

Approved by the
Regents
May 21, 2015

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

Kai S. Cortina, associate professor of psychology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of psychology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Dr. Phil. Habil.	2004	Free University, Berlin, Germany
Ph.D.	1996	Free University, Berlin, Germany
M.A.	1989	University of Marburg, Germany
B.A.	1986	University of Marburg, Germany

Professional Record:

2014	Visiting Professor, Beijing Normal University
2007 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Michigan
2000 – 2007	Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Michigan
1998	Visiting Professor II, Department of Psychology, University of Michigan
1996 – 2000	Research Investigator, Max Planck Institute for Human Development

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Cortina is an outstanding teacher who has been successful at the undergraduate and the graduate levels. He demonstrates clear concern for each student individually, even in his large courses. His courses have continuously evolved over time as he redefines and considers exactly what students need in each course. He uses many approaches to increase the active engagement of students in the classroom. As a result, students at all ranks give him solid ratings and report that he is an engaging teacher who constantly interacts with students and uses multiple techniques to bring educational topics to life. Professor Cortina is also an exemplary mentor to undergraduate and graduate students alike, not only to his own “official” mentees, but also to many others. His Ph.D. students are uniformly successful and positive about their experiences with him.

Research – Professor Cortina’s research has provided a broad view of the many factors that affect the relationship between motivation and achievement, and his superb analytical skills have allowed him to untangle key questions rigorously. His research record reveals that he has become a prominent figure in educational and developmental sciences. Since 2007, he has published 25 articles in peer-reviewed journals and twelve book chapters. He regularly publishes in both English and German. The English-language journals are predominantly high-impact outlets for both developmental and educational research. Citation rates for some articles are very high (over 100) and his work is cited regularly. Since his promotion, Professor Cortina has pursued a publication strategy of consistently including students as co-authors, and encouraging and shaping their roles as first authors. He has received extensive funding for his research and is currently funded by the National Institutes of Health as a consultant on a five-year study of aging and health. He has also received funding from the U.S. Department of Education and the Max Planck Society. Professor Cortina has served as an advisory/consulting editor for many top

journals for a number of years, has regularly given invited addresses around the world, and was the 2013 keynote speaker at the summit of German Secretaries of Education.

Recent and Significant Publications:

“Changes in efficacy beliefs in mathematics across the transition to middle school: Examining the effects of perceived teacher and parent goal emphases,” with J. M. Friedel, et al., *Journal of Educational Psychology*, 102, 2010, pp. 102-114.

“Youth experience of program involvement: Belonging and cognitive engagement in organized activities,” with T. Akiva, et al., *Applied Developmental Psychology*, 34, 2013, pp. 208-218.

“How the social network shapes adolescents’ social understanding,” with R. Wölfer and J. Baumert, *Journal of Adolescence*, 35, 2012, pp. 1295-1305.

Das Bildungswesen in der Bundesrepublik Deutschland. Strukturen und Entwicklungen im Überblick [The Educational System in Germany. Structures and Developments], with J. Baumert, et al. (co-eds.), Rowohlt, 2008.

Service – Professor Cortina’s university, national, and international service contributions are consistent with the expectations for an associate professor, and clearly indicate that he is both a respected scholar in his field and a valued colleague across multiple departments and disciplines at Michigan. His committee work ranges from serving on the Curriculum Committee to student admissions and faculty search committees. He has served on the executive committees in his department and in the Combined Program in Education and Psychology. He is a reviewer for many of the top journals in his field, and is on the editorial board of three journals. Internationally, he is highly sought out as a reviewer for federal research grants and as a guest speaker.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A)

“Dr. Cortina has produced a large body of empirical work. His publications appear in impressive peer-reviewed outlets. ... Many of these articles appear in top journals in the field... The fact that Dr. Cortina has served as an advisory/consulting editor for many top journals for a number of years is a clear recognition of his standing as a senior scholar in the field, and his high-level of international visibility. ... Finally, I would like to note that Dr. Cortina has received impressive and extensive funding for his research.”

Reviewer (B)

“In sum I don’t hesitate to recommend Dr. Kai S. Cortina as an excellent and capable candidate for many professorships in Europe and all over the world in the field of Educational Psychology. Especially, I congratulate the Department of Psychology at the University of Michigan for the opportunity to further strengthen their scientific excellence by providing the rank of professor with tenure to Dr. Kai S. Cortina.”

Reviewer (C)

“I would describe Dr. Cortina’s scholarly accomplishments as very impressive. ... From examining his papers, I see the very important contributions that he’s making in the field...”

Dr. Cortina clearly has a very strong national reputation (as evidenced by his role as an APS fellow as well as his service on editorial boards). Further, Dr. Cortina has an international reputation... He has continued his work and high profile in Germany, has engaged in research and teaching in China, and appears to be well-published in both national and international journals.”

Reviewer (D)

“Dr. Cortina’s visibility in the scientific community is very high. ...His publications are highly acclaimed by the national and international scientific community. ...I consider Dr. Cortina’s contributions to the discipline and to the profession at large as very important, effective, and of lasting impact.”

Reviewer (E)

“Dr. Cortina is an expert practitioner of multivariate statistical approaches to analyzing data, including structural equation modeling and hierarchical linear modeling. Most departments of psychology have people who are skilled at multivariate analysis. It is rare...to find someone who truly combines a high level of methodological expertise with a passion for substantive research to the extent that Dr. Cortina does. I would love to have Dr. Cortina in...[my] psychology department.”

Reviewer (F)

“...his record indicates that he is a productive scholar publishing in a variety of areas and successfully supporting several graduate students in their efforts to publish. In addition, it appears that Dr. Cortina will continue to do interesting and high-quality research in future years.”

Reviewer (G)

“His work on multivariate latent growth models and ways to incorporate within-individual repeated measures into nested data structures is an innovative and novel approach to understanding the joint contribution of variation in intra-individual development and contextual change to student progress over time.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Cortina has an excellent record of research and of formal and informal mentoring. He has a strong national and international reputation, and has provided valuable service at all levels. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Kai S. Cortina be promoted to the rank of professor of psychology, 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

May 2015