

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

Jason D. Owen-Smith, assistant professor of sociology and assistant professor of organizational studies, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of sociology, with tenure, and associate professor of organizational studies, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2000	University of Arizona
M.A.	1997	University of Arizona
B.A.	1995	New College of Florida

Professional Record:

2002 – present	Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Organizational Studies Program, University of Michigan
2000 – 2002	Postdoctoral Fellow, Stanford University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Owen-Smith is a dedicated and highly effective teacher. His undergraduate classes are intellectually demanding and pedagogically innovative, stemming from his commitment to enable students to utilize the theoretical knowledge they learned in the classroom to address real world problems. He follows a similar philosophy in his graduate courses while also including ample opportunities for learning the craft of research. He is a conscientious mentor and advisor to more than a dozen students in sociology, organizational studies, and other fields.

Research – Author or co-author of twenty articles and book chapters exploring the sources of organizational change, Professor Owen-Smith is a prolific and influential scholar. He is clearly among the best of his generation of those working in the areas of economic sociology, network analysis, and science studies. Equally at home using ethnographic and field work methods as well as highly sophisticated quantitative techniques, he is able to ask important questions facing his fields without restricting himself methodologically. This enables him to produce a highly diverse and powerfully original body of work that speaks to multiple scholarly and public audiences on many of the most pressing issues of the day, including the role of networks in fueling innovation in high-technology industries, the impact of commercialization on academic culture, and the sources of professionalization in today's economy.

Recent and Significant Publications:

- “Innovation and emulation: Lessons from the experiences of U.S. universities in selling private rights to public knowledge,” with W. W. Powell and J. Colyvas, *Minerva*, 45, 2007, pp. 121-142.
- “Dockets, deals, and sagas: Commensuration and the rationalization of experience in university licensing,” *Social Studies of Science*, 35(1), 2005, pp. 69-97.

“From separate systems to a hybrid order: Accumulative advantage across public and private science at research one universities,” *Research Policy*, 32(6), 2003, pp. 1081-1104.

“Managing laboratory work through skepticism: Processes evaluation and control,” *American Sociological Review*, 66(3), 2001, pp. 427-452.

Service – Professor Owen-Smith has rendered invaluable service to his primary units as well as the wider university community. As the first and most senior hire in the Organizational Studies Program, he has served on all the major committees in that program. In the Department of Sociology, he has served three terms on the Personnel Committee while carrying out his other service obligations. He has been a major contributor to the Interdisciplinary Committee on Organizational Studies, on whose Executive Board he sits. In all of these arenas, he gives generously of his time and expertise, and is uniformly regarded as a highly valued, constructive, and fair-minded colleague.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“...Owen-Smith is one of the stars in his cohort in organizational sociology/macro-to-meso OB [Organizational Behavior]. He is prolific, his work is integrative and of high quality, and he has an impressive and ambitious research agenda, with a track record that suggests he will accomplish a large chunk of it.”

Reviewer (B)

“I see Jason Owen-Smith as one of the most creative and promising scholars [of his generation] at the intersection of the fields of the sociology of science, organizational sociology, and network theory. His work is dynamic and fresh... He has already been recognized with an NSF CAREER award... I can't think of anyone...who had made so many empirically grounded, theoretical innovations at Owen-Smith's career stage.”

Reviewer (C)

“Even were it not for the Henry Russel Award, the National Science Foundation Faculty Early Career Development Award, or the Sloan Fellowship, this would be a straight-forward case. With articles in several distinguished journals...Prof. Owen-Smith is a highly productive scholar and a very intellectually sophisticated one.”

Reviewer (D)

“Jason Owen-Smith is no ordinary sociologist... Jason has already assumed a positional [sic] of intellectual leadership in the sociology of science, and whatever this field becomes in the years ahead will be shaped significantly by his future work. ... What makes Jason stand out from all the rest is his active involvement in the interdisciplinary world of science studies and his simultaneous good standing in the mainstream discipline of sociology.”

Reviewer (E)

“His research is path-breaking in both substantive and methodological terms. ...I find Jason to be an exemplary scholar [of his generation] – one whose record merits tenure in any top sociology department or organizational studies group.”

Reviewer (F)

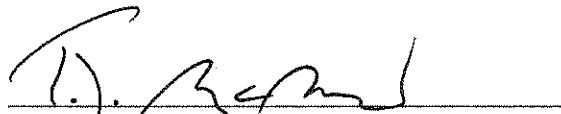
"I don't think there is another scholar [of his generation] who combines in such a fertile fashion work from the different fields of economic sociology, networks, organization studies, and the sociology of science. In that respect, he has no peer."

Reviewer (G)

"He is a consummate scholar, a lively and engaged colleague in the larger community of sociologists, and in my opinion, should be promoted to tenure without hesitations. He is probably the finest sociologist [of his generation] writing in three distinct fields: science studies, organizations, and economic sociology. ...Owen-Smith is without doubt one of the leaders, if not the leader in his cohort of sociologists. He is the sort of researcher who comes along at most every few years, with a remarkable capacity for creative independent research."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Owen-Smith is one of the most accomplished sociologists of his generation. He is a dedicated and accomplished teacher, and a conscientious mentor and collaborator with graduate students. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Jason D. Owen-Smith be promoted to the rank of associate professor of sociology, with tenure, and associate professor of organizational studies, 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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