

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

Rocio Titiunik, 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	University of California, Berkeley
M.S.	2006	University of California, Berkeley
Licentiate	2001	Universidad de Buenos Aires

Professional Record:

2011 – 2012	Visiting Scholar, Department of Political Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
2010 – present	Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, and Faculty Associate, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan
2009 – 2010	Post-doctoral Fellow, Department of Political Science, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Titiunik has a very strong teaching record. She has taught eleven undergraduate and graduate courses, largely in the field of political methodology. Student evaluations in these methods courses are very strong. She also receives high praise as a graduate mentor and as a mentor in the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program.

Research – Professor Titiunik is a leader in her field. Her research focuses on three broad areas: (1) methodological improvement of the program evaluation method of regression discontinuity for causal inference; (2) application of program evaluation methods to political science problems; and the (3) study of effects of incumbency and of political parties and party organizations. Overall, Professor Titiunik has a total of sixteen published works, three papers with revise and resubmit review status, and seven working papers. She has succeeded in publishing in the top journals in three fields in three different disciplines: statistics (*Journal of the American Statistical Association*), political science (*the American Political Science Review*), and in econometrics (*Econometrica*). Professor Titiunik also has a strong record of funding, including a National Science Foundation grant through 2017 and several prestigious awards.

Recent and Significant Publications:

“Optimal data-driven regression discontinuity plots,” with S. Calonico and M. Cattaneo, *Journal of the American Statistical Association*, forthcoming.

“Geographic boundaries as regression discontinuities,” with L. Keele, *Political Analysis* 23(1), 2015, pp. 127-155.

“Robust nonparametric confidence intervals for regression-discontinuity designs,” with S. Calonico and M. Cattaneo, *Econometrica*, 82(6), 2014, pp. 2295-2326.

“When natural experiments are neither natural nor experiments,” with J. Sekhon, *American Political Science Review*, 106(1), 2012, pp. 35-57.

Service – Professor Titiunik has been an active citizen within the department as well as within the University more broadly and in her discipline. She is the co-founder and co-organizer of the Interdisciplinary Seminar in Quantitative Methods (ISQM), which began in 2013. This is an extremely successful and important program that attracts participants from many areas within and outside the College, including economics, statistics, and public health.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A)

“She is a productive and versatile researcher, with a nose for important empirical and methodological issues and a privileged quality of mind. She will keep producing high quality work and engaging in productive collaborations.”

Reviewer (B)

“Her contribution lies in the methodological refinement of regression discontinuity methods...and in the application of these methods to situations where geographic boundaries provide leverage over the causal effects of specific factors...”

Reviewer (C)

“...she is not just a methodologist who improves things by some smallish percentage, but she is a methodologist who shows that important things like the incumbency advantage have been severely overestimated because we have not thought about what RD designs can tell us about what we care about, and she is more and more becoming an important scholar of electoral institu[t]ions to do what scholars of electoral institutions care about.”

Reviewer (D)

“Titiunik is a political methodologist in the best sense of the term. Her training and her primary contributions rest firmly on quantitative methods. Her work is as good as any produced by this generation’s top methodologists. ...[she] motivates her methodological work out of fundamental problems in political science.”

Reviewer (E)

“...she has already established a strong reputation in the field of political methodology. Her work has been recognized as some of the best from a scholar at any point in his or her career. She has received an NSF grant to support her research... In addition, Prof. Titiunik has already received many awards, including the Gosnell Prize for Excellence in Political Methodology, which recognizes the best work in political methodology presented at any political science conference in the previous year. ...[and] the Robert H. Durr Award for best paper applying quantitative methods to a substantive problem. Both of these awards are very prestigious in the field of political methodology. “

Reviewer (F)

“Rocio ranks close to the top in terms of clear-headed thinking about identification issues as they arise in political science applications.”

Reviewer (G)

“Does her work have a distinctive voice? Clearly if you call her name you will think of regression discontinuity designs, and more to the point if you are prompted to find a reviewer, or ask for advice about...regression discontinuity designs, Rocio’s name arises immediately. That is a clear sign that she has staked out some territory.”

Reviewer (H)

“...I enthusiastically recommend that Professor Titiunik be tenured in your department. Her publication record has been impressive over the last couple of years and I see that there are many more papers in the pipeline...”

Reviewer (I)

“...Titiunik is a well-rounded scholar who contributes to the field of political methodology with her work on design based approaches and applies these to relevant questions in American politics. One of Dr. Titiunik[’]s primary strength is the inter-disciplinary character of her work. Her research has been published in the leading journals of Political Science...Economics...and Statistics... This publication profile is not just impressive, it is also rare and since inter-disciplinarity will become even more important in the future, Prof. Titiunik will be an important asset for any research intensive department.”

Reviewer (J)

“There is little doubt that she is one of the most productive, creative, and thorough methodologists of her generation...”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Titiunik is one of the leading methodologists of her generation. She is a thoughtful, generous, and exacting teacher and mentor, as well as an active and dedicated citizen. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Rocio Titiunik 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

May 2016