

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
SCHOOL OF INFORMATION

Tanya Rosenblat, associate professor of information, with tenure, School of Information, and associate professor of economics, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of information, with tenure, School of Information, and professor of economics, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1999	Massachusetts Institute of Technology
M.A.	1994	Northwestern University
B.A.	1994	Northwestern University

Professional Record:

2014 – present	Associate Professor of Economics, Department of Economics, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, University of Michigan
2013 – present	Associate Professor of Information, School of Information, University of Michigan
2008 – 2015	Associate Professor of Economics, Iowa State University
1999 – 2008	Assistant Professor of Economics, Wesleyan University
2005 – 2006	Visiting Member, Psychology and Economics, Institute for Advanced Study
1998 – 1999	Visitor in Economics, H&SS Division, California Institute of Technology
1995 – 1998	Teaching and Research Assistant, Economics Department, MIT

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Rosenblat has taught eight courses since joining the School of Information (UMSI) faculty in 2013. These have been at the undergraduate, master's and Ph.D. levels. Many of these courses have been centered on her main areas of expertise: experimental methods; game theory; and social networks. Several of these courses were new to UMSI, such as the undergraduate course "Models of Social Information Processing" and the doctoral seminar "Designing Social Network Experiments." Professor Rosenblat is a dedicated and thoughtful instructor. She expresses a commitment to an inclusive teaching environment that brings out the best in students, and to actively engaging students in the classroom, especially through experiments. In particular, she enables students to engage in assignments that use data about their own social networks. She has also conducted group math clinics early in the semester to help students who have weaker math backgrounds.

Professor Rosenblat has served as the dissertation chair for five doctoral students and is currently advising an additional two doctoral students at Michigan. Those who have graduated all have academic positions. She has also served as a committee member on 16 completed dissertations and currently serves on 10 others, a large number at UMSI. These doctoral students come from such diverse areas as information, business, computer science, psychology, and economics. She has also mentored four master's theses and eight undergraduate students on research projects.

Research: Professor Rosenblat is an active and highly visible researcher in behavioral economics. Her greatest impacts have been in two areas: the economics of social networks; and the economics of belief formation, particularly the influence of beliefs on labor market outcomes. Much of Professor Rosenblat's research contains themes of diversity, equity and inclusion, for example she has studied discrimination and why gender differences persist. Her research involves both laboratory and large-scale field experiments and her findings have contributed to economic theory.

Professor Rosenblat's most influential works are a published paper, "Why Beauty Matters" (appeared in the *American Economic Review* in 2006, the top economics journal) and a recent highly cited working paper, "Managing Self-Confidence." Together they demonstrate her research trajectory. In the paper "Why Beauty Matters," she examines why there is a robust beauty premium on the labor market with those of above-average beauty earning more than workers of below-average beauty. In this paper, she developed an experiment with novel techniques, making it the first paper to decompose the beauty premium in a clean and convincing way. Furthermore, these techniques used can be transferred to other domains to study labor market discrimination. In addition to its impact in academia, it has also received much media coverage, including by the *New York Times*, *Financial Times*, *Chicago Tribune*, the *New Yorker*, *Fortune*, and the Cable News Network.

In "Managing Self-Confidence," Professor Rosenblat and her colleagues focus on understanding possible explanations for male overconfidence. Again, the manuscript ends up offering both interesting, novel findings, and methodological advances of which other researchers have already taken advantage. The authors provide a precise characterization of the nature and extent of these biases. This is an important paper in behavioral economics, which addresses a fundamental question in judgment and decision-making. For example, how people update their beliefs when they receive new information. It clearly deepens Professor Rosenblat's research agenda on beliefs and self-confidence.

