

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

Paolo Squatriti, associate professor of history, with tenure, and associate professor of romance languages and literatures, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of history, with tenure, and professor of romance languages and literatures, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1990	University of Virginia
M.A.	1985	University of Virginia
B.A.	1983	Boston College

Professional Record:

2002 – present	Associate Professor, Department of History and Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, University of Michigan
1999 – 2002	Assistant Professor, Department of History and Department of Romance Languages and Literatures University of Michigan
1995 - 1998	Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of Michigan
1994 - 1995	Lecturer, Yale University
1993	Visiting Lecturer, University of Virginia
1992 – 1993	Visiting Assistant Professor, Trinity College
1992	Lecturer, University of Maryland
1991 – 1992	Assistant Professor, Dickinson College
1990 – 1991	Assistant Professor, Temple University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Squatriti is an excellent teacher who is able to transmit his knowledge in engaging and accessible formats. Students greatly admire his ability in the classroom, which shown on their teaching evaluations. He has taught a broad range of courses on Medieval Europe and Italy, and is deeply committed to the interdisciplinarity his two main fields give to his pedagogical mission. Professor Squatriti contributes extensively to new curricular initiatives in both his departments and is always active in developing and designing new classes as well as varying the content of his very successful large classes on the European Middle Ages.

Research – Professor Squatriti has made an international reputation for himself as a cutting edge historian. In his latest book manuscript, Landscape and Change in Early Medieval Italy, he shows a multi-layered and interdisciplinary approach to the periods and traditions he investigates. His research pays special attention to the environmental history of early medieval Italy. Over the past years Professor Squatriti's publications, in book and article forms, have contributed greatly to defining environmental history as a significant subfield of Medieval Studies. Given his excellent productivity, his forthcoming publication will contribute to the redefining of the field of environmental history.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Landscape and Change in Early Medieval Italy: Chestnuts, Economy, and Culture, Cambridge University Press, forthcoming 2013.

“The floods of 589 and climate change at the beginning of the Middle Ages: An Italian microhistory,” *Speculum*, 85, 2010, pp. 799-826.

“Offa’s dyke between nature and culture,” *Environmental History*, 9, 2004, pp. 38-57.

“Digging ditches in Early Medieval Europe,” *Past and Present*, 176, 2002, pp. 11-65.

Service – Professor Squatriti has contributed exemplary service in both of his departments. He has chaired or served on important committees, and has been an active and committed undergraduate advisor. He has also provided service to the Medieval and Early Modern Studies Program and to the Rackham Graduate School.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A)

“He has forged a clear and strong path in terms of his research on Italian history and archaeology and carved out a distinctive niche in terms of environmental and ecological history, attitudes and impacts. ... His publications have duly met with wide readership and recognition on an international level.”

Reviewer (B)

“What I admire generally about Professor Squatriti’s research is his attention to the physical remains of the past...his focus on environmental history and the level of his expertise in this area is close to unique for the early medieval field. His comfort level with not only hydrology but also landscape sets him apart from most historians working in the late antique and early medieval fields, since many are guilty of willfully neglecting current archaeological and scientific literature as irrelevant to their textually-based studies. As such, Professor Squatriti stands out among his colleagues by integrating scientific, agricultural, ecological, and archaeological sources seamlessly with his historical analysis of the documentary evidence.”

Reviewer (C)

“In his excellent first book, *Water and Society in Early Medieval Italy AD 400-1000* (Cambridge, 1998) Squatriti was much more comfortable with texts than he was with archaeology. This has really changed. Although he still displays a real talent for teasing out what texts can tell us about the material world, he has worked hard, in the last decade and a half, to master the archaeological literature, which is very much front and center in this book, and it proves that he has developed into a scholar who is genuinely interdisciplinary.”

Reviewer (D)

“Paolo Squatriti is the leading American scholar in the rapidly developing field of medieval environmental history. His earlier work on water and water use as well as his work on transformations of the physical landscape with such projects as dykes and massive canal constructions are exemplary studies of the relationship between humans and landscape in the early middle ages. He also plays a leadership role in developing the field, particularly in the volume *Natures Past* that he edited in 2007.”

Reviewer (E)

“...Professor Squatriti’s work is definitely cutting-edge: the archaeobotanical, palynological, and biological studies he brings to bear on his history of the chestnut tree in medieval Italy offer critical new evidence for environmental studies.”

Reviewer (F)

“...I find extremely fascinating, also from the point of view of teaching activity, the continuous comparisons between past and present, medieval and modern times, professor [sic] Squatriti is able to propose in his writings. I think this can bring history to a wider public, approaching it in a ‘modern’ way...he was a pioneer in this kind of historical attentions, that now became more fashionable.”

Reviewer (G)

“I read [Landscape and Change in Early Medieval Italy]...with real pleasure. Paolo here uses documents and archaeology with equal skill, and shows, without any shadow of doubt, what was previously unrecognised: that chestnut woods were used systematically and creatively in the landscape of early medieval Italy, often for the first time. Why would one care? Because they are a crop, not a woodland resource; they are a serious and systematic intervention in the landscape, and-Paolo shows for the first time-they developed in a period in which most people thought that no-one was intervening systematically in any part of the economy.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Squatriti is a remarkable scholar in the field of European Medieval History with national and international recognition for his cutting-edge scholarship. He is also an outstanding teacher and valuable citizen. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Paolo Squatriti be promoted to professor of history, with tenure, and professor of romance languages and literatures, 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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