

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
School of Natural Resources and Environment
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Approved by the Regents

May 14, 2009

Johannes Foufopoulos, assistant professor of natural resources, School of Natural Resources and Environment, and assistant professor of ecology and evolutionary biology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of natural resources, with tenure, School of Natural Resources and Environment, and associate professor of ecology and evolutionary biology, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degree:

Ph.D.	1999	University of Wisconsin, Zoology, Madison
M.S.	1995	University of Wisconsin, Zoology, Madison
B.S.	1991	University of Illinois, Biology, Urbana-Champaign

Professional Record:

2003-present	Assistant Professor, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, University of Michigan
2002-present	Assistant Professor, School of Natural Resources and Environment, University of Michigan
2002	Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Princeton University
1999-2002	Cleveland Dodge Fellow for Conservation and Environment, Princeton Environmental Institute, Princeton University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Foufopoulos is a dedicated and inspiring teacher both to graduate and undergraduate students. He has taught a variety of courses in SNRE and in the Program in the Environment (PitE). Professor Foufopoulos' teaching philosophy is one of engaging students and generating enthusiasm for the material by making it relevant to the students' lives and providing personal examples from his own research. Professor Foufopoulos' effort in making courses interesting and relevant is recognized by his students, who consider him a dynamic teacher with excellent communication skills. Although CRLT scores vary from course to course, they tend to show increasing scores as courses mature, with some courses scoring key questions in the upper quartile university wide.

Since joining the University, Professor Foufopoulos has graduated (as co-advisor with Professor Low) one doctoral student, has a current doctoral student who is scheduled to graduate next year, and has advised or co-advised seven master's thesis students, three of whom have graduated. Professor Foufopoulos has also been very active as a mentor to undergraduate students, advising 19 undergraduates in a variety of capacities (nine UROP, three undergraduate research projects, two honors theses, and a variety of internships and independent studies). He maintains an active research lab with approximately eight students participating every year, and frequently publishes with his students.

Research: Professor Foufopoulos' research bridges the fundamental fields of disease ecology, conservation biology, and vertebrate ecology. His work is unique in considering the connection between aspects of fields that are typically treated separately. Such breadth of fields is unusual

for an assistant professor. Also more typical of researchers at higher ranks is his leadership in the interdisciplinary field of conservation and disease ecology as reflected in his bringing together interdisciplinary teams and co-authoring synthetic work. He is frequently invited to give research talks in leading academic institutions and to participate in international symposia signifying that he has already achieved a good reputation in the field and is highly regarded by his peers.

The interdisciplinary nature of Professor Foufopoulos' work lends itself to collaborations with researchers from other disciplines. Professor Foufopoulos has collaborated and published with 37 different co-authors from 2004-2008. He has 23 publications in peer-reviewed journals (18 since his appointment in 2002, an average of three per year; in four of those he is first author) and six chapters in books (five of them peer-reviewed; five as first author). Remarkably, 19 of the 23 peer-reviewed articles are in different journals ranging from strictly disciplinary journals such as *Journal of Parasitology* to highly interdisciplinary journals that focus on sustainability, like *Ecology and Society*. Furthermore, more than a third (7/18) of his recent publications have been in high-quality journals with impact factor of 2.5 or higher. As of January 2009, his cumulative citations are 367. While this is not exceptional for his field, the recency of many of the significant papers means a delay in using this metric as an indication of impact.

Recent and Significant Publications:

