

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

Richard L. Lewis, associate professor of psychology, with tenure, and associate professor of linguistics, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of psychology, with tenure, and professor of linguistics, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1993	Carnegie Mellon University
B.S.	1987	University of Central Florida

Professional Record:

2000 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Psychology and Department of Linguistics, University of Michigan
1999 – 2000	Assistant Professor, Department of Linguistics, The Ohio State University
1999	Visiting Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Potsdam
1996	Visiting Professor, Institute of Computer Science and Social Research, University of Freiburg
1995 – 2000	Assistant Professor, College of Engineering, The Ohio State University
1994 – 1995	McDonnell Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Psychology, Princeton University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Lewis is a dedicated instructor who has taught a variety of courses, including a series of computational modeling courses for students who have little programming experience. He has also taught the graduate statistics sequence, which services students from several units including business and public health. He has taught a freshman seminar and has served on eighteen dissertation committees. One of his undergraduate students won an award for the best honors thesis in the Department of Psychology (in a pool of over 70 honors theses).

Research – Professor Lewis' research focuses on fundamental topics regarding the human mind and involves important levels of analysis. His work is highly interdisciplinary, collaborative, creative, and synergistic. His publications appear in top tier journals and he has published a considerable number of book chapters in prestigious handbooks and encyclopedias. Professor Lewis has received funding from the Office of Naval Research, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency enabling him to establish a large laboratory with state-of-the-art equipment for computational cognitive modeling and data collection. He supports several graduate research assistants, significantly strengthening the doctoral graduate program of the Cognition and Perception Area in the Department of Psychology.

Recent and Significant Publications:

“Computational principles of working memory in sentence comprehension,” with S. Vasishth and J. A. Van Dyke, *Trends in Cognitive Sciences*, 10(10), 2006, pp. 431-476.

“An activation-based model of sentence processing as skilled memory retrieval,” with S. Vasishth, *Cognitive Science*, 29, 2005, pp. 375–419.

“Dual-route processing of complex words: New fMRI evidence from derivational suffixation,” with J. Vannest and T. A. Polk, *Cognitive, Affective, and Behavioral Neuroscience*, 5, 2005, pp. 67–76.

“Distinguishing effects of structure and decay on attachment and repair: A cue-based parsing account of recovery from misanalyzed ambiguities,” with J. Van Dyke, *Journal of Memory and Language*, 49, 2003, pp. 285–316.

Service – Professor Lewis is a model departmental citizen. He has made a positive difference by restructuring a brown bag forum to facilitate collegial scholarly exchange and chairing the computing committee where he has made noticeable changes in the structure of our informational technology. He serves on the College’s Information Technology Committee and is an associate editor of two major journals.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“Rick obviously has a high position among those who work on models of language processing and those who work on cognitive architectures. He is recognized by everyone as the pre-eminent researcher on the connection between cognitive architecture and language processing.”

Reviewer (B)

“One of the most remarkable things about Rick is the breadth of his skills. ... He is a fine computational modeler and computational linguist... He is a skilled experimental psycholinguist... He is clearly a wonderful and valued collaborator, able to collaborate with people from very different disciplines.”

Reviewer (C)

“By all the standard marks of academic attainment, Rick’s career has been exemplary. He has a considerable presence in the national and international community of cognitive scientists. He is very active on the conference circuit; he has published substantial papers in excellent journals...and at an accelerating rate; and he has brought considerable research funding to the university.”

Reviewer (D)

“His research record is impressive and has far-reaching implications. He is a well-known and highly respected researcher and scholar...”

Reviewer (E)

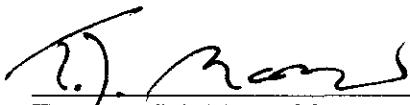
“Dr. Lewis investigates the computational foundations of human cognition and language... He can participate with ease in discussions about current linguistic theory and translate them into processing constraints of the human parser. ...he realized very early that one cannot ignore executive control structures (such as working memory constraints) if one wants to understand and model language processing.”

Reviewer (F)

“Professor Lewis has chosen tough problems to investigate. They require an investigator who is skilled in computational modeling and in computational linguistics, and who has a deep understanding of research and theorizing in cognitive psychology. The products that Professor Lewis has produced are a clear testament to his formidable skills in each of these areas.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Lewis is an internationally recognized researcher and instructor, and is a dedicated university citizen. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Richard L. Lewis be promoted to the rank of professor of psychology, with tenure, and professor of linguistics, without 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

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