

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

Shobita Parthasarathy, associate professor of public policy, with tenure, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, and associate professor of women's studies, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of public policy, with tenure, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, and professor of women's studies, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees

Ph.D.	2003	Cornell University, Science and Technology Studies, Ithaca, NY
M.A.	1999	Cornell University, Science and Technology Studies, Ithaca, NY
B.A.	1994	University of Chicago, Biology, Chicago

Professional Record

2016 – present	Associate Professor (without tenure), Department of Women's Studies, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts
2011 – present	Associate Professor (with tenure), Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan
2005 – 2011	Assistant Professor, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan
2004 – 2005	Post-doctoral Fellow, Department of Public Policy and Center for Society and Genetics, University of California, Los Angeles
2002 – 2004	Post-doctoral Fellow, Department of Sociology and Science in Human Culture Program, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL

Summary of Evaluation

Teaching: Professor Parthasarathy is an excellent and dedicated educator. She has taught five different courses in the last six years. Both her undergraduate and graduate offerings cover important policy areas. She adds intellectual and methodological diversity to the curriculum, and her teaching contributes greatly to the school's goal of engaging students about the deep connections between public policy and the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion. Her course syllabi are impressive in their scope and depth, the thoughtfulness and care evident in the assignments, and the emphasis they place on critical, writing, and oral presentation skills. The active learning and interdisciplinary range of her courses add a great deal to her teaching effectiveness. Professor Parthasarathy has also mentored a number of graduate students and post-doctoral fellows since her last review, including service on seven dissertation committees.

Research: Professor Parthasarathy is a leading scholar of science and technology policy studies. Her most recent book, Patent Politics: Life Forms, Markets, and the Public Interest in the United States and Europe (University of Chicago Press, 2017), compares U.S. and European approaches to the patenting of life forms, and is a major contribution to our understanding of the political, moral, ethical and cultural factors that shape legal and technical systems of patents in both the United States and Europe. Which life forms can be patented is a matter of great public importance, both from the perspective of influencing the economic incentives for inventing and exploiting important new

technologies, and for its ethical and distributional implications. Top scholars in her field recognize Professor Parthasarathy as one of the leading science and technology studies scholars with significant contributions to the study of the intersection of politics and patents.

Recent and Significant Publications

Patent Politics: Life Forms, Markets, and the Public Interest in the United States and Europe, University of Chicago Press, 2017.

“Grassroots Innovation Systems for a Post-Carbon World: Promoting Economic Democracy, Environmental Sustainability, and the Public Interest,” *Brooklyn Law Review*, Vol. 82, Issue 2, 2017, pp. 761-787.

“Lessons for CRISPR from the Missed Opportunities of Asilomar,” *Ethics in Biology, Engineering, and Medicine*, Vol. 6, No. 3-4, 2016, pp. 305-312.

“Producing the Consumer of Genetic Testing for Breast Cancer: The Double-Edged Sword of Empowerment.” In Kelly Moore and Daniel Kleinman, eds. Handbook of Science, Technology, and Society. Routledge, 2014.

“Whose Knowledge? Whose Values? The Comparative Politics of Patenting Life Forms in the United States and Europe,” *Policy Sciences*, Vol. 44, No. 3, 2011, pp. 267-288.

“Breaking the Expertise Barrier: Understanding Activist Challenges to Science and Technology Policy Domains.” *Science and Public Policy*. Vol. 37, No. 5, 2010, pp. 355-367.

“The Implications of Direct to Consumer Genetic Testing for the Public’s Health: Taking Sociotechnical Architectures Seriously.” *Genetics in Medicine*. Vol. 12, No. 9, 2010.

Building Genetic Medicine: Breast Cancer, Technology, and the Comparative Politics of Health Care (MIT Press, 2007).

Service: Professor Parthasarathy’s record of service is strong. In the last six years, she has served on three third year review and promotion committees, two search committees and two years on the Ford School Executive Committee. In 2016, she re-assumed the directorship of the Science and Technology and Public Policy Program (STPP), which she co-founded as an assistant professor. In 2015-16, she directed the Ford School’s strategic planning initiative on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DE&I). She was well-suited to this role, having served on the provost’s committee on DE&I the previous year. She has served on the executive committee of the Institute for Research Women and Gender, several university advisory boards and review committees and a search committee for the Science Risk Center. Her service to the larger academic community is likewise impressive. She has served on the governing councils of two major science policy organizations, served as a reviewer for journals, presses, and grant applications, and organized a conference at the University of Michigan of top international scholars on patent policy.

External Reviewers

Reviewer A: “In my opinion, Professor Parthasarathy is *the* leading scholar in empirical public policy studies relating to emerging technologies and patent law... There is no one I would rank ahead of her in this area.”

Reviewer B: “I am, to cut to the point, in favor of Professor Parthasarathy’s promotion, due to the novelty of her second book and its broader empirical vision, and due to the fact that she has been rather influential in public policy due to her first book and the BCRA case.”

Reviewer C: "...her main substantial contribution lies in her ability to apply STS insights and to identify patterns in a new and crucial policy domain."

Reviewer D: "Professor Parthasarathy has produced an extremely impressive body of scholarship in terms of both quantity and quality. She is one of the world's leading STS scholars on gene patenting."

Reviewer E: "Dr. Parthasarathy is quite well known in the field. She is in the top tier of scholars...She is very much the intellectual equal of her peers."

Reviewer F: "Her articles and book chapters together form a rich and deep corpus of academic thinking—reaching a very high standard. The international recognition of her work can also be seen when looking at the many occasions she has been an invited speaker at major events in Europe, Asia, and of course the United States, both in academic and policy circles."

Reviewer G: "Professor Parthasarathy has been invited to present her research findings and recommendations at some of the world's most important venues for science, technology and policy debate – an indication of her international reputation as a scholar and policy expert."

Reviewer H: "Shobita Parthasarathy is a gifted science policy scholar. She has produced a significant body of innovative and influential scholarship, has had a direct influence on public policy, has received significant grant support for her research, and she has a promising trajectory ahead of her. She stands out as one of a very few mid-career stars in science and technology studies and science and technology policy studies."

Summary of Recommendation

Professor Parthasarathy is an internationally recognized scholar who has made significant contributions to the field of science and technology policy studies, and to the study of patent policy in particular. She is an excellent teacher and an exemplary model of service to the university and her profession. We are pleased to recommend Shobita Parthasarathy for promotion to professor of public policy, with tenure, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, and professor of women's studies, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



Michael S. Barr
Joan and Sanford Weill Dean of Public Policy
Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy



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