

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

Andries W. Coetzee, assistant professor of linguistics, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of linguistics, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2004	University of Massachusetts
M.A.	2002	University of Massachusetts
M.A.	1996	Potchefstroom University, South Africa
B.A.	1994	Potchefstroom University, South Africa (theology)
B.A.	1993	Potchefstroom University, South Africa (Semitic languages)
B.A.	1992	Potchefstroom University, South Africa (classics and semantics)

Professional Record:

2006 – present	Assistant Professor, Department of Linguistics, University of Michigan
2004 – 2006	Language Learning Visiting Assistant Research Professor, Department of Linguistics, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Coetzee is a highly successful teacher, who is popular with students while being a demanding instructor. He has chaired two Ph.D. dissertation committees and served on five others, he has advised two undergraduate honors theses, and he has served as an advisor for several other individual research projects, including two UROP students. He has taught phonology courses at all levels as well as introductory-level survey courses in general linguistics, a total of nine different courses. The large survey courses are among his favorite teaching assignments. Student enthusiasm testifies to his success in all these courses, as do his impressive teaching evaluations.

Research – Professor Coetzee is a leader in the new movement away from claims of invariance in speakers' internalized knowledge of their language's sound patterns and toward a comprehensive theory that will integrate the variability that is universal in all human speech with formal theories of speakers' phonetic and phonological knowledge. His emergence as a major figure in this movement is evident in the large number of speaking invitations he has received, including invited conference presentations in six different countries. His approach, which combines mainstream formal phonological (sound-system) theory with experimental techniques designed to identify patterns of variation, has drawn praise from external reviewers and many other scholars. Several of his publications have had a considerable influence on the field, and his newest work constitutes still more advances over previous efforts to bring experimental results to bear on phonological model building.

Recent and Significant Publications:

"Grammaticality and ungrammaticality in phonology," *Language*, 84, 2009, pp 218-257.

“Phonetically grounded phonology and sound change: The case of Tswana labial plosives,” with R. Pretorius, *Journal of Phonetics*, 38, 2010, pp. 404-421.

“Learning lexical indexation,” *Phonology*, 26, 2009, pp.109-145.

“Weighted constraints and gradient restrictions on place co-occurrence in Muna and Arabic,” with J. Pater, *Natural Language and Linguistic Theory*, 26, 2008, pp. 289-337.

Service – Professor Coetzee has served as an elected member of the departmental Executive Committee, and he has also served as chair of one of the department’s most important committees, Graduate Admissions. He is co-director of the 2013 Linguistic Institute of the Linguistic Society of America, which will be held at Michigan in the summer of that year. He has reviewed manuscripts for numerous journals and presses (including Cambridge University Press and the *Journal of Phonetics*), and he was recently invited to join the editorial board of the top-tier journal *Phonology*. He has also been an effective member of other internal and national committees.

#### External Reviews:

##### Reviewer (A)

“Few linguists exhibit a comparable command of the literature and techniques of diverse areas of linguistics and psycholinguistics as well as the boldness to move into new areas. ...Coetzee is an active and productive scholar whose research shows both depth and breadth. ... In comparison to others of his cohort, I would have to rank him as one of the strongest.”

##### Reviewer (B)

“...his research makes a significant contribution to linguistic science in bridging the divide between formal grammar theory and experimentation. ...Coetzee’s goal is to elucidate a unified model of spoken language... He has met with considerable success to date, and his accomplishments on both fronts place him among the very top researchers [of his generation]...”

##### Reviewer (C)

“Coetzee has demonstrated continued growth in his most recent work through his efforts to integrate non-grammatical factors into his grammatical model of variation. This reflects an unusual and admirable breadth and open-mindedness not seen in most formal approaches to linguistics.”

##### Reviewer (D)

“...the experimental record is the bright spot here. The choices of topics are really impressive. In variegated, interesting ways, the experiments zero in on central issues in [the] field of phonology and shed light on them. ... This is a substantial level of accomplishment and merits tenure on its own.”

##### Reviewer (E)

“...I have been impressed by the depth and breadth of his scholarship, and by the high quality of venues in which his research has been published. His research addresses compelling questions that are at the cutting-edge of research in linguistics... Dr. Coetzee has produced a strong body of scholarship worthy of promotion with tenure.”

Reviewer (F)

“At a time when the central questions in phonological research have moved from finding broad cross-linguistic generalizations to more cognitively oriented questions about how speakers induce patterns from the available data and extend them to new data, Coetzee is asking important questions and doing influential research that will ensure that the new corpus and experimental technologies available to phonologists will be applied to deep and important questions.”

Reviewer (G)

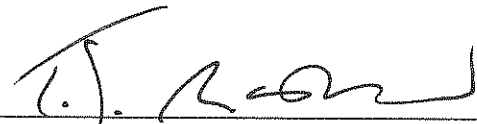
“...Dr. Coetzee has made outstanding achievements in phonological theory, and its relations with perception and learnability; his influence on the field is considerable. In the area of grammatical models of gradience and variation, he even ranks among the absolute top of researchers.”

Reviewer (H)

“Professor Coetzee is not the only person working in these areas [gradience and variability in phonology], but he is one of the few people...actively shaping this area with original and compelling proposals. ... His work is compelling, original, impressive in its melding of formal and experimental strengths, and always addresses big questions. His publication record is really impressive.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Coetzee's research career has put him very near the top of his cohort. He has also made significant contributions to the teaching mission of his department. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Andries W. Coetzee be promoted to the rank of associate professor of linguistics, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



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

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