

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

Ian D. Fielding, assistant professor of classical studies, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of classical studies, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2011	University of Warwick
M.A.	2006	University of Warwick
B.A.	2005	University of Warwick

Professional Record:

2016 – present	Assistant Professor, Department of Classical Studies, University of Michigan
2013 – 2016	British Academy Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Oxford
2011 – 2013	Teaching Fellow in Classics, University of Warwick

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Fielding is an inspiring teacher of graduate and undergraduate students who emphasizes diversity in classical studies. He is co-chairing one Ph.D. committee and served on another, and he has directed three honors theses and advised a fourth in the Department of Classical Studies at the University of Michigan. His classroom instruction covers the range from advanced graduate seminars and capstone seminars for advanced undergraduates to introductory Latin literature and language courses. He is a lucid communicator who introduces innovative subjects and creative assignments to help students from diverse backgrounds find ways to relate to ancient texts. Outside the classroom, he participated in Wolverine Express, a program run by the Center for Educational Outreach to promote higher education in public high schools across the state, and was named the CEO's Faculty Outreach Ambassador in 2019.

Research – Professor Fielding's research stands out for its elegance, scholarly depth, and impressive range of expertise. He has published his first book, Transformations of Ovid in Late Antiquity, on how Christian writers living in territories formerly of the Roman Empire imitated the Latin imperial poet Ovid; nine articles in high-prestige peer review journals; and four chapters in edited volumes, with one forthcoming. He is developing a reputation as an innovator whose exploration of subjects such as female authorship and Christian rewritings of pagan discourse is introducing overlooked late Latin texts to the field of Latin literary studies, and bringing a literary line of inquiry into the study of Late Antiquity. His new book project on English historian Edward Gibbon's dialogue with the Roman satirical poet Juvenal on the notion of decline extends his work in classical receptions into the modern period.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Transformations of Ovid in Late Antiquity. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2017.

"The authorship of Sulpicia." In Constructing Authors and Readers in the Appendices Vergiliana, Tibulliana, and Ovidiana, edited by T.E. Franklins and L. Fulkerson, 186– 197. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2020.

“Felicitas at Cimitile: Cultivating the Soul in Paulinus’ *Nola*.” *Materiali e discussioni per l’analisi dei testi classici* 83 (2019): 43–60.

“Performing Miracles: the Natalicia of Paulinus of Nola as Popular Entertainment.” *Ramus* 47.1 (2018): 108–22.

Service – Professor Fielding has a strong record of leadership that contributes to making classical studies at the University Michigan more inclusive and diverse. He was on the department’s DEI committee during its first three years (2017–2020) and chaired the committee for one year (2017–2018). He was also instrumental in creating the department’s Bridge M.A. program, designed to help promising students from non-traditional backgrounds develop the skills for a Ph.D. program. He has served on the department’s graduate admissions committee, recruiting and reviewing M.A. and Ph.D. applicants. He is on the steering committee for Contexts for Classics, an interdepartmental faculty consortium, which explores the reception of classical antiquity in critical and creative contexts. In this role, he helped to draft the Rackham Graduate Certificate in Classical Receptions and will become its first advisor when it opens admissions this year.

#### External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A): “Fielding’s book is very sensitive to historical moment and to the long traditions of reading with which classics must always engage, producing an eclectic and creative theoretical underpinning for close reading of texts. I especially enjoyed the way that Fielding drew on modern feminist readings of the *Heroides* to explore how Venantius Fortunatus and his patron Radegund could work together to create a space for aristocratic female voices and audiences, producing something which goes beyond what Ovid and his heroines could do, because it involves historical women and fictional personae in a complex interplay. In all, the book is very good at reading Ovid and the late Latin poets with acuity and sensitivity to both sides of the interaction.”

Reviewer (B): “Ian Fielding already enjoys in the field a reputation as a shaker and a mover: it is noticeable that two key research collaborations with U.S.-based scholars (the APA/SCS panel plus co-edited volume with Carole Newlands, and a co-authored article with James Uden) both began while he was still at Warwick and before he himself moved to the U.S. His teaching and service are clearly excellent: I was especially struck by the proactive ways in which he has embraced community outreach, in particular his visiting and engaging with high school classes in Michigan. His account of how he can forge a connection with such classes (and demystify himself) as being the first in his own family to attend college is very affecting.”

Reviewer (C): “Of the submitted shorter pieces, the two articles on Paulinus of Nola both show a similar ability to combine acute literary analysis with attention to wider questions of social history, religious ideology, and performance. These both strike me as outstanding, if anything more mature and persuasive than the Ovid book.”

Reviewer (D): “Ian Fielding is a rising star of his scholarly generation. His scholarly work by any measure is of the highest quality and impact, and he is already a highly respected and well-known colleague in the more rarified world of late ancient studies. Fielding’s productivity and originality bode well for his scholarly (and pedagogical) future. In this vein I think especially that his second book project now underway is most impressive, both because it marks for Fielding a new kind of writing and thinking, and also for the contribution it seems destined to make in both late ancient studies and in reception studies. In the meantime, Fielding has compiled a record of excellent,

creative, and caring teaching, and selfless service to his department, university, and profession.”

Reviewer (E): “Professor Fielding’s service contributions to our discipline are very remarkable: the presence of his works in the best international journals and by the most prestigious publishing houses guarantee the high reputation he enjoys. Comparatively to Latin scholars of his generation working in American and European departments, his name is surely one of the most renowned.”

Reviewer (F): “I happen to have read the book recently for my research on Ovid’s *Remedia Amoris*, and found it offered me as many thoughtful and original insights into Ovid’s texts and their interaction...as into the late antique authors with whom I am much less familiar. I note that it has been extremely well received by reviewers in the major reviewing journals (*CJ*, *CPh*, *BMCR*), and—unusual for a first book—the reviews are almost completely devoid of criticisms, judging it to be ‘excellent’ and ‘meticulous.’ I agree—it is an outstanding achievement, and Fielding already shows great maturity as a critic and philologist.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Fielding has produced an excellent body of scholarly work on the reception of imperial Latin poets in Late Antiquity and the modern era that contributes in innovative ways to the fields of Latin literature and classical reception studies. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Ian D. Fielding be promoted to the rank of associate professor of classical studies, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



---

Anne Curzan, Dean  
Geneva Smitherman Collegiate Professor of  
English Language and Literature, Linguistics,  
and Education  
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor  
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

May 2021