

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

Christopher L. House, assistant professor of economics, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of economics, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2001	Boston University
M.A.	1994	Northeastern University
B.S.	1992	University of Massachusetts at Amherst

Professional Record:

2004 – present	Faculty Associate, Survey Research Center, Institute for Social Research
2001 - present	Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor House is an outstanding classroom instructor. He has routinely taught a required upper-level course for the economics concentration. Addressing macroeconomic theory and policy, it is structured to link closely to current issues in the economy (for example, a discussion of the theory of monetary policy is linked to a recent policy action by the Federal Reserve). He has been very effective in implementing this curricular design. Professor House is also a very important contributor to the doctoral program by teaching a core macroeconomic theory course and supervising several doctoral dissertations.

Research – Professor House is emerging as one of the leading macroeconomists of his generation. His work addresses central issues relating to aggregate fluctuations as well as fiscal and monetary policy. His research style exemplifies the distinctive brand of economics that is practiced at Michigan and his work combines theoretical analysis and empirical work to deliver convincing answers to important questions. He has compiled a distinguished record of publication including four articles in the top general journals and three articles in excellent specialized journals.

Recent and Significant Publications:

“Sticky-price models and durable goods,” with R. B. Barsky and M. S. Kimball, *American Economic Review*, 97(3), 2007, pp. 984-998.
“Phased-in tax cuts and economic activity,” with M. D. Shapiro, *American Economic Review*, 96(5), 2006, pp. 1835-1849.
“Adverse selection and the financial accelerator,” *Journal of Monetary Economics*, 53(6), 2006, pp. 1117-1134.
“An sS model with adverse selection,” with J. V. Leahy, *Journal of Political Economy*, 112(3), 2004, pp. 581-614.

Service – Professor House’s service record is excellent. He has been twice elected to the departmental Executive Committee and has been very active in faculty recruitment efforts. He

was a member of the committee that evaluated and recommended changes to our first-year Ph.D. curriculum. They looked closely at the form and content of the offerings and their recommendations have been implemented.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“Let me start with the bottom line: I recommend this promotion enthusiastically. House is one of the best macroeconomists [of his generation] anywhere. He is doing excellent work, is very productive, and has large professional externalities. Promoting him is a no-brainer. ...what distinguishes House’s work is a splendid combination of technical care and common sense.”

Reviewer (B)

“It is the common consensus in the profession that Michigan achieved a ‘coup’ when it discovered Chris House. ... All of Chris House’s papers are very high quality. ... The quality and novelty of his research put him in the top rank.”

Reviewer (C)

“Given his stage of career, Chris has written and published an amount that would be expected from someone at top research universities. ... Chris’s articles have been published in highly respected journals.”

Reviewer (D)

“I am delighted to recommend Christopher House for tenure and promotion in your department ... House has made a substantial impact on research in macro and related areas. He won a position as Faculty Research Fellow in NBER’s [National Bureau of Economic Research] Economic Fluctuations and Growth program. ... He was elected when strong candidates from other top departments were not.”

Reviewer (E)

“While Chris’ work addresses a range of topics, he has a coherent research agenda of asking interesting questions in macroeconomics and examining the underlying mechanisms in firm-level and household decision making. In the case of his applied work, he brings either a quantitative model or careful empirical work to bear. ...Chris has a good eye for interesting questions, and then executes carefully, so that his work is systematically both interesting and convincing.”

Reviewer (F)

“Chris is a first rate macroeconomic theorist. He has a great depth and breadth of knowledge... The bottom line is that the University of Michigan should grant Chris tenure.”

Reviewer (G)

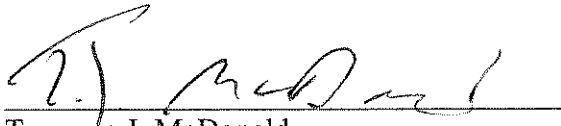
“...[Phased-in tax cuts] advances the literature in two respects. First, it focuses comprehensively on several channels of macroeconomic response; second, it evaluates the model’s predictions by looking at what actually happened to investment and employment over the course of the past several years...”

Reviewer (H)

“...I think that Chris does interesting applied work in macroeconomics and that the quality level is very high. A distinguishing feature, perhaps, is that although all [h]is work has a strong empirical bent, the range of topics is quite broad. This is unusual... ..I have no hesitation recommending promotion.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor House has developed into an outstanding macroeconomist who has made important contributions to economic theory and the understanding of economic policy. He is also a superb teacher and an excellent citizen. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Christopher L. House be promoted to the rank of associate professor of economics, 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

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