

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
School of Natural Resources and Environment

Arun Agrawal, associate professor of natural resources and environment, with tenure, School of Natural Resources and Environment, is recommended for promotion to professor of natural resources and environment, with tenure, School of Natural Resources and Environment.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1992	Duke University, Political Science, Durham, NC
M.A.	1988	Duke University, Political Science, Durham, NC
M.B.A.	1985	Indian Institute of Management, Development Administration and Public Policy, Ahmedabad, India
B.A.	1983	Delhi University, History, Delhi, India

Professional Record:

2003 to present	Associate Professor, with tenure, School of Natural Resources and Environment, University of Michigan
2002 to 2003	Associate Professor, with tenure, Department of Political Science and McGill School of Environment, McGill University
2000 to 2002	Associate Professor, without tenure, Department of Political Science, Yale University
1997 to 2000	Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Yale University
1993 to 1997	Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Florida

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: The highlight of Professor Arun Agrawal's teaching is the training and mentoring of doctoral students and, to a lesser extent, Master's students. Letters from these students consistently laud Professor Agrawal's mentoring, his concern for their intellectual growth and skills development, and assistance in expanding their support networks. Professor Agrawal is currently working with a large number of Ph.D. students and is in high demand for serving on Ph.D. committees. Professor Agrawal's commitment to graduate mentoring is reflected in his initiative to organize a discussion and reading group for Ph.D. students to present and discuss their ideas and research and receive feedback on proposals and dissertation chapters. Students consider this an invaluable experience for their academic development. Professor Agrawal's formal teaching leaves much room for improvement. Written teaching evaluations generally indicate that Professor Agrawal teaches challenging courses that students appreciate, but a substantial number show dissatisfaction with teaching style, clarity, and organization. This is unexpected given Professor Agrawal's teaching evaluations in previous institutions and the strong letters of support written by students. We believe that Professor Agrawal may not have arranged teaching assignments that reflect his strengths, and has initiated too many different courses without enough time for maturation of any of them. More recently, Professor Agrawal volunteered to teach a new core course for the entire incoming Master's class which proved to be extremely challenging for the

instructors due to the broad content of the material and diverse background of the students. Overall, we conclude that Professor Agrawal is excellent at generating new knowledge, but has yet to realize his full potential pedagogically.

Research: Professor Agrawal is a nationally and internationally renowned political scientist and one of the leading figures in social science on the environment. His primary scholarly contribution has been in environmental governance; his research indeed has been critical to establishing environmental governance as a field within political science. According to peers from other institutions, Professor Agrawal is one of the most widely read, discussed and quoted political scientists in the field of environmental politics. Professor Agrawal also is an accomplished multidisciplinary, as evidenced by his contributions to sociology, anthropology, history, environmental studies, and Asian studies. Reflecting this, his 30 academic journal articles appear in 24 different journals. This is a tribute to his enormous breadth of scholarship, careful fieldwork, and creativity. Professor Agrawal is a prolific scholar. Since completing his Ph.D. in 1992, his published output includes 30 journal articles, two refereed books, five edited collections, and 14 chapters in refereed books. His work has been cited more than 600 times according to the Social Science Citation Index. Since joining the Michigan faculty in 2003, he has been lead PI on five grants (two NSF, two Ford Foundation, and one MacArthur Foundation) totaling over \$2.5 million. His recent accomplishments – completing the acclaimed book *Environmentality*, assuming the directorship of the International Forest Resources and Institutions (IFRI) program, and establishing a vital relationship with the Social Science Research Council – demonstrate Professor Agrawal’s position as a worldwide leader in his field.

Recent Significant Publications:

- Maria Carmen Lemos, Arun Agrawal, “Environmental Governance,” *Annual Review of Environment and Resources*, Vol. 31, 2006, pg. 297-325.
- Arun Agrawal, “Environmentality: Technologies of Government and Political Subjects,” Duke University Press, 2005 (Oxford University Press, Delhi, rpt. 2006).
- K. Sivaramakrishnan, Arun Agrawal, “Regional Modernities: The Cultural Politics of Development,” Stanford University Press, 2003 (also published jointly by Oxford University Press, New Delhi in Spring 2003).
- Arun Agrawal, “Common Property Institutions and Sustainable Governance of Resources,” *World Development*, Vol. 29, No.10, 2001, pg. 1649-72.
- Arun Agrawal, Sanjeev Goyal, “Group Size and Collective Action: Third Party Monitoring in Common Pool Resources,” *Comparative Political Studies*, Vol. 34, No. 1, 2001, pg. 63-93.
- Arun Agrawal, Jesse Ribot, “Accountability in Decentralization: A Framework with South Asian and West African cases,” *Journal of Developing Areas*, Vol. 33(Summer), 1999, pg. 473-502.
- Arun Agrawal, Clark Gibson, “Enchantment and Disenchantment: The Role of Community in Natural Resource Conservation,” *World Development*, Vol. 27, No. 4, 1999, pg. 629-49.
- Arun Agrawal, “*Greener Pastures: Politics, Markets, and Community among a Migrant Pastoral People*,” Duke University Press, 1999 (jointly published by Oxford University Press, New Delhi).
- Arun Agrawal, “Dismantling the Divide between Indigenous and Western Knowledge,” *Development and Change*, Vol. 26, No. 3, 1995, pg. 413-39.

