

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

Approved by the Regents
May 20, 2010

Giorgio Bertellini, assistant professor of screen arts and cultures and assistant professor of romance languages and literatures, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of screen arts and cultures, with tenure, and associate professor of romance languages and literatures, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2001	New York University
M.A.	1994	New York University
B.A.	1991	Universita Cattolica

Professional Record:

2005 – present	Assistant Professor, Department of Screen Arts and Cultures and Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, University of Michigan
2004 – 2005	Assistant Professor, Program in Film and Video Studies and Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, University of Michigan
2001 – 2004	Postdoctoral Fellow, Michigan Society of Fellows, and Visiting Assistant Professor, Program in Film and Video Studies, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluations:

Teaching — Professor Bertellini is a gifted teacher and mentor, and students view him as an inspiring teacher who challenges them to achieve the highest standards. He has taught a full range of courses in both of his departments and developed courses over a wide historical range, from the early age of silent cinema to the contemporary Berlusconi media empire. He has sponsored Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) students for four years, directed a senior honors thesis, and served on three dissertation committees.

Research — Professor Bertellini's primary areas of research are early Italian cinema, Italian immigrant communities in New York, and 19th-century visual culture and its intersection with colonial and racial discourses as they appear in the scientific community and the popular press. He is a prolific writer with a publication record impressive by any standards. His monograph, newly released by Indiana University Press, is entitled *Italy in Early American Cinema: Race, Landscape and the Picturesque*. A growing trend in film studies is looking at trans-Atlantic flows of immigrants, cultures and capital, and Professor Bertellini's book will make a significant contribution to these debates.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Italian Silent Cinema: A Reader, G. Bertellini (ed.), Indiana University Press, forthcoming 2010.
Italy in Early American Cinema: Race, Landscape, and the Picturesque, Indiana University Press, 2009.

“Duce/divo: Displaced rhetorics of masculinity, racial identity, and politics among Italian-Americans in 1920’s New York City,” *Journal of Urban History*, 31(5), 2005, pp. 685-726

“Black hands and white hearts. Italian immigrants as urban racial types in early 20th century American cinema, *Urban History*, 31(3), 2004, pp. 374-398.

Service — Professor Bertellini has carried a full service load in his two units on a wide range of committees, including four years on the SAC Graduate Program Committee and then director of graduate studies (2009-2010). Colleagues praise the quality of his participation in faculty searches and in his work on the planning committee for the new cross-linguistic concentration in RLL. He also plays a very active role in the profession, serving on two editorial boards, participating in the organization of conferences, and reviewing manuscripts for journals and presses.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“He is a genuinely interdisciplinary scholar and also one engaged in true transnational analysis... I believe that Bertellini has a brilliant career ahead of him as a leading scholar in the fields of Italian cinema and early cinema, and his expertise is also essential for a forward-thinking Romance Languages department... ..Michigan is very lucky to have [t]his versatile and sophisticated scholar among its ranks.”

Reviewer (B)

“I feel that Bertellini’s scholarship on...the cross-national early phase, is the best in the world and the most exciting and daring... ..Bertellini has a lot to offer to the University of Michigan in terms of his in depth knowledge of theatre, photography, literature, music, inasmuch as it relates to his field. His area of study—film and immigration—is cutting edge given the current interest in globalization, and I think Prof. Bertellini will become one of the top voices of our field...”

Reviewer (C)

“...[*Italy in Early American Cinema*] is a book I read with considerable pleasure. The pleasure came not only from the linkages Giorgio makes between differing forms of visual culture but also from the introduction he provides to the rich array of sources that can be found by a diligent researcher open to the scholarly literatures of history, film studies, and the visual and literary arts. I would predict the book will be widely read and influential.”

Reviewer (D)

“Bertellini has developed a very impressive career trajectory that begins with ten excellent, well-placed peer-reviewed articles and culminates (at this point in his career) with a major book... His invited lectures and conference presentations are numerous and impressive.”

Reviewer (E)

“I regard Professor Bertellini’s interdisciplinary work in (broadly conceived) the cultural history of cinema to be original, compelling, challenging and certainly extremely valuable to the field.

The diversity of Professor Bertellini's engagement with cinema and its positioning in national and transnational ideological networks is a truly impressive scholarly achievement."

Reviewer (F)

"[*Italy in Early American Cinema*] is a superb piece of work, with fascinating reflections on the role of the picturesque and cultural imagery that deserves to reach a wide audience. ... The book is an excellent example of film history as cultural history. ... Bertellini is a scholar who has reached maturity and who is capable of producing work of the highest quality."

Reviewer (G)

"...the number of other publications—journal articles, chapters in anthologies, encyclopedia and dictionary entries, translations, reviews, and edited volumes—is impressive, and in quantitative terms, meets and even exceeds what would be expected for a successful tenure candidate. ... Given the excellence of Bertellini's scholarly achievements to date, I have every reason to expect that he will continue on this distinguished path."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Bertellini is a prolific and accomplished scholar, a challenging and energetic teacher, and an active member of the various intellectual and cultural communities of which he is a part, across the campus and across the Atlantic. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Giorgio Bertellini be promoted to the rank of associate professor of screen arts, with tenure, and associate professor of romance languages and literatures, 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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