

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

James M. Joyce, associate professor of philosophy, with tenure, and associate professor of statistics, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of philosophy, with tenure, and professor of statistics, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

1991	Ph.D.	University of Michigan
1980	B.A.	John Carroll University

Professional Record:

2003 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Statistics, University of Michigan
1998 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Michigan
1991 – 1998	Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluations:

Teaching – Professor Joyce is a successful teacher of students at all levels. Students praise his clarity, rigor, and dedication to promoting understanding of even the most complex concepts. He has regularly taught large introductory courses as well as advanced seminars. Recently, he co-taught an interdisciplinary seminar on scientific methods with members of the Departments of Astronomy and Statistics. Professor Joyce has been a mainstay of our graduate program, participating in an unusually large number of dissertation committees, often as chair.

Research – Professor Joyce’s book, *The Foundations of Causal Decision Theory* (Cambridge University Press, 1999), has come to be recognized as a classic in the field. Since the publication of that book, he has written a series of path-breaking articles in formal epistemology and decision theory. He has given the first compelling proof that Bayesian statistical methods can be vindicated on non-pragmatic grounds, a work described as “agenda-setting.” He has also made a persuasive case for pluralism about measures of the epistemic virtues of theories, and shown how Bayesians can capture these diverse measures. His continuing work includes a subtle discussion of the relation of choice and self-prediction, as well as an inter-disciplinary project on testing the “Dark Matter hypothesis” in scientific cosmology.

Recent and Significant Publications:

“Are Newcomb Problems Really Decisions?” *Synthese*, forthcoming
“How Probabilities Reflect Evidence,” *Philosophical Perspectives*, 19, 2005.
“Why We Still Need the Logic of Decision,” *Philosophy of Science*, 67, Proceedings June 2000, pp. s1-s13.
“A Nonpragmatic Vindication of Probabilism,” *Philosophy of Science*, 65, December 1998, pp. 575-603.

Service – Professor Joyce has been consistently active in key administrative responsibilities. He has served on all of the major Department committees, often as Chair. Additionally, he has been Summer Chair on several occasions, and has served as *ad hoc* Associate Chair in recent years. He was a member of the College’s Curriculum Committee. Nationally, he serves on several editorial boards and is in high demand as a referee and reviewer.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“What is most impressive about JJ’s [James Joyce’s] work is that he succeeds in forging a bridge between traditional epistemology and formal work in Bayesianism. ...I expect that we will see more and more work in this direction within the discipline and JJ’s work is certainly trend setting in this line of philosophical approach.”

Reviewer (B)

“I would judge Joyce to be among the top handful of philosophers in his area at a comparable stage in their careers. ... Everybody reads his scholarship... ...I respect his work tremendously, and it is work that has to be considered to stay at the state of the art in his areas. So I recommend his promotion most strongly.”

Reviewer (C)

“I strongly urge that he be promoted. ... He is without a doubt one of the very top philosophers, at any career stage, working on decision theory and the foundations of probability; when we confine our attention to philosophers of roughly his age, he stands out even more.”

Reviewer (D)

“In my opinion Joyce’s work is better than even the outstanding contributions of these very impressive researchers [previously identified as “Perhaps the two best of those in this field, who have recently been promoted to full professor...”]. Indeed, I think he may well be the best of anyone now working in the field including senior researchers.”

Reviewer (E)

“I have read quite a lot, indeed nearly all, of his published work, including the book, *The Foundations of Causal Decision Theory*. While there are some things I personally disagree with, there is no doubt whatever in my mind that he is the best of the people [of his generation] in the field, and one of the top three or four overall.”

Reviewer (F)

“Joyce should most certainly be promoted to Full Professor. His work is original and deep. He really is one of the bright lights in contemporary philosophy. ... If he would like to seek a position at my own institution, he’s hired.”

Reviewer (G)

“...I think Joyce is an outstanding candidate for promotion. He is a first rate philosopher who has made and is making groundbreaking contributions to an important area of philosophical research. I would certainly support such a promotion were he in my own department (or moveable to it).”

Reviewer (H)

"I have the highest regard for Jim's work. It displays penetrating insight and throws new light on traditional topics. Because Jim has terrific ideas and writes with panache, he has tremendous influence in his field, philosophy of science. ... Any department seeking prominence in philosophy of science would immediately dream of hiring him. My department would be delighted to have him on the faculty, as would the nation's very best philosophy departments."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Joyce is a leading figure in an important cluster of philosophical fields, a versatile teacher, and a valuable leader in the Department of Philosophy. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor James M. Joyce be promoted to the rank of professor of philosophy, with tenure, and professor of statistics, without tenure.



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

May 2006