

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

Sarah E. Moss, 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.	2009	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
B.Phil.	2004	Oxford University
A.B.	2002	Harvard University

Professional Record:

2009 – present Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Moss is a spectacular teacher, who is rigorous, creative, and very much appreciated by her students. She has already had a signal impact on both curricular and co-curricular aspects of Philosophy's undergraduate program. She has diagnosed curricular needs and devised innovative courses to address them. She instituted a Philosophy Movie Night at the Michigan Theater and was integral to the idea's remarkably successful realization. Professor Moss has also made contributions, formal and informal, to graduate education.

Research – Professor Moss' areas of research include the philosophy of language, metaphysics, and epistemology. She has game-changing and distinct research programs underway that address such disparate but fundamental issues as what we know, how we communicate, and what sorts of beings we are. She is publishing in the very best journals in her field at an increasing rate and has presented in numerous national and international arenas. Professor Moss has also been awarded a variety of prestigious honors, including the Andrew W. Mellon Humanities Fellowship (2004-2005), MIT Presidential Fellowship (2004-2009), UM Denise Research Fellowship (2009-2012), Rutgers Young Epistemologist Prize (2011), and the James B. and Grace J. Nelson Fellowship (2012-present).

Recent and Significant Publications:

"Epistemology formalized," *Philosophical Review*, forthcoming.

"Solving the color incompatibility problem," *Journal of Philosophical Logic*, 41(5), 2012, pp. 841-851.

"Updating as communication," *Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 85(2), 2012, pp. 225-248 (published as the 2011 Rutgers Young Epistemologist Prize essay).

"Scoring rules and epistemic compromise," *Mind*, 120(480), 2011, pp. 1053-1069.

Service – Professor Moss has served on the normal committees in Philosophy, but she also addressed climate issues for graduate students. She amalgamated the data, presented it to the faculty, and contributed monumentally to framing and pursuing constructive responses.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A)

“Sarah Moss undoubtedly deserves to be promoted to Associate Professor with tenure. She has already had a tremendous impact on philosophy, both in terms of conference presentations and in terms of her papers. ... There is nobody in her generation that has produced such a volume of high quality work in epistemology, philosophy of language and metaphysics. I would be astonished if she does not turn out to be a major philosopher.”

Reviewer (B)

“...the record is unusually strong for a tenure candidate in philosophy, even restricting the scope to successful candidates in leading departments. Once one combines the publication record with Moss’s receipt of the prestigious Young Epistemologist Prize, the record creates a very strong presumption in favor of tenure and promotion.”

Reviewer (C)

“She’s not just someone who’s published an impressive number of clever papers in a short amount of time. ...[they] also point to fruitful longer-term research programs in philosophy of language and epistemology... Sarah’s writing is, pretty much without exception, beautifully lucid. ... And she is superbly analytically sharp.”

Reviewer (D)

“These are all terrific articles of the highest standards; all of them would deserve to appear in edited volumes with selected recent articles on the topics in question. ...Professor Moss’ general standing in the formal epistemology ‘scene’ is really high, as can be seen also from the great number of invitations to give talks in the US and Europe (Oxford, St[.] Andrews, Munich, Konstanz). ... I can wholeheartedly recommend Professor Moss for promotion...”

Reviewer (E)

“In over twenty five years of writing such evaluations, I cannot recall a clearer case for tenure. ... Moss is able to do technically difficult work and show how it is philosophically important. ... I think it’s obvious that Moss is as good as any philosopher of language / epistemologist [of her generation] out there.”

Reviewer (F)

“...she strikes me as the most promising talent in her generation in all of philosophy. ...the most important thing is that the work is of the highest quality. ...she is already at the very top of the field...”

Reviewer (G)

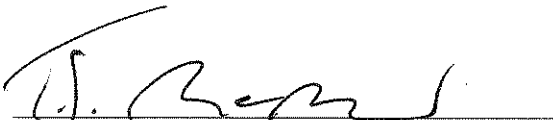
“There is a lot of interesting work being done in this lively and fast-moving area, but Moss’s [sic] work is some of the best, with highly original contributions both to characterizing the general shape of the problems and to developing detailed responses, both philosophical and technical, to the problems. ... The work in progress on epistemic modals and credal dilemmas shows that the program continues to develop in a fruitful way. So I think this is a clear case for promotion and tenure.”

Reviewer (H)

“She has evolved a more distinctive programme of research than one expects even of very able philosophers at her stage, and she has made significant progress in carrying it out. ...I am confident that the Faculty would be delighted to have her in a permanent position here. I am equally confident that she should be granted tenure and promotion at Michigan.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Moss is doing excellent research that has already been widely acknowledged in her field. She is a very strong teacher and citizen. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Sarah E. Moss 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

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