Service: Professor Agrawal has performed important service for SNRE as well as for the broader academic community. Professor Agrawal's main service contribution within SNRE was as a member of the Executive Committee. Professor Agrawal served as associate editor for the *Journal of Asian Studies*, on the editorial board of various distinguished interdisciplinary journals, and as an *ad hoc* reviewer for a large number of academic journals and granting agencies. Last year he became the director of IFRI, a network of 14 research institutions in 12 different countries. In sum, Professor Agrawal has performed excellent service to SNRE, the University of Michigan, and the academic community at large.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "My short conclusion is that Prof. Agrawal is an outstanding and unambiguous candidate for the rank of Full Professor at any major research institution in the United States.... It is also evident that he is girding up for a second major phase in his scholarly life ... under the broad rubric of 'environmental governance', a field which is surely destined to grow and prosper under the leadership of a few key people in the next few decades, one of whom will certainly be Arun."

Reviewer B: "In my view, Arun Agrawal compares favorably with and in important ways dominates his generation of scholars working on problems of environmental governance at local to national scales. By the numbers, his publication record is by far the most impressive of the list of contemporaries I have given above. ... I find his contributions to be both profound and influential."

Reviewer C: "Arun is one of the half-dozen scholars and colleagues whose work I follow most closely, regard most highly, and has the greatest influence on me. ... Most obviously, Arun is one of the most energetic and prolific scholars I know. His career publication record to date – with 30 peer-reviewed articles, 15 book chapters, 5 edited collections, and 3 single-authored books, is impressive. Even more impressive is the fact that many of his publications have been extremely important ones."

Reviewer D: "In terms of evaluating the material, I should say immediately that I do not favor Professor Agrawal's approach. ... Professor Agrawal's perspective does succeed on its own terms. In particular, I thought that *Environmentality* is an important study of the interaction between successive governments and local populations in parts of India. The fieldwork on which the research is based is daunting and the author's knowledge clearly vast."

Reviewer E: "There is no doubt that Arun is one of the foremost scholars of environmental governance as applied to the issues and challenges of developing countries, especially in the natural resources field.... His work brilliantly combines attention to the material political economy and institutions involved with natural resources, with an interest in the politics of knowledge around environment and development that takes inspiration from post-structural and constructivist theories.... His most recent book, *Environmentality*, is a tour de force..."

Reviewer F: "He has an excellent publication record and is an original thinker... 'Environmentality' is a major contribution to understand environmental institutions and

ideas in the developing world and is one of the most important books to emerge on environmental governance in the last couple of years.”

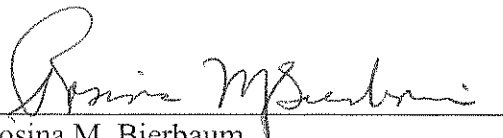
Reviewer G: “In the last few years, Agrawal has established a reputation as one of the world’s leading scholars of environmental governance.... Agrawal’s scholarly reputation has been vastly extended by the appearance of his recent book, *Environmentality: Technologies of Government and the Making of Subjects*...I know of no other recent work in the field of environmental politics that is so widely discussed, quoted, assigned to graduate students, and mentioned by graduate students to their professors in other fields as a work that must be read.”

Reviewer H: “His distinguished record of publication contains several of the ten or so most important papers to appear in environmental social science in recent decades, and highly significant books; the overall quantity of publication is remarkable, and his national and international reputation has long been firmly established.... *Environmentality* stands as a monument, not merely to integration of theoretical approaches, but to sustained empirical research, and can be read for its exemplary craft in examining concrete social and environmental systems.”

Reviewer I: “His research output is substantial in both quantity and quality. He has the record of a Full Professor at any major research institution in the United States.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Agrawal is a political scientist recognized worldwide for his work on environmental governance. His scholarly output is of high quality and quantity and has been published in a variety of journals with high impact factor. His two books are highly cited and have impacted the interdisciplinary fields within the environmental social sciences. Professor Agrawal has made valuable contributions to our doctoral program and is highly regarded by his graduate students. Professor Agrawal has also made important, excellent contributions to service in the academic community at large and is an active participant in internal service. Given his outstanding scholarship, valuable contribution to the doctoral program and current efforts to improve formal teaching, I recommend Professor Agrawal for promotion to professor of natural resources and environment, with tenure, School of Natural Resources and Environment.



Rosina M. Bierbaum
Dean, School of Natural Resources and Environment

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