

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

Robert S. Jansen, assistant professor of sociology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of sociology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

2009	Ph.D.	University of California, Los Angeles
2003	M.A.	University of California, Los Angeles
1999	B.A.	Linfield College

Professional Record:

2012 – present	Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Michigan
2009 – 2012	Post-doctoral Fellow, Society of Fellows, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Jansen is an outstanding teacher of undergraduate and graduate students. He has taught four different courses and has demonstrated a deep commitment to delivering excellent classes through thorough preparation, engagement with students, and course revision. He routinely teaches the large course, “Introduction to Sociology,” where he has received excellent reviews from students. Professor Jansen also developed a course on professional writing for graduate students that has become an important part of the curriculum, giving students the right tools to get their research published more often and more quickly. The course has been recognized by the American Sociological Association (ASA) and is a model for other departments. Professor Jansen has served on nine dissertation committees and was an honors advisor for a student whose thesis won multiple awards.

Research – Professor Jansen is a comparative historical sociologist whose work is making significant contributions to the subfields of political sociology, social movements, and social theory. His theoretical and historical research has won major awards from three different subfields of the ASA. His new book, Revolutionizing Repertoires, is an historical analysis of Peru’s 1931 election and the rise of populist mobilization. This timely book also makes an important theoretical contribution to understanding political innovation or how political actors break old habits of politics and develop new political practices that then become part of the larger political repertoire. Professor Jansen is beginning a promising new project on historical preservation and collective memory.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Revolutionizing Repertoires: The Rise of Populist Mobilization in Peru, University of Chicago Press, 2017.

“Situated political innovation: Explaining the historical emergence of new modes of political practice,” *Theory and Society*, 45(4), 2016, pp. 319-360.

“Populist mobilization: A new theoretical approach to populism,” *Sociological Theory*, 29(2), 2011, pp. 75-96.

“Jurassic technology? Sustaining presumptions of intersubjectivity in a disruptive environment,”
Theory and Society, 37(2), 2008, pp. 127-159.

Service – Professor Jansen has provided excellent service to the Department of Sociology. He has served on multiple committees, including the Executive Committee. He has also served the university through his involvement with the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies’ Advisory Board as well as his work reviewing award applications for both the Rackham Graduate School and the International Institute. Finally, Professor Jansen’s service to the profession is extensive, especially for a scholar at this rank. He has served on editorial boards of the discipline’s top journals, as a council member or officer, and on committees in several ASA sections.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“...Jansen’s superlative theorizing and rigorous comparative-historical research are remaking political sociology, his main subfield. ... If you were to ask me to make a list of the top early career scholars working in political and comparative/historical sociology, there would be perhaps five people on my list, and Jansen would be *at the very top* in terms of significance of contribution and scholarly excellence. He would be easily tenurable at any leading research institution...”

Reviewer (B)

“Some historical sociology – mediocre historical sociology – simply puts a little theoretical frosting on a cake baked by historical specialists. It appropriates an established narrative and then puts an extra layer of conceptualization on top. Good historical sociology starts from scratch, preparing a new historical narrative that fits inside a novel theoretical argument. Revolutionizing Repertoires is historical sociology of the latter sort.”

Reviewer (C)

“Given this extensive and shrewd use of historical evidence [in Revolutionizing Repertoires], the end product is a very convincing account of situated political innovations. The book does indeed beautifully situate the innovations it documents and theorizes. In this respect, Jansen’s work is in a different league than standard analytical narratives, which often rely on light historical evidence...”

Reviewer (D)

“Jansen’s contribution to understanding populism lies in his 2011 *Sociological Theory* article on populist mobilization; his 2016 *Theory and Society* article on ‘Situated Political Innovation’ and his *in press*, University of Chicago book, *Revolutionary Repertoires*. I would rank **these three publications** as major advances in the study of populism as they are theoretical and empirical—most of the key research on populism is either one or the other.”

Reviewer (E)

“...unquestionably, among political sociologists of his cohort, Jansen is already recognized as both a scholar of populism and a theorist of political innovation. With three prizewinning

articles, in addition to a prize-winning dissertation, his work has been repeatedly recognized for its quality and originality.”

Reviewer (F)

“The work has the hallmarks of some of the best historical sociology: an original empirical contribution about a specific substantive case that builds and offers more general theoretical insights that can travel to other cases. I think Jansen is one of the top political sociologists [in his cohort], and perhaps *the* top political sociologist working on Latin America in his cohort. ...I believe that Jansen’s work to date merits promotion and tenure in your department or any top sociology department.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Jansen’s award-winning research has had substantial scholarly impact on our understanding of populism and political innovation. He has been an outstanding teacher and colleague in the Department of Sociology. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Robert S. Jansen be promoted to the rank of associate professor of sociology, 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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