- Pafilis P., J. Foufopoulos, N. Poulakakis, P. Lymberakis, and E. D. Valakos. In press. "Tail shedding in island lizards: Decline of anti-predator defenses in relaxed predation environments." *Evolution*.
- Gervasi, S., and Foufopoulos, J.. 2008. "Pond desiccation rate affects immune system responsiveness in a temporary pond breeding amphibian, *Rana sylvatica* (Wood frog)." *Functional Ecology*. 22: 100-108.
- Foufopoulos, J., and Mayer, G. C.. 2007. "Turnover of passerine birds on islands in the Aegean Sea (Greece)." *Journal of Biogeography*. 34: 1113-1123.
- MacDougall-Shackleton, E.A., Derryberry, E. P., Foufopoulos, J., Dobson, A.P., and Hahn, T. P.. 2005. "Parasite-mediated heterozygote advantage in an outbred songbird population." *Biology Letters* 1: 105-107.
- Patz, J.A., Daszak, P., Tabor, G.M., Aguirre, A., Pearl, M., Epstein, M., Wolfe, N.D., Foufopoulos, J., Molyneux, D., and Bradley, D. J.. 2004. "Unhealthy Landscapes: Policy recommendations on land use change and disease emergence." *Environmental Health Perspectives* 112 (10): 1092-1097.
- Lindström, K., Foufopoulos, J., Pärn, H., and Wikelski, M.. 2004. "Immunological investments reflect parasite abundance in island populations of Darwin's finches." *Proceedings of the Royal Society (London)* 271: 513-519.

Service: Professor Foufopoulos is an active member of the SNRE faculty. His service activities within SNRE and the University at large have been mostly linked with his scholarly activities, which is appropriate for an assistant professor. Professor Foufopoulos has devoted a significant amount of time to outreach and raising awareness about the need to conserve biodiversity and the emergence of infectious diseases. He has given a number of public presentations and interviews, and his work and that of his students has been covered in a number of popular and news outlets including the *Detroit Free Press* and the *New York Times*.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "Dr. Foufopoulos...has developed a solid research and training program in wildlife disease and conservation biology as an assistant professor, and has achieved a level of productivity suitable for promotion to associate professor."

Reviewer B: "Dr. Foufopoulos is a well respected scientist who has made significant breakthroughs in his field. He already has an excellent reputation."

Reviewer C: "Johannes is a first rate biologist, his natural history skills are outstanding and he is a dedicated and creative teacher of his skills to others."

Reviewer D: "Dr. Foufopoulos' research has established him as a rapidly rising leader in the field of conservation biology, and I expect that his current work will likely help shape the direction the field will take in the future."

Reviewer E: Referring to his paper in *Proceedings of the Royal Society*, "This paper is a foundation paper in the field."

Reviewer F: "It is unusual for an Assistant Professor to have more than one research focus, especially when accompanied by such depth of work."

Reviewer G: Referring to his paper in *The American Naturalist*, "Foufopoulos' study moved the field immeasurably forward in its sophisticated approach to estimating the time of isolation of islands, integrating geological information in a novel way, never previously envisioned."

Reviewer H: "From my experience as an evaluator, the quality and quantity of Prof. Foufopoulos' scientific activities are placing him in the first rank."


Reviewer I: "He is working in a very exciting interface between conservation biology and infectious disease ecology... I am sure that Johannes can play a significant role in developing this significant interface."

Reviewer J: "Dr. Foufopoulos' research focuses on conservation biology and disease ecology; this is one of the 'hot' fields today and Dr. Foufopoulos is steadily emerging as a leader in that field."

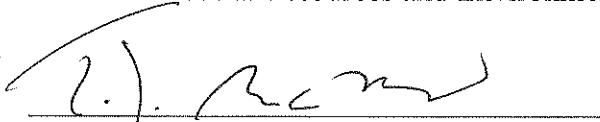
Reviewer K: "His papers on birds and reptiles on the Aegean Islands are excellent. His 2007 paper on turnover of passerine birds an Aegean Islands...resolved several longstanding disputes related to life history traits and population persistence in birds."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Foufopoulos has demonstrated a very good record of research activity and scholarship, including excellent performance in peer-reviewed publications, extensive collaborations with scholars in a variety of fields, and an exceptional interdisciplinary research program. His integrative and interdisciplinary scholarship on conservation biology and infectious diseases is unique and highly regarded by his peers, who consider him an emerging leader in the field. He is an engaging and enthusiastic teacher and an outstanding naturalist who inspires students to get involved in environmental fields. We recommend the promotion of Johannes Foufopoulos to associate professor of natural resources, with tenure, School of Natural Resources and Environment, and to associate professor of ecology and evolutionary biology, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



J. David Allan
Acting Dean
School of Natural Resources and Environment



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

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