

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

Anthony S. Chen, assistant professor of sociology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and assistant professor of public policy, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of sociology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and associate professor of public policy, with tenure, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2002	University of California, Berkeley
B.A.	1994	Rice University

Professional Record:

2005 – 2007	Robert Wood Johnson Scholar in Health Policy Research, School of Public Health, University of California, Berkeley and San Francisco
2002 – present	Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, and Assistant Professor, Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Chen is a versatile and highly effective teacher, having taught courses in sociology ranging from a large lecture class with more than two-hundred lower division students to a small honors sequence for graduating seniors. His student evaluations, which praise Chen's knowledge, clarity, organization, and accessibility, are consistently strong, with several of his classes, including his graduate seminar in public policy, earning outstanding ratings. An excellent and highly polished writer himself, Professor Chen emphasizes the importance of writing in all of his courses, and he devotes considerable time and attention to helping students think and write more clearly. Such qualities have made him a highly valued and sought-after mentor to graduate students and undergraduates alike.

Research – Professor Chen is the author of a forthcoming book, *The Fifth Freedom*, which brings to bear original archival research to understand the sources and character of affirmative action policies in the contemporary United States. Beautifully written, carefully documented, and brimming with fresh insights, the book's appearance later this academic year will cement Professor Chen's reputation as one of the most original and creative political and historical sociologists of his generation. This larger project has also yielded two outstanding articles that have appeared in leading refereed journals in history as well as sociology – a rare accomplishment for any scholar. With two new major projects in the works, Professor Chen's scholarly career is on a steep upward trajectory. His scholarship shows deepening engagement with important real world policy issues and he promises to become increasingly prominent.

Recent and Significant Publications:

*The Fifth Freedom: Jobs, Politics, and Civil Rights in the United States, 1941-1972*, Princeton University Press, forthcoming.

“The party of Lincoln and the politics of state fair employment legislation in the North, 1945-1964,” *American Journal of Sociology*, 112(6), 2007.

“‘The Hitlerian rule of quotas’: Racial conservatism and the politics of fair employment legislation in New York state, 1941-1945,” *Journal of American History*, 92(4), 2006.

“Lives at the center of the periphery, lives as the periphery of the center: Chinese American masculinities and bargaining with hegemony,” *Gender & Society*, 13(5), 1999.

Service – Professor Chen has provided excellent service to his primary units. In the Department of Sociology, he has served on the demanding Personnel and Admissions Committees, in addition to being an elected member of the Executive Committee. In the Ford School of Public Policy he has served as a liaison to, and eloquent advocate for, their joint doctoral program. Professor Chen is a selfless colleague whose commitment to the “public good” makes him a truly valuable asset to the wider academic community.

#### External Reviews:

##### Reviewer (A)

“Chen does indeed rank among the best of his peers. ... I would rate the importance of Professor Chen’s work, the range and depth, and quality of presentation extremely high. ... Chen’s analysis is extremely impressive, original, and compelling. ... I believe that he is among the nation’s top political and historical sociologists [of his generation], and he would be tenured in the most distinguished universities.”

##### Reviewer (B)

“...[*The Fifth Freedom*] is an excellent book that can be expected to make a major contribution to our understanding of the evolution of race policy in the United States. ... Professor Chen’s work is, in many ways, a model of what historically-oriented social science and policy studies can and should be. ... Chen easily belongs in the front ranks of scholars [of his age group] of American political development and American race policy, and I have no hesitation in reiterating my endorsement of his promotion to tenure.”

##### Reviewer (C)

“Chen’s analysis provides, to my mind, one of the best and most sensitive accounts we have of the complex patterning of a new, business-oriented conservative movement. ... Professor Chen is a highly original, careful, and thoughtful scholar, doing work that is interdisciplinary and speaking to important policy questions of the past and present. I would not hesitate to recommend him for tenure at any top sociology department.”

##### Reviewer (D)

“*The Fifth Freedom* is a brilliant and beautifully written book, carefully argued and rich in historical evidence. ... It is likely to have wide impact that will reorient our understanding of affirmative action. I do believe that his research record is of sufficiently high quality to recommend promotion and tenure.”

Reviewer (E)

“Tony’s forthcoming book, The Fifth Freedom, makes a major contribution to the still underdeveloped literature on affirmative action and civil rights politics in the last half of the twentieth century. Tony breaks ground in a number of ways. ...there is no doubt in my mind that you have a first-rate, very promising scholar [of his generation] in Tony Chen. If he were being considered for tenure at [my institution], his case would surely sail through on the excellent scholarly record.”

Reviewer (F)


“...Chen has shown himself to be a superb scholar, whose meticulous research has produced work of the very highest quality. Chen forthcoming book...exhibits all these strengths. ... I would recommend him without hesitation for a tenured appointment at [my institution]. He is a first-rate scholar who will be an outstanding addition to any of the top-rated departments that combine social science research in policy related fields.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Chen is an original and powerful scholar, a versatile and talented teacher, and a conscientious and committed mentor. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and the Senior Governing Faculty of the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy recommend that Assistant Professor Anthony S. Chen be promoted to the rank of associate professor of sociology, with tenure, in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and associate professor of public policy, with tenure, in the Ford School of Public Policy.



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



Susan M. Collins  
Joan and Sanford Weill Dean  
Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy  
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