

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

Kiyoteru Tsutsui, associate professor of sociology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of sociology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

2002	Ph.D.	Stanford University
1996	M.A.	Stanford University
1995	M.A.	Kyoto University
1993	B.A.	Kyoto University

Professional Record:

2016 – present	Program Director, Center for Japanese Studies, University of Michigan
2014 – present	Director, Donia Human Rights Center, University of Michigan
2012 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Michigan
2008 – 2009	NEH Fellow, National Endowment for the Humanities
2007 – 2012	Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Michigan
2005 – 2006	Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, Stanford University
2002 – 2007	Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, State University of New York, Stony Brook

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Tsutsui has an exemplary teaching record in terms of the range of classes he has taught and his innovative use of technology. He has developed six courses that are structured around themes of human rights (in relation to the United Nations or a globalizing world), social movements and social protest, and the sociology of Japan. Most impressive is his large lecture course on U.N. human rights in which he regularly involves relevant U.N. officials via video-conference through which students are able to discuss current issues with practitioners. This teaching approach demonstrates the high value that Professor Tsutsui's research and international engagement bring to the classroom. He has served on sixteen dissertation committees, and three of these graduate students received the Rackham Distinguished Dissertation Award. Faculty spoke of his excellent work with graduate students, noting the strength of his mentorship even when he is not the student's primary advisor.

Research – Professor Tsutsui's research has two main substantive foci – human rights and corporate social responsibility. He examines each of these in global contexts and with impressive methodological rigor and breadth. His award winning *American Journal of Sociology* article (2017) and his forthcoming book from Oxford University Press best demonstrate the strengths of this case for the contributions of his scholarship. These publications are based on a rich, deep, comparative study of three minority rights groups in Japan. Professor Tsutsui's research observes that Japan is not a homogenous society and using this observation implements an innovative, rigorous research design that asks if and how minority groups in Japan were

transformed by global human rights ideas and institutions. Professor Tsutsui finds that the emergence of global human rights ideas and institutions produced higher levels of activism among all three groups.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Rights Make Might: Global Human Rights and Minority Social Movements in Japan, Oxford University Press, forthcoming.

“Human rights and minority activism in Japan: Transformation of movement actorhood and local-global feedback loop,” *American Journal of Sociology*, 122, 2017, pp. 1050-1103.

“How do global human rights expand? A case of Japan’s Burakumin going global,” in Expanding Human Rights: 21st Century Norms and Governance, A. Brysk and M. Stohl, eds., Cambridge, UK: Edward Edgar, 2017, pp. 35-54.

Corporate Social Responsibility in a Globalizing World, with A. Lim, co-ed., Cambridge University Press, 2015.

Service – Professor Tsutsui has contributed significant leadership as an associate professor. He recently completed two successful years as the departmental associate chair in charge of planning the curriculum. He has also served on the Personnel and Executive Committees. Faculty praised his willingness to work on everything from dissertation committees to grading preliminary exams to writing internal reviews. At the university level, Professor Tsutsui has held important leadership positions, including his current service as the director of the Center for Japanese Studies and the director of the Donia Human Rights Center, where he played a major role in building the center and doing substantial fund raising. Professor Tsutsui has also sustained an active role in the American Sociological Association (ASA) as well as in the area of Southeast Asian Studies. At ASA, he was the council member on a number of sections and is currently serving as the chair of the ASA Human Rights Section.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“With his new qualitative work on minority mobilization, Tsutsui moves completely beyond the original orbit of World Polity Theory to create an entirely new way of thinking about identity politics. This new work is going to reshape several fields, including globalization, social movements, and human rights scholarship. From the very first, Tsutsui has produced impactful scholarship that demands responses from the field. His latest work continues this pattern.”

Reviewer (B)

“...I cannot overemphasize the contribution that this book makes to existing scholarship on minorities in Japan. ... And nowhere have I come across a high-quality piece of scholarship that compares the trajectories of the three groups and their interaction with the Japanese government.”

Reviewer (C)

“Tsutsui has emerged as one of the leading social scientists of Japan but the same can be said about his stature in the study of human rights and social movements.”

Reviewer (D)

“I consider his 2017 American Journal of Sociology article and his forthcoming book, and the entire project that these are drawn from, to be outstanding. For Tsutsui to take on the question of difference in a society generally considered homogenous is itself an important step forward in our understanding of Japan, and a useful broadening of research on human rights.”

Reviewer (E)

“I consider Tsutsui as one of the leaders of a new generation of scholars of human rights who bring together a deep knowledge of human rights with advanced methodological abilities that allow them to develop and test theories about how international institutions and law functions. Tsutsui has the additional strength of combining strong qualitative and quantitative research skills, something that that singles him out from many other scholars of his generation.”

Reviewer (F)

“This is one of the most interesting treatments I have read in a long time on politics and society in Japan. As a sterling example of how to situate the global within the local (and vice versa), *Might Makes Right: Global Human Rights and Minority Social Movements in Japan* also has important implications for understanding human rights movements more broadly.”

Reviewer (G)

“I could continue by addressing other works, but the story will be the same: Professor Tsutsui is a first-rate sociologist and a world-class, wide-ranging scholar of human rights, organizations, and global culture and modernization. He would easily be appointed as a full professor at leading institutions in the U.S. and abroad.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Tsutsui has become a leader of a new generation of human rights scholars and as a sociologist has also made significant contributions to our understanding of social movements, globalization, and organizations. He is an excellent teacher and has been a leader in multiple units at the university. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Kiyoteru Tsutsui be promoted to the rank of professor of sociology, 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

May 2018