

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
COLLEGE OF LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND THE ARTS

Jowei Chen, assistant professor of political science, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of political science, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2009	Stanford University
M.S.	2007	Stanford University
B.A.	2004	Yale University

Professional Record:

2013 – present	Principal Investigator and Senior Research Fellow, Center for Governance and Public Policy Research, Willamette University
2013	W. Glenn Campbell and Rita Ricardo-Campbell National Fellow, Hoover Institution, Stanford University
2009 – present	Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Chen has taught a good mix of courses at all levels. He has taught some variation on five different undergraduate courses, including public law, political economy, and bureaucracy. Students give him good scores for his teaching and consistently report that Professor Chen presents course material clearly, deepens their understanding of the subject matter, and makes them feel comfortable answering questions. He has served as thesis advisor to two honors students, on the thesis committee for a third, and supervised three independent studies. Professor Chen has also taught five graduate seminars on three different topics: distributive politics, bureaucratic politics, and American political economy. The syllabi are impressive for the challenging nature of the material and the balance between classic and cutting-edge research. Although focused on research in American politics, the readings include a great deal of comparative material as well as work that focuses on different levels of government. Indeed, the distributive politics course appears very well-suited to students of comparative political institutions.

Research – Professor Chen's signature contributions come in the form of his measurement of key concepts and his unearthing of new data. He asks well-defined research questions and wields a broad and powerful array of tools. His interest in geography runs throughout these pieces, not in a way that cumulates across the pieces but in ways that build a portfolio where geography can play a role. Professor Chen has published three papers in the very top outlets in his field, three are published in excellent and prominent journals, and the other publications are in good outlets appropriate to the focus of his research. Professor Chen has also received a Hoover Fellowship and his National Science Foundation grant was recently approved. He has also received a number of invitations for talks at first-rate institutions. He is especially poised to take advantage

of the big data revolution currently happening in his field. He is on a path to make Michigan's Department of Political Science the place to do big data, geographically informed work.

Recent and Significant Publications:

"Participation without representation: Senior opinion, legislative behavior, and Federal health reform," with K. W. V. Bradley, *Journal of Health Politics, Policy, and Law*, 39(2), 2014, DOI 10.1215/03616878-2416220.

"Federal employee unionization and presidential control of the bureaucracy: Estimating and explaining ideological change in executive agencies," with T. Johnson, *Journal of Theoretical Politics*, 2014, DOI:10.1177/0951629813518126.

"Voter partisanship and the effect of distributive spending on political participation," *American Journal of Political Science*, 57(1), 2013, pp. 200-217.

"The effect of electoral geography on pork barreling in bicameral legislatures," *American Journal of Political Science*, 54(2), 2010, pp. 301-322.

Service – Professor Chen has served on the departmental Undergraduate Affairs and Information Technology Advisory committees, and on the American Politics Search Committee. In addition, he has served several times as a discussant at graduate student workshops and worked with colleagues to organize the Spatial Analysis Workshop in the Center for Political Studies. He also has a strong record of service beyond the university; he reviews manuscripts for fourteen journals, including several from outside the discipline. He has served as a member of the American Political Science Association's Mancur Olson Award Committee and chair of the Political Geography section for the Midwest Political Science Association annual meeting, a responsibility normally held by more senior faculty.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A)

"He seems clearly capable of making significant contributions as he further develops his research agenda, and the field will be better for it... ..the placement of several key papers in his distributive politics agenda in highly visible disciplinary outlets is important to highlight."

Reviewer (B)

"Jowei came on the market as one of the strongest institutions scholars in his cohort, and his research interests have remained primarily in US political institutions. He is primarily known for his well-placed papers on legislative politics. ...[he] has made serious contributions in two different literatures. For this and all of the reasons identified above, Chen should clearly be tenured at a top research department."

Reviewer (C)

"...what matters most when evaluating a candidate for tenure is the content and contribution of the work being produced. Chen's work on political geography is important and it tackles an issue that is fundamental to understanding the functioning of our representative democracy. ... In fact, Chen is one of the most prominent political scientists working on these issues and I suspect that his work will generate considerable interest going forward."

Reviewer (D)

“...Professor Chen is a careful and productive scholar who has made a mark on his field, and is likely to continue to do so in the future. From the quantity, quality, and placement of his research, I can say unreservedly that (1) I would support Professor Chen’s tenure case in my department, (2) I believe his tenure case would be successful in my department, and (3) I strongly believe he has earned tenure and promotion at Michigan.”

Reviewer (E)

“Chen is doing solid normal science, tackling longstanding questions with new methods, and shedding new insights for which subsequently scholars must account—exactly the kind of research we should be supporting and rewarding.”

Reviewer (F)

“...Chen has assembled a strong record of publications, and his future productivity seems bright. He has shown himself to be ambitious, creative, and innovative in tackling interesting and substantively important questions. His work on representation and institutions – spanning bicameralism, political geography, and bureaucratic politics – will be influential for years to come, and will be required reading in a number of graduate-level classes.”

Reviewer (G)

“Professor Chen’s research profile to date, based on his published or accepted for publication research, can be characterized as being solid in terms of the sheer volume of publication output... ..it is exceptionally strong in terms of outlets/placements...as well as the overall quality of Chen’s portfolio of scholarship.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Chen has developed a multi-faceted research agenda that has the potential to inform scholarly debates and improve the practice of governing institutions. He is a valued teacher who integrates his own research into his courses and shares his sense of discovery with students at all levels. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Jowei Chen be promoted to the rank of associate professor of political science, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



Andrew D. Martin
Dean, and Professor of Political Science
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

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