized several prominent macroeconomics conferences... All of these are evidence of his significant stature in macroeconomics.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor House is a leading macroeconomist, with a prominent international reputation. His research, teaching, and service make him a major asset to the Department of Economics, the college, and the University of Michigan. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommended that Associate Professor Christopher L. House be promoted to the rank of professor of economics, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



Andrew D. Martin, Dean
Professor of Political Science and Statistics
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

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