

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

Mark Dincecco, 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.	2006	University of California Los Angeles
M.A.	2003	University of California Los Angeles
B.A.	1999	University of Arizona

Professional Record:

2013 – present	Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, and Affiliate, Program in International and Comparative Studies (PICS), University of Michigan
2006 – 2013	Assistant Professor, IMT Institute for Advanced Studies, Lucca

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Dincecco has taught three separate undergraduate courses on a total of eight occasions and a graduate seminar once. His undergraduate teaching includes POLISCI 490 “Introduction to Game Theory” taught three times as a mid-sized lecture course of 55-60 students; INTLSTD 401 “Historical and Political Origins of Economic Growth” taught three times as a smaller capstone course; and INTLSTD 301 “Political Economy of Long-Run Development” taught twice as a larger lecture course of over 100 students. The courses in international studies are particularly important to the college because of the popularity of the PICS major; IS 301 is a core course in that program. Faculty doing historical work in American politics and in comparative politics appreciate the value of Professor Dincecco’s mentorship and teaching across fields in the Department of Political Science.

Research – Professor Dincecco’s research focuses on long term change in political economy. In his careful, meticulous empirical work, he brings new data and research designs to bear on large questions about taxation, representation, warfare, and fiscal capacity. He pushes the literature forward to understand that the state does not arise endogenously on the basis of interests; instead, the state arises through conflict and politics. Professor Dincecco’s work is to unpack that conflict and those politics.

Recent and Significant Publications:

“Violent conflict and political development over the long run: China versus Europe,” with Y. Wang, *Annual Review of Political Science*, 21, 2018, pp. 341-358.

From Warfare to Wealth: The Military Origins of Urban Prosperity in Europe, with M. Onorato, Political Economy of Institutions and Decisions Series, Cambridge University Press, 2017.

State Capacity and Economic Development: Present and Past, Elements Series, Cambridge University Press, 2017.

Political Transformations and Public Finances: Europe, 1650-1913, Political Economy of Institutions and Decisions Series, Cambridge University Press, 2011.

Service – Professor Dincecco has played an active role in the Department of Political Science, the Program in International and Comparative Studies, and in the discipline. He co-organized the Political Economy Workshop, served on two faculty search committees, served as field coordinator, and served on the Undergraduate Affairs Committee.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“...Dincecco is a creative, productive, and thoughtful scholar [in his cohort]. He is the author of two books about topics of considerable importance for understanding how and why wealthy, democratic states first emerged in Western Europe. He has also authored a number of journal articles that either contribute to, or go beyond, those two books. His work is both informed by and informs multiple disciplines, including comparative politics, urban economics, and economic history. If he were a member of my department I would support him for promotion and tenure.”

Reviewer (B)

“Dincecco does what I would call historical political economy. His forte is his ability to assemble original historical databases and then use them to answer fundamental questions about long-run political and economic development: How do states become effective? Why did some parts of the world become rich democracies while other parts didn't? What effect does war have on long-run political and economic development?”

Reviewer (C)

“His work...is exactly the kind of work that has made research in the area exciting and meaningful in the past decade or so: it is heavily data-oriented, econometrically careful and sophisticated, and largely devoid of any kind of a priori political biases that at times flavor research on the rise of political entities. Instead it is about collecting the best data one can find (often painstaking work) and then letting the data speak. ...[he] is quickly emerging as one of the leading scholars in historical political economy in his generation.”

Reviewer (D)

“...this strikes me as a promising scholarly profile for somebody at this stage in his career. ... Dincecco is interested in big questions, and wants to analyze them in ways that yield more than speculative answers. Toward that end, he has formulated interesting sub-questions, and collaborated in creating useful data sets for addressing them. ...he is a talented and prolific social scientist, from whom we should expect valuable work in the future.”

Reviewer (E)

“Mark Dincecco's main scholarly contribution has been to use historical European evidence to think about enduring questions regarding the links between institutions and development. He knows the historical background and literature in a way that few others do. At the same time...he has always strived to connect his historical conclusions with contemporary development questions in which political scientists are interested. This was clear from Mark's first (2011) book on limited government and fiscal decentralization in early modern Europe.”

Reviewer (F)

“...[Professor Dincecco] has carved out a clear area of expertise in historical political economy. His work focuses on the development of state capacity, the co-development of fiscal capacity and military capacity, and the effect of those development[s] on economic performance in Europe over the long run. He is an acknowledged expert in this area. ... His work reflects his training as an economist. There is close attention to historical sources... He has done valuable work constructing historical data sets that other scholars will be able to use going forward.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Dincecco is a creative and productive scholar, one who has already established field leadership. He is also a dedicated teacher and advisor, as well as an active citizen in the department. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Mark Dincecco be promoted to the rank of associate professor of political science, 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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