

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

Brian K. Min, 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.	2010	University of California, Los Angeles
M.P.P.	2001	Harvard University
B.A.	1997	Cornell University

Professional Record:

2010 – present Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Min has taught fifteen courses, largely focused on energy politics, the political economy of development, and distributive politics. His courses are well regarded. He has served on seven dissertation committees and on preliminary examination and review committees for sixteen additional doctoral students. Students praise him for his generosity with his time and for the interest he shows in their development as scholars.

Research – Professor Min research focuses on the politics of public service delivery. His most striking contributions and his field leadership come from his work to develop better measurement tools for understanding the delivery of one public service—electricity. He draws upon remote sensing satellite data to offer a striking portrait of such service delivery and of the extent to which it is subject to political manipulation. His work moves comparative politics closer to the ground; i.e., closer to mechanisms and processes. Professor Min has published ten scholarly articles in leading journals, two in edited volumes, and his first book, Power and the Vote.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Power and the Vote: Elections and Electricity in the Developing World, Cambridge University Press, 2015.

“Election cycles and electricity provision: Evidence from a quasi-experiment with Indian special elections,” with T. Baskaran and Y. Uppal, *Journal of Public Economics*, 126, 2015, pp. 64-73.

“Distributive politics around the world,” with M. Golden, *Annual Review of Political Science*, 26, 2013, pp. 73-99.

“Why do ethnic groups rebel? New data and analysis,” with L.-E. Cederman and A. Wimmer, *World Politics*, 62(1), 2010, pp. 87-119.

Service – Professor Min is an active and valued citizen in his department. He has served on three faculty search committees, the Graduate Admissions Committee, and the Emerging

Scholars Committee. He has been active at the University level as well, advising in the Program in the Environment, organizing a Weiser Center workshop, and he has been serving on a faculty advisory committee for the Surveys of Consumers at the Institute for Social Research, on the steering committee for the African Social Research Initiative, and on the cross-campus faculty committee for the Graduate Certificate in Sustainability.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A)

“Brian has made influential contributions to major research questions in two areas in comparative politics – the study of ethnic politics, and the study of democracy and public goods distribution – which no one in those fields can afford to ignore. His trademark is his use of original data to answer big questions. He is a prolific scholar with a wide intellectual range. I would rank him among the foremost comparativists of his generation.”

Reviewer (B)

“Professor Min has an excellent publication record... Unlike many others he also works in a variety of areas – ethnic rebellions to the politics of the distribution of public goods. ... The research has been well received by the scholarly community.”

Reviewer (C)

“Mr. Min is one of the most accomplished and original researchers of his generation, and has produced a remarkable book and a whole research agenda that should grow over the coming years.”

Reviewer (D)

“His signature contribution is reflected in his forthcoming Cambridge University Press book, *Power and the Vote*... A major innovation of this book is to measure electricity provision – an important service that is largely provided by governments throughout the developing world – using a data base drawing on global satellite images of night light emission. ...he is a leader in using these data to answer political questions.”

Reviewer (E)

“Min has made three critical contributions that will stand the test of time. First, he brought an incredible new tool to political science and economics research, and...taught the disciplines how to make sense of it. ... Second, Min problematizes the idea of public goods, showing how reality differs dramatically from our theoretical conceptualizations. ... Third, Min backs a strong push back against the benign authoritarianism literature, showing that once fine-grained measures are brought to the fore, the arguments about the benefits of a strong authoritarian state and the difficulties with public service provision in emerging democracies are much less clear.”

Reviewer (F)

“He is an innovative and meticulous empirical researcher who has been a pioneer in developing what is rapidly becoming a standard part of the social science toolkit.”

Reviewer (G)

“Min has distinguished himself as a theoretically grounded empirical scholar of distributive politics in the developing world. ...it is clear that he brings to his various collaborations not only the technical know-how to measure rural electrification, but also an analytically disciplined and lively mind.”

Reviewer (H)

“...he demonstrates a range of interesting results about how politics infuses itself into the seemingly apolitical issue, namely, the distribution of electricity. ... Min is a highly productive top scholar in comparative politics, political economy of development in particular. I support promoting Min to associate professor with tenure. Were this case to come up in my department, I would vote in favor.”

Reviewer (I)

“Min’s careful empirical work, his eye for new data, and his ability to develop methods for the analysis of that data, have clearly benefitted political science. I have every belief that the next Min discovery is around the corner.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Min is a creative and productive scholar, who has already established leadership in his field. He is also a dedicated teacher, advisor, and mentor, as well as an active citizen in the department. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Brian K. Min be promoted to the rank of associate professor of political science, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



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

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