

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

David Manley, 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. | 2005 | Rutgers University |
| M.A. | 2001 | University of Notre Dame |
| B.A. | 1999 | Boston College |

Professional Record:

| | |
|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2009 – present | Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Michigan |
| 2005 – 2009 | Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Southern California |

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Manley has taught at all levels of the undergraduate and graduate curriculum in Philosophy. In addition to core courses in Philosophy, he has taught or is prepared to teach philosophy of religion, medieval philosophy, and human nature. Student evaluations and comments are positive. Professor Manley has taken an active part in formal and informal supervision. He is currently mentoring of over a dozen undergraduate and graduate students, and is a member of two dissertation panels. He has also collaborated with two graduate students on a forthcoming paper and three more collaborations are under way.

Research – Professor Manley has made significant contributions across three core areas of philosophy. His research undertakes to bring metaphysics, philosophy of language, and epistemology into mutually illuminating dialogue. Within each of these areas he has created a body of work judged uniformly by the external letter writers to initiate or to contribute significantly to an active research discussion in which many of the central figures in the field participate. In metaphysics, he has advanced the discussion of dispositions; his book in the philosophy of language is regarded as an ‘event’; and his work in epistemology has drawn enthusiastic responses from readers. Many of his papers have been published in the top journals in the profession, including *Mind*, *Nous*, and *The Journal of Philosophy*.

Recent and Significant Publications:

“The folk probably do think what you think they think,” with B. Dunaway and A. Edmonds, *Australasian Journal of Philosophy*, forthcoming.

The Reference Book, with J. Hawthorne, Oxford University Press, 2112.

“Dispositions, conditionals, and counterexamples,” with R. Wasserman, *Mind*, 120(480), 2011, pp. 1191-1227.

Metametaphysics: New Essays on the Foundations of Ontology, with D. Chalmers and R. Wasserman, Oxford University Press, 2009.

Service – Professor Manley has been an active and engaged member of his department. He has made significant contributions to graduate advising and graduate student professionalization, and he has been a valued member of key departmental panels. Professor Manley has also been a referee for some of the top philosophical journals in his field.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A)

“...Manley is a strong candidate for tenure. His work is of high quality, appears in the best places, and there is a lot of it. People know who he is and respect his work.”

Reviewer (B)

“The Reference Book...is likely...to be a kind of philosophical classic. ...I think highly of Manley’s work. It is of exceptionally high quality and he should be awarded tenure at the University of Michigan.”

Reviewer (C)

“David’s work spans several subfields: metaphysics, epistemology and philosophy of language. It is not unified by any characteristic topic or theme. Since this unusual breadth of interests does not come at any cost in terms of philosophical depth, or (more amazingly still!) in terms of the level of engagement with the relevant bodies of literature, I think it is an unequivocally positive feature.”

Reviewer (D)

“David is a wonderful philosopher with impressive breadth who has already made important contributions to metaphysics, philosophy of language and epistemology. He has great intuitive flair, an extensive knowledge of relevant contemporary (and in some cases historical) sources, and a striking eye for subtle distinctions. ...I can scarcely imagine a more straightforward tenure case.”

Reviewer (E)

“I don’t know anyone (of his cohort)...who is a better philosopher than Manley. His breadth of knowledge is astonishing. ... I am very confident Manley would receive tenure and promotion [at my institution] on the basis of his file.”

Reviewer (F)

“The work is rigorous, imaginative and unusually *sound*. (He’s always very sensible.) In my view this is a clear case. Manley merits promotion by any reasonable standard.”

Reviewer (G)

“Manley is an outstanding philosopher – a true generalist who has already distinguished himself in several areas of philosophy. I know of no one else in the field from his generation with the same combination of depth and breadth. ... He has my unqualified recommendation for promotion.”

Reviewer (H)

“He is a genuine all-rounder, able to bring a powerful set of skills to bear upon virtually any subject with great profit. ... Given his versatility, Manley is the sort of philosopher for who the sky may well be the limit... ...there should be no serious question whether Manley is ready for promotion; the answer is obviously yes.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Manley’s research is impressive on all fronts, his teaching is strong, and he has made a significant contribution to his department. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor David Manley be promoted to the rank of associate professor of philosophy, with tenure, 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

May 2013