

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

Finn Larsen, associate professor of physics, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of physics, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1996	Princeton University
M.A.	1992	Princeton University
Cand. Scient.	1991	Aarhus University

Professional Record:

2007 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Physics, University of Michigan
2007 – 2008	Scientific Associate, CERN
2001 – 2007	Assistant Professor, Department of Physics, University of Michigan
1998 – 2001	McCormick Fellow, University of Chicago
1996 – 1998	Post-doctoral Researcher, University of Pennsylvania

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Larsen has taught a wide variety of courses across all levels. He exhorts students to learn physics with a deep appreciation of its mathematical underpinnings. Student evaluations of his courses are very strong. Professor Larsen has also been a mentor and advisor to graduate students and is currently serving as graduate chair in the department. He has served on fifteen graduate dissertation committees and chaired four of them.

Research – Professor Larsen is a theoretical physicist who works primarily in the area of formal string theory with a focus on the theoretical description of black holes. He has published seventeen papers in the main refereed journals in his field. Since promotion to associate professor, he has presented 47 scientific lectures around the world, largely based on his recent work. Professor Larsen is the co-principle investigator on the particle theory group funding.

Recent and Significant Publications:

- “Greybody factors and charges in Kerr/CFT,” with M. Cvetič, *Journal of High Energy Physics*, 0909:088, 2009, arXiv:0908.1136[hep-th].
- “Constituent model of extremal non-BPS Black Holes,” with E. Gimon and J. Simon, *Journal of High Energy Physics*, 0907:052, 2009, arXiv:0903.0719[hep-th].
- “String theory effects on five-dimensional Black Hole physics,” with A. Castro, et al., *International Journal of Modern Physics A*, 23, 2008, pp. 613-691.
- “Partition functions and elliptic genera from supergravity,” with P. Kraus, *Journal of High Energy Physics*, 0701:002, 2007, Hep-th/0607138.

Service – Professor Larsen’s departmental service contributions have been substantial, especially in the area of graduate education. He was elected to the University Senate Assembly and has

organized four successful physics workshops or conferences since 2007. He was also a section chair for the black holes workshop in 2007.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“Professor Larsen is a well known string theorist... an important collection is his papers on five dimensional black holes. ...I have a very high opinion of Prof. Larsen’s contributions to the field. He certainly is an asset to your department...”

Reviewer (B)

“Dr. Larsen was among the first to see the potential of this approach and he has systematically pursued it with imagination, flair, versatility and great technical ability. He is now among the world’s leaders in this field. ... There is no doubt about Larsen’s sustained productivity throughout his career and that productivity continues undiminished.”

Reviewer (C)

“Professor Larsen has made critical contributions in the area of gravitational physics in string theory, and I strongly recommend this promotion. ... He is an excellent lecturer. ...I have learned a lot by attending his talks. ... Professor Larsen is highly respected for his insight and leadership...”

Reviewer (D)

“Finn Larsen has a strong visibility at the conferences, national and international...and he gave excellent talks. I find his contributions to theoretical physics significant and I am sure that he has a great potential to develop and produce important new results which, as in the past, will impact the field.”

Reviewer (E)

“Finn’s research profile, insights, activity and output are definitely commensurate with the rank of full professor at the most highly ranked universities in the United States.”

Reviewer (F)

“...Finn has sustained a steady, high rate of productivity over many years. His papers are well cited by leading researchers around the world. ...Finn is superbly qualified for promotion, and I recommend it without hesitation.”

Reviewer (G)

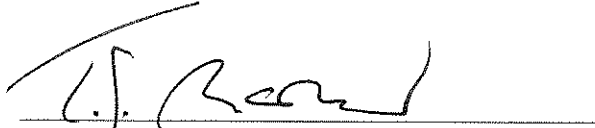
“Larsen is an accomplished theorist who has made significant contributions to string theory and quantum gravity. ... He deserves to be promoted.”

Reviewer (H)

“...it is clear that some of his recent...papers have had substantial impact. ...his record represents a strong contribution...”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Larsen has shown intellectual quality, productivity and leadership in creating and disseminating knowledge in physics. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Finn Larsen be promoted to the rank of professor of physics, with tenure, in the 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

May 2012