

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

C. Hoyt Bleakley, Jr., associate professor of economics, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of economics, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts [also being promoted to research professor, Population Studies, Center, Institute for Social Research].

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2002	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
S.B.	1995	Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Professional Record:

2014 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Economics, University of Michigan
2014 – present	Research Associate Professor, Population Studies Center, University of Michigan
2011 – present	Research Associate, National Bureau of Economic Research
2009 – 2014	Associate Professor of Economics, Booth School of Business, University of Chicago
2007 – 2014	Senior Investigator, Center for Population Economics, Booth School of Business, University of Chicago
2007 – 2011	Faculty Research Fellow, National Bureau of Economic Research
2005 – 2009	Assistant Professor of Economics, Booth School of Business, University of Chicago
2003 – 2005	Assistant Professor and Hellman Faculty Fellow, Department of Economics, University of California, San Diego
2002 – 2003	NICHHD Post-doctoral Fellow, Population Research Center, University of Chicago

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Bleakley is a highly accomplished instructor. At the undergraduate level, he has taught an economic development course for majors (ECON 461), and his version of this class is rigorous and challenging. Student evaluations started off well, and as his experience has grown, they have become even better. At the graduate level, he has taught in the economic history and economic development sequences, and in some years, he has been anchoring instruction in both. His performance in both fields has been very strong. Since coming to Michigan, Professor Bleakley has served on seven dissertation committees for students who have completed their degree, including serving as chair for one. He is currently on seven dissertation committees. His scholarly breadth and demonstrated commitment to students has made him a popular mentor.

Research – Professor Bleakley is an applied microeconomist who has published path-breaking work in economic history, development economics, labor economics, international macro, health economics, and economics geography. His scholarship is very broad, bridging many topics and fields. Since coming to Michigan, Professor Bleakley has initiated several new research projects.

His most advanced project explores the relationship between incentives to invest in human capital (education) and increases in life expectancy. This unpublished work has recently entered the journal review process. The timing reflects the long gestation period for economics projects and the long duration of sociology's publication process. He has a sustained record of producing high-profile research. The contributions frequently include deep insights that change the way the economics profession thinks about issues. His work has significant and growing influence and impact.

Recent and Significant Publications:

"Adapting to the weather: Lessons from U.S. history," with S. C. Hong, *Journal of Economic History*, 77(3), 2017, pp.756-795.

"Shocking behavior: Random wealth in Antebellum Georgia and human capital across generations," with J. Ferrie, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 131(3), 2016, pp. 1455 – 1495.

"Portage and path dependence," with J. Lin, *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, May 2012, award for best published work using IPUMS-USA data.

"Chronic disease burden and the interaction of education, fertility, and growth," with F. Lange, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, 91(1), 2009, pp.52-65.

Service – Professor Bleakley has provided valuable leadership for the Department of Economics, serving on its Executive and Junior Mentoring committees as well as serving on many promotion and review committees. He has served the college on the Computing/IT Committee. He has served the economics profession through editorial work, conference organizing, and participation in cross-disciplinary research units.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

"Hoyt is an economic historian who primarily examines historical experience related to what I consider big questions... that have important implications not only for understanding U.S. history better, but also for currently developing countries."

Reviewer (B)

"...I wholeheartedly endorse Dr. Bleakley's promotion to the rank of full professor. His research is highly original. He always focuses on important topics and answers the questions that he poses with care. ... What draws Dr. Bleakley's research together is his use of fascinating historical episodes to provide new evidence on core debates of interest to applied economists. Development economists struggle to study the long-run effects of disease eradication and other public health programs; urban economists debate the economic foundation of cities; and labor economists speculate about the causal effect of parental income or wealth on child outcomes. Dr. Bleakley has stepped into each of these central debates and provided convincing new evidence in a historical setting."

Reviewer (C)

"Hoyt Bleakley is an enormously clever and insightful economist who has worked in the fields of economic history and economic development. His subject matter has often concerned significant interventions in the history of health and wellbeing. ... His research statement speaks

to new research that explores underinvestment in education, an issue he touched on in his early work on deworming.”

Reviewer (D)

“I have learned a great deal from his insightful papers and my own work in development economics has benefited a great deal from his contributions in economic history. ... He is a first rate applied micro economist who examines very important questions in creative and convincing ways.”

Reviewer (E)

“My view of Hoyt’s work is highly favorable, and I believe his record clearly merits a Full Professor appointment at a leading department such as Michigan. ... Beyond his excellent research record, I also see that Hoyt has been an excellent citizen and teacher. He was awarded the 2013 *American Economic Review* Excellence in Refereeing Award, has served on many conference programs committees, and editorial boards for major journals... Hoyt appears to have been an effective teacher at the undergraduate, masters and Ph.D. levels, and has served on many doctoral committees at both University of Chicago and University of Michigan. He has also been very active in securing external grants for his research, including from NSF and NIH.”

Reviewer (F)

“Hoyt’s research is distinguished by its creativity and excellence and I strongly recommend this promotion. ... In my view, the quality and quantity of Hoyt’s research merits promotion...”

Reviewer (G)

“...Hoyt is a first-class researcher who has made fundamental contributions to the study of economic history and development. He is immensely creative and his work tackles important questions in a persuasive way.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Bleakley is a broad and deep scholar, specializing in applied microeconomics. His influence and impact are significant and growing. His teaching and service make important contributions to the department, college, and university at large. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor C. Hoyt Bleakley, Jr. be promoted to the rank of professor of economics, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



Elizabeth R. Cole, Interim Dean
Professor of Women’s Studies, Psychology,
and Afroamerican and African Studies
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

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