

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

Nahomi Ichino, 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.	2008	Stanford University
B.A.	1999	Yale University

Professional Record:

2014 – present	Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Faculty Associate, Center for Political Studies, Institute for Social Research, and Faculty Associate, African Studies Center, University of Michigan
2012 – 2014	Associate Professor, Department of Government, Harvard University
2007 - 2012	Assistant Professor, Department of Government, Harvard University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Ichino has taught three substantively different courses: an undergraduate course on “Democracy and Development in Africa” (initially POLISCI 389, later POLISCI 355), which she has offered four times over the past four years. She also taught a graduate course in field experiments and a graduate seminar in comparative politics that have each been taught three times. The majority of students gave Professor Ichino positive evaluations of her teaching and mentoring.

Research – Professor Ichino’s research advances our understanding of voting behavior and political parties in developing countries. She and her collaborators have made empirical and methodological contributions. Her work helped break the field of the assumption and common-knowledge that people vote ethnically. Her work unpacks the role of political institutions in Ghana. In previous scholarship, institutions are in the background. By contrast, Professor Ichino says institutions matter, and her work on candidate entry, selection mechanisms, and primaries focused in Ghana where these institutions are changing, makes the case carefully and precisely. In addition, she develops tools for thinking about causal inference in developing countries.

Recent and Significant Publications:

“How do voters perceive changes to the rules of the game? Evidence from the 2014 Hungarian elections,” with J. Ahlquist, et.al, *Journal of Comparative Economics*, 2018, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jce.2018.01.001>.

“Using qualitative information to improve causal inference,” with A. N. Glynn, *American Journal of Political Science*, 59(4), 2014, pp. 598-629.

“Crossing the line: Local ethnic geography and voting in Ghana,” with N. L. Nathan, *American Political Science Review*, 107(2), 2013, pp. 344-361.

“Do primaries improve electoral performance? Evidence from Ghana,” with N. L. Nathan, *American Journal of Political Science*, 57(2), 2013, pp. 428-441.

Service – Professor Ichino is an active and valued citizen in her department. She created the African Politics Reading Group and was the coordinator of the Comparative Politics subfield. She has served as a faculty associate in the Center for Political Studies and the African Studies Center. Professor Ichino also serves on the Executive Committee of the working group in Africa Political Economy and on the Conference Committee for Visions in Methodology.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“...the discipline of political science is...but badly in need of more scholars who are as well trained in statistics and causal inference as I believe is now the case for [Professor Ichino]... It also shifts her intellectual agenda solidly out of the realm of traditional area studies...and into the scientific study of politics regardless of location. This blend of area knowledge and technical expertise makes Nahomi an ideal member of a modern political science department that trains Americanist and comparative graduate students in the applied use of contemporary statistical methods.”

Reviewer (B)

“Ichino is an important scholar in the field of African political economy as well as among students of mixed methods research and has had a large influence on work in both fields. ... Ichino’s work has led the way in the study of electoral monitoring and pushed the envelope in the study of spillover effects in this area; her Ghana work in particular has served as a model for sophisticated analysis of the role of institutions and geography in politics, and her work on qualitative methods is leading to a rethinking of ways in which mixed methods desiderata can practically be achieved.”

Reviewer (C)

“Ichino has made a significant theoretical contribution to two subfields, both comparative politics and methodology, which is a rare achievement. Within comparative, Dr. Ichino has made theoretical contributions that engage scholars well beyond Africa, writing on elections and candidate selection that are of interest to researchers working in Latin America, South Asia, and even the U.S.”

Reviewer (D)

“Ichino is a smart, extremely careful empirical researcher who has produced a body of very good work and who has every indication of continuing to do so. I support her promotion without reservation. ...I see her as an excellent researcher whose scholarship will make incremental but lasting contributions to the study of African politics. ...she is emblematic of the move in our discipline to a natural science model of research whereby scholars address big questions indirectly by nailing down small pieces. She has the advantage of being at the forefront of this (in my view positive) trend, but also the disadvantage of being evaluated in a context where ‘big contributions’ are sometimes still expected of junior scholars as a criterion for promotion.”

Reviewer (E)

“...her work has contributed to an understanding of important developments in specific African countries such as Ghana as well as dynamics in African politics more generally. ... ..Ichino’s

substantive work also speaks to the broader literature on political parties and elections, especially but not exclusively in the developing world.”

Reviewer (F)

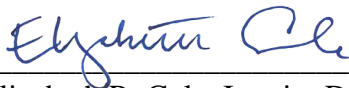
“One overarching theme in Professor Ichino’s research that I find especially impressive and inspiring is the close connection between her substantive and conceptual interests, her field work, and her methodological research. ... This [is] genuine, problem-driven political research at its best.”

Reviewer (G)

“In light of...her robust research agenda as a whole, I strongly support and recommend Professor Nahomi Ichino for promotion to Associate Professor. ... In short, Nahomi is clearly one of the most rigorous scholars [in her cohort] in comparative politics...”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Ichino is a creative scholar who has already established field leadership. She is also a dedicated teacher, advisor, and mentor, as well as an active citizen in the department and in the wider research community. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Nahomi Ichino be promoted to the rank of associate professor of political science, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



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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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