

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

Gabriele Boccaccini, associate professor of Early Christianity, with tenure, Department of Near Eastern Studies, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of Early Christianity, with tenure, Department of Near Eastern Studies, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

1991	Ph.D.	University of Turin
1983	M.A.	University of Florence
1976	B.A.	Dante Alighieri Lyceum

Professional Record:

2002 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of Michigan
2000 – present	Visiting Professor, BIBLIA, Italy
1999 – 2002	Assistant Professor, Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of Michigan
1999 – present	Visiting Professor, Institute for Secular Humanistic Judaism, Detroit
1992 – 1999	Adjunct Professor, Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Boccaccini has revamped Near Eastern Studies' offerings in Judaism and Early Christianity, establishing a rotation of undergraduate lectures, two of which each routinely attract around 150 students. An effective teacher, he maintains extensive contact with both undergraduate and graduate students outside of the classroom, taking interest in their intellectual development and scholarly careers. He has served as a member of six dissertation committees, chaired two others, directed three undergraduate honors theses, and is currently advising five doctoral students. He was also involved in the planning and establishment of the Interdepartmental Program in Greek and Roman History.

Research – Professor Boccaccini has authored or co-authored fourteen books and nearly 100 articles and reviews. He has established himself as a leading authority on Jewish thought of the late first millennium B.C.E. and the early first millennium C.E., imparting a new impetus to the study of this material. He has applied the tools of intellectual history to these ancient religious writings to demonstrate that Rabbinic Judaism and primitive Christianity are best understood as siblings, developed from a common basis in the Judaism of the Hellenistic and Roman periods.

Recent and Significant Publications:

The Early Enoch Literature, Leiden: Brill, forthcoming 2006, edited volume.
Enoch and Qumran Origins: New Light on a Forgotten Connection, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2005, edited volume.
The Origins of Enochic Judaism: Proceedings of the First Enoch Seminar, Turin: Zamorani, 2002, edited volume.

Roots of Rabbinic Judaism: An Intellectual History, from Ezekiel to Daniel, Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002.

Service – In addition to his work in restructuring the undergraduate and graduate programs in his field, Professor Boccaccini has provided excellent service to the world of international scholarship. He has organized three biennial meetings of the Enoch Seminar, which brings together leading scholars of Judaism and Christianity for several days of discussions, and has edited their proceedings. In addition, he has recently assumed the editorship of *Henoch*, the leading journal of his field. He was instrumental in setting up the Michigan Center for Early Christian Studies, whose activities include sponsorship of the Michigan Lectures on Judaism and Christianity in the Roman World. And he lectures widely in both the United States and in Italy in promotion of Jewish-Christian understanding.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“B[occaccini] is internationally known and respected. His initiative with the Enoch Congress is lauded.”

Reviewer (B)

“I can think of very few scholars of his generation in Second Temple studies who have attained as much prominence as he has. ... Gabriele has certainly developed a fresh and distinctive voice. ... He is an emerging leader in his field.”

Reviewer (C)

“Judging from international standards, Boccaccini[’s] scholarly standing and reputation is [sic] far superior than many scholars working on the field for a much longer period of time.”

Reviewer (D)

“By moving the Enochic literature into the centre of early Judaism in a constant dialogue with Mosaic Judaism, Boccaccini has created the basis for a new discussion of the origin of Christianity and rabbinic Judaism. ... My impression from Boccaccini’s written and oral presentations is that he is a good communicator.”

Reviewer (E)

“GB is a scholar who is today in the fullness of his maturity and career. He has already written a great number of important books; he is internationally known and respected, and the most distinguished scholars in the field have been enthusiastic to collaborate with him... GB has already made a name for himself; at the same time he has the sure promise of even more significant achievements.”

Reviewer (F)

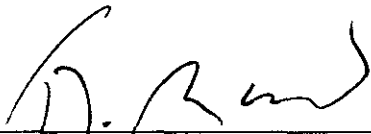
“Dr. Boccaccini’s high standing in the field goes unquestioned. ...Boccaccini has been willing, as few others, to attempt bold constructive steps toward the understanding of trajectories of thought in the ancient world of apocalyptic Judaism.”

Reviewer (G)

“The University of Michigan is fortunate to have someone of Gabriele’s ability on its faculty. This promotion will simply recognize institutionally what others outside of Michigan already know.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Boccaccini is a scholar of enthusiasm, energy, and wide erudition who has proven to be productive and influential. He has also worked to improve the undergraduate and graduate programs in Early Christianity and Judaism. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Gabriele Boccaccini be promoted to the rank of professor of Early Christianity, with tenure, Department of Near Eastern Studies.



Terrence J. McDonald, Dean
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

May 2006