

## PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION

The University of Michigan  
School of Natural Resources and Environment

Edward A. Parson, Associate Professor of Natural Resources and Environment, with tenure, School of Natural Resources and Environment, is recommended for promotion to Professor of Natural Resources and Environment, with tenure, School of Natural Resources and Environment. [He also holds the title of Professor of Law, with tenure, Law School.]

### Academic Degrees:

1992	Ph.D., Public Policy, Harvard University
1981	M.Sc., Management Science, University of British Columbia
1975	B.Sc., Physics, University of Toronto

### Professional Record

2003 to present	Associate Professor of Natural Resources and Environment, Professor, University of Michigan Law School
1996 -2003	Associate Professor of Public Policy, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.
1992-1996	Assistant Professor of Public Policy, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

### Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Parson’s teaching covers an unusually broad range of topics. He has taught six different courses since coming to the University of Michigan in 2003, and has developed four new courses in this time. These courses range from International Environmental Policy, to Negotiation, to Thinking Analytically. Dr. Parson’s teaching evaluations are good; this is important because he teaches some difficult subjects, and teaches to mixed Law, Policy, and Natural Resources audiences. Professor Parson’s ability to do this successfully reflects the breadth and integrative nature of his scholarship, as well as its focus on issues of practical importance. Students who have taken or are taking Dr. Parson’s courses speak highly of him as a professor. He brings energy and enthusiasm to the classroom and inspires students to engage the material. At the University of Michigan, he has chaired one, and currently chairs one, Masters’ committee; he chairs one doctoral committee, and serves on four doctoral committees. Prior to coming to the University of Michigan, he served on four Ph.D. committees, eight Masters’ committees (seven practica and one thesis), and advised eleven Global Environmental Assessment Fellows (seven doctoral level, four post-doctoral level).

Research – Professor Parson is a nationally and internationally recognized authority on the interface between science and policy, with particular emphasis on international environmental negotiations and agreements. His scholarly output includes five books (four co-authored), 15 articles in refereed journals and law reviews, 17 book chapters, and a variety of publications in more popular press outlets and technical reports. He is widely cited, and his work has had a substantial impact. His most prominent recent work is *Protecting the Ozone Layer: Science and Strategy* (Oxford). He is at work on a new book, funded by the U.S. EPA: *Feasible Improvements: Technological Uncertainty and Strategic Behavior in Environmental Regulation*. He also works on two other topics: uncertainty and decision-making in the area of climate change, and integrated scenario development and application. He is further expanding his work to consider environmental regulation, including automobile air pollution, dioxin emissions from the pulp and paper industry, and workplace exposure to vinyl chloride monomer. His work develops generalizable insights about the role of technological uncertainty on policymaking.

### Recent and Significant Publications:

- Coglianesi, C., R. Zeckhauser, E. A. Parson. 2004. Securing truth for power: Information strategy and regulatory policy-making. *Minnesota Law Review* 89:2.
- Parson, E. A. 2004. Grounds for hope: The assessment of technological options to manage ozone depletion. In A. Farrell and J. Jager (eds.). *Assessments of Regional and Global Environmental Risks: Designing Processes for Effective Use of Science in Decision-Making*. Washington, D.C.: Resources for the Future Press.
- Parson, E. A. 2003. *Protecting the Ozone Layer: Science and Strategy*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Parson, E. A., R. W. Corell, R., et al. 2003. Understanding climatic impacts, vulnerabilities, and adaptation in the United States: Building a capacity for assessment. *Climatic Change* 57(1): 9-42
- Parson, E. A. 2002. The technology assessment approach to climate change. *Issues in Science and Technology*, 18(4): 65-72.
- Parson, E. A. and D. W. Keith. 1998. Fossil fuels Without CO2 Emissions. *Science* 282 (5391): 1053-1054.