Professor Rosenblat has produced 18 publications, with 12 peer-reviewed journal articles, one peer-reviewed conference proceeding, and five book chapters. She has received nine grants since 2003, including a Russell Sage Foundation grant, two National Science Foundation grants, and a United States Department of Agriculture Food Assistance Nutrition Research Program Planning grant.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Insoo Choo, Peter Orazem, Tanya Rosenblat. "Are Risk Attitudes Fixed Factors or Fleeting Feelings?" *Journal of Labor Research*, February 2018

Tawanna R. Dillahunt, Vasishnav Kameswaran, Linfeng Li, Tanya Rosenblat. "Uncovering the Values and Constraints of Real-time Ridesharing for Low-resource Populations." In Proceedings of the ACM 34th international conference on Human factors in computing systems (CHI), 2017

Ritwik Banerjee, Tushi Baul, Tanya Rosenblat. "Social Norms Regarding Bribing in India: An Experimental Analysis," *Schmollers Jahrbuch – Journal of Contextual Economics*, 2016

Markus Mobius, Tanya Rosenblat, Qiqi Wang. "Ethnic Discrimination: Evidence from China," *European Economic Review*, 2016

Markus Mobius, Tanya Rosenblat. "Why Beauty Matters," *American Economic Review*, March 2006

Service: Professor Rosenblat has performed service within the school, the university, and in her professional organizations. Internal to UMSI, she has served on several committees including the Undergraduate Committee, the Faculty Search Committee, the Diversity Committee, and the Online Degree Task Force. She was also elected to be the school's representative on the Faculty Grievance Hearing Board. Currently, she is the faculty chair of the School of Information Diversity Committee. At the university level, Professor Rosenblat has been co-organizer of the Social, Behavioral, and Experimental Economics (SBEE) seminar since 2013. The SBEE seminar is a collaborative effort of faculty from the School of Information, the Ross School of Business and the Department of Economics. The group sponsors a lecture series of speakers from U.S. and international universities who present their research at weekly seminars during the academic year. She has served as convener for launch committees over the past several years.

Outside of the University of Michigan, Professor Rosenblat has served as a referee for most of the top economics journals as well as those in her sub-field of behavioral and experimental economics. She is currently on the editorial board of *Research in Experimental Economics* and as an associate editor for *Management Science and Decision Analytics*. From 2014-2017, she served in this role at *Behavioral Economics*. She just finished a term on the Executive Committee of the Economic Science Association. In 2011-2013, she served as a standing panelist for the National Science Foundation Economics review panel, which is a prestigious role generally filled by professors. She has also served, since January 2010, as the mid-career senior mentor for a group of seven female assistant professors in economics, sponsored by the American Economic Association Committee on the Status of Women in the Economic Profession Mentoring for Junior Faculty (CeMent-CSWEP).

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "My institution cares for great research --- in terms of publication outlets but even more so in terms of quality of work, novelty, and significance. We look at whether a scholar has achieved a distinct voice in the field and made an impact in it. Professor Rosenblat checks all those marks -- and I personally would consider myself lucky to have her as a colleague."

Reviewer B: "...[Professor Rosenblat] is one of the most creative experimental economists of her generation, with a strong record of research publication in top outlets, and a rich pipeline of work in progress. Her service record and visibility in the economics profession are very strong. She is a generous colleague and mentor. I am confident she would be promoted here at [my institution], and I strongly support her (overdue!) promotion to the rank of professor."

Reviewer C: "In light of [Professor] Rosenblat's sound research record, I believe that she is a very deserving candidate for promotion to the rank of full professor. In this sense, I recommend her strongly for promotion, and sincerely hope that you will consider her case favorably."

Reviewer D: "[Professor Rosenblat] has produced interesting and creative work that ranges broadly, covering theory, applied theory, empirical work and experiments. Although her list of publications is not so long, they have appeared in the very best journals and are typically

intricate papers with a variety of facets to them. She is steadily productive, and repeatedly has designed innovative and clever experiments. She has earned a world-wide reputation as a leading designer of experiments on various social interactions and effects.”

Reviewer E: “In my mind, her work stands out in this field because of her ability to combine clever laboratory designs for laboratory and large-scale field experiments, innovative experimental and statistical methods, and often rigorous, mostly mathematical, modeling of network and psychological phenomena – an ability that seems much needed to organize the plethora of data and findings in behavioral, experimental and network economics.”

Summary of Recommendation

Professor Rosenblat’s accomplishments in the areas of teaching, research, and service meet and exceed the promotion requirements to achieve the rank of professor. Therefore, with the support of the promotion and tenure committee of the School of Information and of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, we enthusiastically recommend Tanya Rosenblat for promotion to professor of information, with tenure, School of Information, and professor of economics, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



Thomas A. Finholt
Dean, School of Information



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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