

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

Anna Grzymala-Busse, associate professor of political science, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of political science, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1999	Harvard University
M.Phil.	1993	Cambridge University
B.A.	1992	Princeton University

Professional Record:

2004 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Michigan
2004 – present	Faculty Associate, Center for Political Studies, University of Michigan
2004	Associate Professor, with tenure, Department of Political Science, Yale University
2000 – 2004	Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Yale University

Summary of Evaluations:

Teaching – Professor Grzymala-Busse is an outstanding teacher whose students are genuinely enthusiastic about her courses even though they are demanding and ambitious in scope. She is also a dedicated and effective mentor of graduate students, through the Comparative Politics Workshop that she created, and also through other formal and informal avenues. As a result of her constant and consistent mentoring and teaching efforts, she may have had a greater impact on the Department's graduate program than any other individual over the last several years. In a unit filled with faculty members who are deeply committed to graduate education, Professor Grzymala-Busse may be the most dedicated.

Research – Professor Grzymala-Busse's scholarship is characterized by deep historical and cultural knowledge of her subjects, vivid theoretical imagination, and a strong comparative reach. Her research displays impressive methodological versatility; she moves effortlessly back and forth between documents, elite interviews, and mass surveys. She has also compiled an exceptional research record. In the last six years she has published six journal articles, four book chapters or research reports, six book reviews, and a book. Two of her publications have won major awards in her field: her book, *Rebuilding Leviathan*; and her article, "The Great Divide."

Recent and Significant Publications:

"The best-laid plans: The impact of informal rules on formal institutions," *Studies in Comparative International Development*, forthcoming.

"Beyond clientelism: Incumbent capture and state building," *Comparative Political Studies* 40th Anniversary Special Issue, April/ May 2008.

Rebuilding Leviathan: Party Competition and State Exploitation in Post-Communist Democracies, Cambridge University Press, 2007 (awarded the 2008 Ed A. Hewett Prize)

for Best Publication on the Political Economy of the Former Soviet Union and East Central Europe).

“The great divide: Precommunist schooling and postcommunist trajectories.” (with K. Darden), *World Politics*, 2007 (awarded the 2008 Gregory Luebbert Award for Best Article, Comparative Politics Section, American Political Science Association).

Service – Professor Grzymala-Busse is an outstanding provider of service to the department and university. She serves on the departmental Executive Committee, is a mentor for assistant professors, and runs a dissertation workshop for graduate students. She also serves on the steering committees for the Weiser Center and the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies, and on the Fulbright Campus Evaluation Committee. She reviews for more than a dozen journals and two academic presses, and serves on the editorial board of a major journal. She has served on a National Science Foundation panel and has served the American Political Science Association in several ways, including organizing panels for the national conference and serving on a book award committee. Professor Grzymala-Busse has been invited to give numerous talks in recent years at most of the best universities in the country.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“I would rank Anna as the top comparativist of the generational cohort working in the field of East European politics, and one of the top comparativists working in the field of comparative political parties. ... She has produced successive prize-winning pieces of research, her reputation in the field is very strong, and the scope of her work continues to grow both geographically and theoretically.”

Reviewer (B)

“...she has made important contributions to our understanding of not just politics in the postcommunist world, but also, more generally, politics *around* the world.”

Reviewer (C)

“There is no doubt in my mind that Anna is the leading comparativist in the country with [a] splendid academic record and professional reputation. ... She is clearly at the top of the profession and I am certain that you will have difficulties fending off many leading departments that are eager to offer her a distinguished senior position. ... If our discipline had an award or a medal for the best political scientist [of her generation], Anna would certainly be at the top of such list.”

Reviewer (D)

“This is a strong case. Grzymala-Busse has been a very productive scholar over the last decade relative to her peers in comparative politics and a leading figure in the renaissance of postcommunist studies. Her work is data-rich and takes on central issues in the discipline. She has a talent for asking big questions that bridge comparative politics and the study of postcommunism, putting together data-sets, and making cogent arguments that build on existing literature.”

Reviewer (E)

"The quality of the work has been recognized by important awards... Both of Grzymala-Busse's books would be on my list of the most significant books or articles to appear recently in either East European politics or comparative party politics, which is a large field."

Reviewer (F)

"...I underestimated the time a thorough reading of Professor Grzymala-Busse's materials would take. It has been an undoubted pleasure to read work of such quality and erudition..."

Reviewer (G)

"She is one of the outstanding comparative[i]sts of our generation and her work has made a signal impact on the field of political science generally and post-communist studies in particular. ...Grzymala-Busse is the leading student of East-Central European politics in the United States."

Reviewer (H)

"Using novel sources of data, new interpretations of existing data, a masterful control of the relevant literature, and a variety of case studies, she marshals extensive evidence in support of her argument. ...[*Rebuilding Leviathan*] is one of the best studies in comparative politics by a political scientist that I have seen in a long time. It is also one of the best books on institutional divergence in post-communist countries that I have seen."

Reviewer (I)

"...she is able to combine theoretical insights with sound empirical evidence. She is a very original thinker, able to surprise readers with new concepts and ideas. But at the same time she is a very disciplined, well-organized, systematic and patient researcher rigorously following the laws of logic and methodology."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Grzymala-Busse is an accomplished and influential scholar in the area of comparative politics. She is also a fine teacher, an excellent mentor, and a superb colleague. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Anna Grzymala-Busse be promoted to the rank of professor of political science, 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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