Service – Dr. Parson’s service is significant from the University to the national level. He serves on many national advisory committees. At the University of Michigan, he has served on the university-wide committee on Science, Technology, and Public Policy program planning group. He chaired the SNRE International Activities Committee, and served on the Masters’ Program committee, academic programs strategic planning committee, and as an SNRE representative to two Rackham committees.

### External Reviewers:

#### Reviewer (A)

“In terms of his work on international negotiation and treaty design Parson is one of a very small set of ‘[of his generation]’ rising stars . . . I would rate Ted as the best of this impressive group, primarily because he matches the depth and has more analytic depth than the others.”

“Parson’s research has been of high quality, creative, interdisciplinary, and extremely policy relevant.”

“He is a master at organizing/prioritizing discourse on complex cutting edge research subjects in real time.”

#### Reviewer (B)

“[A]lthough his book on the Montreal Protocol is deeply informed by an analytic frame of mind, it is written without equations in a manner that lawyers and business folks, scientists and political scientists, and environmental scientists could all appreciate.”

“Ted has both a methodological and policy expertise.”

“Ted is extremely intelligent, widely knowledgeable, and has the type of flexible mind that characterizes the best among the researchers I know with an interest in either of his major fields—negotiation or environmental policy.”

“[*Protecting the Ozone Layer*] is likely to be recognized as the definitive treatment of the stratospheric ozone issue.”

#### Reviewer (C)

“Dr. Parson has gained national and international stature . . .”

“He can both understand the complexities of the models and their paradigmatic narrowness.”

“I am sure you can expect continued good judgment and high productivity from him at the interface of global change research, public policy and integrated assessment.”

#### Reviewer (D)

“In the climate and environmental policy communities, Ted Parson has now built a reputation that would be the envy of many much more senior full Professors in environmental policy at leading universities in North America and Europe.”

Reviewer (E)

"Ted is quite a remarkable scholar with a wide range of skills and a solid record of publications across important areas of environmental policy-making and the role of scientific evidence in the making of policy."

"[H]is most important research contribution is almost certainly the ozone book. It is clearly a tour de force that authoritatively probes the whole history, while debunking several partial or sometimes spurious assumptions . . ."

Reviewer (F)

"Ted is one of the best and the brightest members of his cohort."

Reviewer (G)

"Professor Parson brings outstanding skill to his analysis of environmental policy. His analysis of the history of policy making on halogens in the atmosphere and their impact on stratospheric ozone will be a classic. His ability to explain the key details, including the science, so that their meaning is coherent, is extraordinary."

Reviewer (H)

"Ted Parson is one of the most important scholars working on global environmental policy."

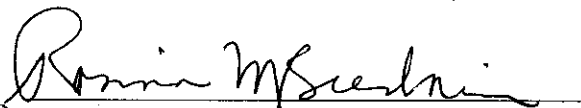
"He is certain to remain one of our most productive and most influential scholars of international environmental policy."

Reviewer (I)

"His publication record is impressive. The publications cover important environmental topics with a balance of empirical and theoretical approaches. Widely acclaimed, his book on *Protecting the Ozone Layer: Science and Strategy*, is indeed a milestone in documenting and analysing the regime that developed to protect the ozone layer."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Parson is part of an unusual peer group within academia: scientists who study policy from a multidisciplinary perspective. His degrees are in physics, management science, and public policy; his scholarly work focuses on international environmental agreements, particularly the roles of integrated assessment and negotiation. He is a productive scholar, with both single-authored and co-authored books, numerous peer-reviewed publications, and more popular work. He is an excellent teacher of extraordinary breadth, who can teach complex material to students of diverse backgrounds. In both his writing and his teaching, he is able to make material accessible while retaining the depth of analysis. His service, from the university level to national committees, is good, and brings visibility to the University of Michigan. It is with the support of the Promotion and Tenure Committee that I recommend him for promotion to Professor of Natural Resources and Environment, with tenure.



Rosina M. Bierbaum, Dean  
School of Natural Resources and Environment

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