

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

Sergio Roberto Villalobos Ruminott, associate professor of romance languages and literatures, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of Spanish, with tenure, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2003	University of Pittsburgh
M.A.	2000	University of Pittsburgh
B.A.	1996	Universidad ARCIS (Licenciatura - Chile)

Professional Record:

2015 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, University of Michigan
2011 – 2015	Associate Professor, Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, University of Arkansas
2005 – 2011	Assistant Professor, Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, University of Arkansas
2003 – 2005	Visiting Professor, Department of World Languages, Literatures, and Cultures, University of Arkansas

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Villalobos Ruminott has demonstrated strong teaching in a wide range of undergraduate and graduate courses. He has also shown a high level of dedication to students and the teaching of Latin American studies, with a particular emphasis on the Southern Cone and on 19th- to 21st-century Latin American literature. His undergraduate courses provide a solid literary, cultural, and critical overview of modern and contemporary Latin America. In addition to being considered an excellent teacher, Professor Villalobos Ruminott is also regarded as a highly successful mentor to graduate students. Now in his third year at Michigan, he is stepping onto an increasing number of dissertation committees.

Research – In the area of Latin American Studies, Professor Villalobos Ruminott's research focuses on political theory, cultural criticism, and comparative literature of South and Central America with an interdisciplinary scope. His numerous publications, including his latest book, reveal an interest in a number of different intellectual registers, as well as a commitment to interdisciplinary work, focused primarily at the intersection of politics, philosophy, and aesthetics, especially literature and visual studies. Drawing on cultural politics, theories of violence, and globalization, his latest work can be read both as a critical intervention in which the field's main debates over the course of the last fifteen years are registered, and as the systematic delineation of questions for future engagements. This includes not only a theoretical reflection on violence but also the experience of violence itself, such as the enslavement and domination of the indigenous peoples during the colonial era, the extra-judicial executions of

political prisoners during the Pinochet dictatorship, and the murders of female factory workers on the Mexico-U.S. border in the 1990s, among other important topics.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Heterografías de la violencia. Historia, Nihilismo, Destrucción, La Cebra, 2016.

“Anarchy as the closure of metaphysics: Historicity and deconstruction in the work of Reiner Schürmann,” *Politica Comun*, 11, 2017.

“La deconstrucción, esa bestia soberana,” in Derrida desde el sur. La Universidad del Monte o el pensamiento sin claustro, J. Tobar, ed., Universidad del Cauca, Colombia, 2017.

Service – Professor Villalobos Ruminott has a solid record of service since arriving at Michigan in 2015. He has served on the departmental Graduate Committee, Assessment Committee, and French Search Committee, and on the Portuguese/Spanish combined major. He has been the Spanish advisor and a member of several graduate student committees. Professor Villalobos Ruminott has been active in contributing to the intellectual life of the department by bringing scholars to the university and organizing reading groups. Based on all of the above, there is no doubt that Professor Villalobos Ruminott can be described as a responsible, hard-working, and professional colleague in the department.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“Prof. Sergio Villalobos-Ruminot’s [sic] two books are solid enough...to place him shoulder to shoulder with the very best professionals working at comparable stages of their careers. His contributions to Latin American literary criticism are wide in range and invariably well grounded. They are also inserted in a host of different circles, from subaltern studies to cultural studies to communities of philosophers and literary critics in the US, Latin America and elsewhere, always addressing these communities in relevant and enriching ways.”

Reviewer (B)

“His last book and the edited volume, as well as the articles and essays more recently published, will only enhance his already outstanding position in the field. His work is an exemplary combination of theoretical and philosophical discussions that are pertinent to Latin America and a commitment to the cultural and political history of our continent...”

Reviewer (C)

“...I would like to point out that Professor Villalobos Ruminott’s service to the profession is both prolific and generous. He has served as reviewer for journals in Europe, the United States and Latin America and has actively participated in the review of tenure cases in several important American institutions. From his dossier, it is clear that he is engaged in the academic and professional life of his department and the profession at large. His whole dossier speaks of somebody who has been performing at the level of a Full Professor for sometime [sic] already.”

Reviewer (D)

“It is on the whole a remarkably consistent, coherent and important scholarly itinerary—a body of work that is already influential and widely admired in Latin America and the United States,

and which promises to mark the field decisively, and more still—to offer what *Heterografías* announces: an alternative to ‘contemporary nihilism.’”

Reviewer (E)

“...I have reviewed the dossiers of several scholars who were being promoted to Full Professor. These have included scholars at universities whose academic excellence and rigorous promotion standards match those of the University of Michigan. Professor Villalobos Ruminott’s insights, the relevance of his writings within and outside academic circles, his formidable grasp of contemporary philosophical inquiries and his remarkable knowledge of Latin American intellectual history match those of the best of these scholars and exceed those of several others.”

Reviewer (F)

“Villalobos Ruminott’s work asks vital questions about how one might situate theoretical writings about politics, literature and thought beyond the self-gratification rituals and purges endured by the ascending university professor. More importantly, Villalobos Ruminott is adamant in his desire to meditate on the specificity of a law, and a truly transformative way of existence for our times, that requires poetic imagination, a free sensibility towards singularity, and not another inventory of idealized identities or alternative subjectivities.”

Reviewer (G)

“I agree with Prof. Villalobos-Ruminott’s self-characterization in his research statement as a ‘Latin American scholar who has shaped his own way as the current state of the world has dramatically changed.’ As such, his work is always timely, and sometimes even ahead of its time, in putting forward urgent questions regarding politics, violence, representation and social crisis as seen through the combined lens of literature, cinema, the visual arts and contemporary theory. He is a truly unique figure and I do not think there are even five people in the field with such a profile.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Villalobos Ruminott is an outstanding scholar of contemporary Latin American literary and cultural studies. He is a valued and committed teacher in the Spanish undergraduate and graduate programs, and is always willing to serve in the administration of the department. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Sciences, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Sergio Roberto Villalobos Ruminott, be promoted to the rank of professor of Spanish, with tenure, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, College of Literatures, Science, and the Arts.



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

May 2018