

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

Rocio Titiunik, associate professor of political science, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of political science, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts [also being promoted to research professor, Institute for Social Research].

Academic Degrees:

2009	Ph.D.	University of California, Berkeley
2006	M.S.	University of California, Berkeley
2001	Licentiate	Universidad de Buenos Aires

Professional Record:

2016 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Michigan
2016 – present	Research Associate Professor, Center for Political Studies, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan
2010 – 2016	Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Michigan
2009 – 2016	Faculty Associate, Center for Political Studies, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Titiunik teaches courses primarily in political methodology at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Most of the courses she has taught are in the methods subfield. These are well-designed, well-received courses, and student evaluations are very strong. She does an especially good job with the 600-level course in the political science department’s graduate quantitative methods sequence. Professor Titiunik receives outstanding evaluations in courses that are notoriously difficult to teach. It is not just that she is teaching statistics, but that she teaches from multiple statistical perspectives. In addition, Professor Titiunik plays an out-sized role in graduate advising in her department. She has been an advisor for two honors theses, mentored two Undergraduate Research Opportunities program students, and been a member of nineteen methods preliminary examination committees, and is a member of six dissertation committees. Professor Titiunik has also co-authored papers with five different graduate students.

Research – Professor Titiunik has created field-shaping methodological tools for drawing causal inferences via regression discontinuity designs. Her work has also brought into question some accepted wisdom about elections; her work suggests there are incumbency *disadvantages*. This move to think about incumbency as a problem for re-election is reshaping the field. Hers is an impressive research portfolio, in numbers, placement, breadth, quality, and impact. Since her last promotion, Professor Titiunik has published ten papers and prize-winning software packages. Four of these new papers are in the top journals in political science. Much of the work existed as working papers or was actively in the submission process at the time of the previous review, but some work is new. Some of this work makes important substantive

contributions, especially the paper on Brazilian mayoral elections. This work and its trajectory indicate she has continued and will continue to be a productive scholar setting important agendas in the field of political methodology and in political science more generally.

Recent and Significant Publications:

“The incumbency curse: Weak parties, term limits, and unfulfilled accountability,” with M. Klačnja, *American Political Science Review*, 111(1), 2017, pp. 129-148.

“Differential registration bias in voter file data: A sensitivity analysis approach,” with B. Nyhan and C. Skovron, *American Journal of Political Science*, 61(3), 2017, pp. 744-760.

“Enhancing a geographic regression discontinuity design through matching to estimate the effect of ballot initiatives on voter turnout,” with L. Keele and J. Zubizarreta, *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society: Series A*, 178(1), 2015, pp. 223-239.

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

Service – Professor Titiunik is a tremendous provider of public goods for the department, the university, and the discipline. She has served as departmental field coordinator for methods and will continue in the role of reshaping its core methods courses. She has collaborated on the creation and organization of the Interdisciplinary Seminar on Quantitative Methods. Nationally, she has served on committees for the discipline and has served on the Advisory Panel for the National Science Foundation’s Methodology, Measurement, and Statistics Program.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“...[Titiunik] 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)

“...[Titiunik’s new work] takes her methodological work on regression discontinuity (and causality more generally) and applies it to important political science electoral issues. Three big hits (JRSS:A, AJPS and APSR) in one year...is fabulous. ... I do note that...[Titiunik] now has over 1600 Google Scholar cites with her recent post-tenure work already being well cited; it is nice when predictions made two years ago turn out to be correct.”

Reviewer (C)

“Titiunik is a political methodologist in the best sense of the term. Her training and her primary contributions rest firmly on quantitative methods. ...it is also clear that she is particularly interested in addressing methodological issues that emerge for scholars focused on real substantive and theoretical problems in the study of politics. ...[she] motivates her methodological work out of fundamental problems in political science.”

Reviewer (D)

“...Prof. Titiunik has amassed an impressive and influential corpus of work on RD design methods. In addition to her core research in the area, she has also, with Skovran, written ‘A Practical Guide to Regression Discontinuity Designs in Political Science,’ to provide practical

guidelines and guidance for applied researchers who wish to employ RD design methods in their work. In addition, she has provided software to accompany her research so that others may more easily implement her proposed methods.”

Reviewer (E)

“...Titiunik has an excellent grasp of research design. She repeatedly demonstrates this in works like the JRSS article where she constructs and compares the strengths and weaknesses of three different approaches to gauging the impact of ballot initiatives.”

Reviewer (F)

“For her, concepts are carefully examined, studied and explicated. She does not carelessly describe concepts in her work, she seeks to draw out the implications of the assumptions she had made and interrogate those assumptions closely.”

Reviewer (G)

“In recent years, Rocio has become even more productive, and her work is having a large impact. She is one of the most visible methodologists in the country. And her prominence is still rising. She is hitting her peak period of productivity, impact, and scholarly influence. Any top department in the country would be lucky to have her as a full professor.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Titiunik’s scholarship changes the discipline. Her teaching and mentorship make a difference every day in the lives of students, and her service builds and sustains institutions. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Rocio Titiunik be promoted to the rank of 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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