

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

Vincenzo A. Binetti, associate professor of Italian, with tenure, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of Italian, with tenure, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1994	Harvard University
M.A.	1990	University of British Columbia
Laurea	1984	Università degli Studi di Firenze

Professional Record:

2001 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, University of Michigan
1998 – 2001	Assistant Professor, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, University of Michigan
1994 – 1998	Assistant Professor, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, University of Chicago

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Binetti has a strong record of teaching Italian from introductory courses to graduate seminars. He has earned high praise from undergraduate and graduate students alike for his energy, enthusiasm, effectiveness, and engagement. He is one of the main anchors of the Department’s small Italian program with its growing Italian concentration and he has played a full role in the design and implementation of the curriculum. He has also demonstrated a commitment to experimental classes. Moreover he has played a full part in the mentoring and advising of graduate students across the Department.

Research – With the publication of his second book, *Città nomadi. Autonomia e esodo nella metropoli contemporanea* [*Nomad Cities: Autonomy and exodus in the contemporary metropolis*], he has affirmed his reputation as one of the few scholars making a bridge between Italian studies in the two countries, introducing a more American-style cultural-studies approach to the Italian scholarly public, and conversely, bringing contemporary Italian intellectual debate to bear upon the study of Italian in the United States. He has also produced four published and one forthcoming article which are not repeated in the book, and an important and topical translation into Italian of William Ayers’ memoir of the Weather Underground, *Fugitive Days. A Memoir by Bill Ayers*. His next project, on the contemporary Italian author Nani Balestrini, is already under way and has a contract from an Italian publisher.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Città nomadi. Autonomia e esodo nella metropoli contemporanea, Ombre Corte: Verona, 2008.
“Genova, il G8 e la “bunkerizzazione dello spazio urbano,” *Narrativa*, 29, 2007, pp. 167-178.

“Un’ipotesi di città (in)visibile: *Palomar* e la ‘deriva’ transitoria,” *Allegoria*, 46, 2004, pp. 81-94.

“Between romanticism and realism: The poetics of engagement and the *romanzo sociale* during in the Italian Risorgimento,” *Forum for Modern Language Studies*, 38(2), 2002, pp. 126-139.

Service – Professor Binetti has carried out a wide range of service duties within his department. Because of the small number of full-time faculty in Italian, he has consistently had to play a major role in the design and implementation of all aspects of the Italian program. He has also been a major contributor to the teaching abroad program in Florence, which he has directed and in which he has also taught. Beyond Italian, he has frequently served on the most important departmental committees and colleagues have appreciated his thoughtful and timely interventions.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“I consider Professor Binetti’s publications to be among the best to be produced in the field of Italian Studies in the United States. ...it provides a model for the future of Italian Studies...”

Reviewer (B)

“The quality and the output of his work is that of a major scholar in the field of Italian Studies. ... I believe that his latest book, *Città nomadi*, along with his articles on the topic of migration and exile, puts him almost at the same level of much more senior colleagues... ..his coherent and broad research agenda, combined with his multifaceted scholarly interests, makes Professor Binetti a very desirable colleague at the Full rank, in any major department of Romance Languages and Literatures...”

Reviewer (C)

“His knowledge of the Italian literary canon...is flawless. Binetti has the linguistic fluency and philological expertise that comes with his cultural background and early training at the *Università degli studi di Firenze*, the heart of humanistic studies in Italy. To this foundation, Binetti adds wider comparative and interdisciplinary interests that make his scholarship versatile, innovative, and especially suited for a department of Romance languages and literatures. In quality and scope, if not in number of publications, Binetti’s scholarship can be favourably compared to leading scholars...”

Reviewer (D)

“Taken as a whole, the chapters [of *Città nomdi*] bear witness to a lively engagement with current debates about globalization, offer an original take on the representation of urban space in Italian literature, and make an original contribution to thinking about the formation, and destabilization, of Italian national identity. ... It is clear from Professor Binetti’s CV that his is an active research profile, and that his impact will not be confined to the North American context, given his record of publishing in both U.S. and Italian journals.”

Reviewer (E)

“...Vincenzo stands alone in Italian studies, as his work is quite original in its approach. ...[*Città nomdi*] is an eloquent addition to contemporary discussions of the portrayals of the city and its subjects in a trajectory that moves from monarchical Italy to the first and second republic. I applaud Vincenzo for doing this project and I look forward to his next project on ‘resistance.’”

Reviewer (F)

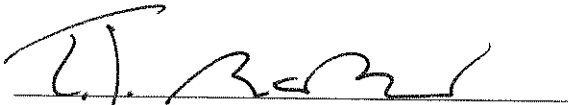
“The quality of his approach to his chosen fields – 19th, 20th century and contemporary literature and culture – is original and informed by meticulous research. He is a scholar who has done his homework, as is attested by the wide range of sources he draws on and by the bibliographies that accompany his work. ...his future research project represents a further important step in his investigation of alternative stories that interrupt a linear narrative and conception of history.”

Reviewer (G)

“...this opportunity to read and review in greater detail Prof. Binetti’s research has only increased my strong esteem and respect for him as a scholar. ...Binetti has some very important qualities: an extensive international culture, a solid theoretical formation, an interdisciplinary and comparative approach to literary texts... I have learned much from his work, and I look forward to reading the future results of his current project.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Binetti has become a major voice in modern Italian studies. He is an excellent teacher and has a strong service record. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Vincenzo A. Binetti be promoted to the rank of professor of Italian, with tenure, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, 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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