

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

Eric Peter Swanson, assistant professor of philosophy, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of philosophy, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2006	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
M.A.	2001	Tufts University
M.A.	1999	Yale University
B.A.	1997	Bard College

Professional Record:

2006 – present Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – An accomplished and resourceful teacher, Professor Swanson is noted for his curricular innovation and energy. He has taught successfully at every level of the departmental undergraduate curriculum. Also successful at the graduate level, he has taught the pro-seminar for first-year graduate students and advanced seminars in his area of expertise. His interdisciplinary 300-level language and mind course is expected to be a core requirement of any future cognitive science concentration. He also developed and co-taught a graduate seminar at the interface of linguistics and philosophy. Professor Swanson's graduate supervision has been exemplary. He chaired two dissertation committees and served/is serving on five others.

Research – Professor Swanson is emerging as a leading voice in philosophy of language. Spanning three distinct and original research programs, his work excels at extracting larger lessons from close engagement with ground-level problems. He has fourteen articles published or forthcoming, eight in top-tier general philosophy or specialty journals; the rest in important collections. The accelerating pace of his publications and the manifest promise of his research programs are reason to be confident that he will grow in impact and stature in the coming years. His combination of interests and talents place him to be an exceptional resource to students and scholars both inside the department and in neighboring disciplines.

Recent and Significant Publications:

- “The application of constraint semantics to the language of subjective uncertainty,” *Journal of Philosophical Logic*, forthcoming.
- “Ordering supervaluationism, counterpart theory, and ersatz fundamentality,” *Journal of Philosophy*, forthcoming.
- “Conditional excluded middle without the limit assumption,” *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, forthcoming.
- “Lessons from the context sensitivity of causal talk,” *Journal of Philosophy*, 107, 2010, pp. 221-242.

Service – Professor Swanson has an excellent service record in the Department of Philosophy. His service to the profession is exemplary: he referees extensively, sits on the editorial board of a major specialty journal, co-edited a special issue of a top-tier general journal, and co-organized no fewer than three “Formal Epistemology Festivals,” small conferences focused on important recent topics in epistemology.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“There is no doubt that he amply deserves promotion with tenure in your very distinguished Department of Philosophy. He has produced a remarkable number of important papers, particularly in the last couple of years, which are published or forthcoming in leading journals. These are of very high quality, with original ideas of wide application to different areas of philosophy.”

Reviewer (B)

“...Bearing in mind the very high standards that apply to a stellar department like yours, I think the case for tenuring Eric is very strong... The quality of argumentation in Eric’s work is consistently exceptional. ...the philosophical content of his work also struck me as excellent. ...it exhibits a very elegant balance between big picture concerns, particularly about methodology, and much lower, in-the-trenches argument.”

Reviewer (C)

“In my view, Swanson clearly deserves tenure. His work more than meets any reasonable standard. ... The work is high quality, and quite valuable for the field, especially the way Swanson does it.”

Reviewer (D)

“I recommend strongly and without reservation that his application for promotion and tenure be accepted. ... Dr. Swanson is among the most important and influential philosophers [of his generation] doing research at the intersection of philosophy...and linguistics... He has made important contributions to philosophy by leveraging a combination of traditional philosophical skills and expertise in linguistics.”

Reviewer (E)

“I write to recommend Professor Eric Swanson for promotion to the rank of Associate Professor with tenure. Overall I consider Swanson to be one of the clearest and deepest philosophers of language of his generation, combining strong formal tools with insightful philosophical vision. He is an emerging leader in the field.”

Reviewer (F)

“...Swanson’s work shows the ability to move back and forth between a narrow focus on specific technical tools or specific examples of linguistic phenomena and very general considerations about methodology, or about broader philosophical issues. ... Eric Swanson has been very productive since finishing his PhD, and the work is substantial, original, and has been influential. He is, in my judgment, an excellent candidate for a tenured position in a first rate philosophy department such as Michigan’s.”

Reviewer (G)

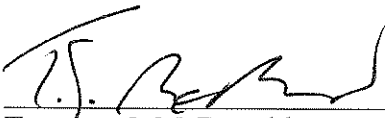
“...given the scope and interest of his project [Constraint Semantics], I expect it to receive much wider attention in the years to come. Given that Swanson has an ambitious, well-thought out project in the theory of meaning well under way, it is particularly impressive that he has at least two other promising projects. ...Swanson has far surpassed any reasonable hurdle for tenure at a leading department.”

Reviewer (H)

“...[Professor Swanson] produces philosophy that is outstanding in its creativity, impact, balance and scope, philosophy that excels in respects which make for superior analytic philosophy. ...I am certain that he would be snapped up by [my institution] with a tenured position, were that possible; and I am equally certain that he should be promoted with tenure at Michigan.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Swanson does outstanding research in his field. He is a valued graduate advisor, who makes important contributions to the curriculum in Philosophy, and is an excellent citizen. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Eric Peter Swanson be promoted to the rank of associate professor of philosophy, 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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