

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

Approved by the Regents

May 17, 2007

Dario Gaggio, assistant professor of history, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of history, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D. 1999 Northwestern University
Laurea cum Laude 1992 University of Florence

Professional Record:

2001 – present Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of Michigan
1999 – 2001 Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of History, Northwestern University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Gaggio has proven himself an innovative, dedicated, and highly successful instructor at all levels. He is one of the most popular teachers in the department, and has demonstrated a willingness to reach across disciplinary and national boundaries to introduce American students to the political and cultural conundrums of Europe in the modern era. Student evaluations are very good and are consistent across the board regardless of size and format. He is as successful among first-year students as he is among advanced graduate students.

Research – Professor Gaggio’s scholarship has multiple dimensions and far-reaching implications. *In Gold We Trust* (forthcoming 2007) is a deeply original, risk-taking, and ambitious project that succeeds in ways rarely seen in first books. He challenges a series of presumptions about Italy’s patterns of economic development, most notably the still pervasive dichotomy between northern modernization and southern backwardness. Setting aside narratives of progress or decline, he provides instead a micro-historical and comparative analysis of localized networks of small and medium-sized firms that drove the production and marketing of gold jewelry. His alternative narrative is a *tour de force*.

Recent and Significant Publications:

In Gold We Trust: Social Capital and Economic Change in the Italian Gold Jewelry Districts, Princeton University Press, forthcoming 2007.

“Pyramids of trust: Embeddedness and economic change in two Italian gold jewelry districts,” *Enterprise and Society*, 7, 2006, pp. 19-58.

“Do social historians need social capital?” *Social History*, 29, 2004, pp. 499-513.

“The politics of tacit knowledge: Skill formation in two Italian gold jewelry towns during the post-World War II economic miracle,” *Artisans, Industrie. Nouvelles Révolutions du Moyen Age à Nos Jours*, N. Coquery, et al. (eds.), Paris: Ecole Normale Supérieure Editions, 2004, pp. 441-451.

Service – Professor Gaggio has compiled a diverse and impressive record of service. Most

notably, he has taken on the role of undergraduate advisor since his arrival in the department. He is an admirable citizen who has amply fulfilled the department's expectations for service.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

"The book, *In God We Trust*, is a sophisticated account of the history of the gold jewelry industry in three Italian towns... What I particularly like about the book is the way it combines the ideographic or specificity of the experiences of people and their industry in particular places with an overarching attention to how these stories are part of a broader history of Italy and Europe and the world economy..."

Reviewer (B)

"His study marries the insights of economic and social theory with social history's sense of the role that place, class, and culture bring to political and economic action. ...I rank Prof. Gaggio at the top of his generation of historians of modern Italy. ... He is a rare find."

Reviewer (C)

"...[Gaggio] is an outstanding scholar and eminently qualified for tenure and promotion at a university as fine as Michigan. ...his achievement is absolutely exceptional and first-rate. ...his book is a methodological coup, in that he succeeds in recasting general social scientific and economic theory through a multi-dimensional and multi-sited historical investigation."

Reviewer (D)

"I will urge you to promote Dario Gaggio, whose work, intelligence, and boldness I find really striking... ...he is a broad-gauge historical social theorist who is intervening in large-scale controversies concerning economic development, the nature of capitalism, the role of clientelism in Mediterranean and other societies, [and] the Putnam/Fukuyama debates on 'trust' and social capital."

Reviewer (E)

"...he has written a small constellation of publications. All are elaborations on the themes of his main book, but they are exceptionally rich essays and they have been strategically placed in outstanding publications in English, French, and Italian. ...let me attest that he has unmistakably sterling qualities which the University would do well to treasure."

Reviewer (F)

"...*In Gold We Trust* is a substantial work that makes an important contribution to the field. ...it will establish Gaggio as an original scholar with a promising future. ... If I were compiling a list of the most significant recent works in the field of Italian economic history, I would include *In Gold We Trust* on the list."

Reviewer (G)

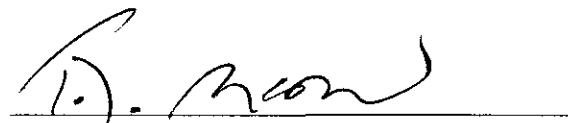
"Dario Gaggio has a commendable breadth of mind and an exciting commitment to methodology and to informed theory. The four articles reveal this aspect well."

Reviewer (H)

“His forthcoming book...shows fully his theoretical sophistication, imagination, and maturity as an economic historian. In this book Dr. Gaggio effectively questions current interpretations of the phenomenon of the Italian ‘industrial districts’ by providing a fresh look at their historical development and by recovering the agents’ own meanings and the conflicts that opposed stronger and weaker social actors.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Gaggio’s work transcends disciplinary boundaries and established fields of scholarship. He has been a very successful teacher and an active citizen. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Dario Gaggio be promoted to the rank of associate professor of History, with tenure, in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



Terrence J. McDonald
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor,
Professor of History, and Dean
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

May 2007