

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

Francesca Schironi, associate professor of classical studies, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of classical studies, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D. 2002 Scuola Normale Superiore  
B.A. 1997 University of Pavia

Professional Record:

2010 – present Associate Professor, Department of Classical Studies, University of Michigan  
2009 – 2010 John L. Loeb Associate Professor of the Humanities, Harvard University  
2004 – 2009 Assistant Professor, Department of Classics, Harvard University  
2004 Lecturer in Classics, Reading University  
2003 – 2004 Lecturer in Classics, Exeter College, Oxford University  
2001 – 2003 Randall McIver Junior Research Fellow, Somerville College, Oxford University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Schironi’s contributions to the curriculum are substantial and of the highest quality. Her courses often connect the ancient world to the modern (e.g., “Ancient Comedy and Modern Sitcoms”). From introductory level to advanced graduate classes, she provides an outstanding education for students. Professor Schironi contributes to writing instruction as well as comprehensive coverage and expertise in the subject matter of the course. She has supervised one undergraduate thesis and eight Ph.D. theses, including two as chair of the committee. A significant contribution outside the classroom is her founding of the Michigan-Northwestern Workshop on Classical Reception, a venue for Ph.D. students to present their work.

Research – Professor Schironi is an expert in ancient Greek language and literature. Her particular focus is on the ancient scholars who produced the definitive texts of Greek literature for the great library in Alexandria, which was founded under the patronage of the Macedonian rulers of Egypt. She has meticulous philological training and has established herself as a leading scholar in textual criticism, particularly as it applies to the ancient production of the definitive text of Homer’s *Iliad*. She is also well on her way to establishing herself as a leader in reception studies. Professor Schironi already has an international reputation in this latter field, and promises to bring new material (e.g., comedies from the Italian Renaissance) into the discussion of the modern reception of the classics. She has an astounding record of productivity, having written four books; the forthcoming book on Aristarchus is voluminous. Since her last promotion, she has also published twelve articles and book chapters, and has five more articles forthcoming. Many of her articles have been published in top peer-reviewed journals.

Recent and Significant Publications:

“The Best of the Grammarians”: Aristarchus of Samothrace on the *Iliad*, University of Michigan Press, forthcoming 2017.

“Aristarchus’ work in progress: What did Aristonicus and Didymus read of Aristarchus?”  
Classical Quarterly, 65(2), 2015, pp. 609-627.

“The trickster onstage: The cunning slave from Plautus to Commedia dell’Arte,” in Ancient Comedy and Reception. Essays in Honor of Jeffrey Henderson, S. D. Olsen (ed.), Berlin and Boston, 2014, pp. 447-478.

“The ambiguity of signs: Critical Σημεῖα from Zenodotus to Origen,” in “Homer and the Bible in the Eyes of the Ancient Interpreters,” M. R. Niehoff (ed.), Jerusalem Studies in Religion and Culture, 16, 2012, pp. 87-112.

Service – Professor Schironi has made significant contributions to her department, the university, and to the wider profession. She has served on important departmental hiring and review committees. She has also served at the university level on the General Counsel Advisory Committee. To her profession, she has been of service as the director at large for the American Society of Papyrologists and as an assessor for the Italian Research Agency.

#### External Reviewers:

##### Reviewer (A)

“Francesca Schironi is an extraordinarily talented philologist, an established authority on Alexandrian scholarship, in particular of the polymath critic and textual authority Aristarchus of Samothrace (216-144 BCE), of whom Schironi may justly said to be one of the leading, if not *the* leading, world expert...”

##### Reviewer (B)

“Her ability to combine meticulous textual work, papyrological and codicological expertise, and clear analysis of the problems surrounding the understanding of the work of ancient scholars and its relation to the formation of the texts that have come down to us places her, in my view, among the first rank of classical scholars of her generation.”

##### Reviewer (C)

“The quantity of publications is amazing... The quality of the work on ancient scholarship is world-leading and the work on reception is internationally recognised. The forthcoming monograph is the most impressive of them all...but all the others are all outstanding.”

##### Reviewer (D)

“Schironi is one of the leading scholars on the ancient exegesis of Homer: nobody working on the history of the Homeric text and its interpretation can do so, credibly, without close engagement with her work. ...[I] recently consulted her articles on ‘Aristarchus,’ ‘Zenodotus,’ ‘hypomnemata,’ and ‘Alexendrian scholarship’ in Finkelberg’s *Homer Encyclopaedia*. I found in them exactly what I needed... The fact that she was asked to write these entries is evidence enough of her standing in the field, but the way she then executed the task was, in my view, exemplary.”

##### Reviewer (E)

“...I find both the quantity and quality of Schironi’s work very impressive. She has made herself probably the world’s authority on Aristarchus, and has continued with her Aristarchan studies to the point of producing what ought to be the definitive book that will be a standard reference.”

Reviewer (F)

“Her major accomplishment to date is her forthcoming book on Aristarchus and his methods. ...it is a magnificent book, one that may well win her the Goodwin Award from the American Philological Association. ...Schironi is a scholar of well deserved [sic] international repute (her being invited to a Fondation Hardt conference alone is proof of this).”

Reviewer (G)

“The quality of her work is also borne out by the fact that she is published in major peer-reviewed journals... I would not hesitate to reckon her among the most prominent international scholars in this field...”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Schironi is an outstanding scholar, an engaged teacher, and a strong contributor to the department, college, and wider profession. Her contributions are integral to the research excellence of the Department of Classical Studies and to its mission to provide a rigorous and exciting education to students at all levels. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Francesca Schironi be promoted to the rank of professor of classical studies, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



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

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