

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning

Joseph D. Grengs, associate professor of urban and regional planning, with tenure, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, is recommended for promotion to professor of urban and regional planning, with tenure, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning.

Academic Degrees:

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| Ph.D. | 2002 | Cornell University, City and Regional Planning, Ithaca, NY |
| M.U.R.P. | 1997 | University of Minnesota, Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, Minneapolis, MN |
| B.C.E. | 1985 | University of Minnesota, Institute of Technology, Minneapolis, MN |

Professional Record:

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| 2017 – Present | Program Chair of Urban and Regional Planning, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan |
| 2014 – 2017 | Director of Doctoral Studies in Urban and Regional Planning, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan |
| 2010 – Present | Associate Professor of Urban and Regional Planning, with tenure, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan |
| 2002 – 2010 | Assistant Professor of Urban and Regional Planning, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan |

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Grengs is an ambitious, attentive teacher with a distinct emphasis on service to his students. His commitment to equity is prominent in subject matter and teaching style alike. His academic innovations have enlivened courses that have become foundational to the Urban and Regional Planning Program and the MURP degree. He is a leader at combining substantive technical methods, engaged project applications, social justice priorities, and clarity of communication. Professor Grengs has maintained a balance of professional, doctoral, technical, and theoretical courses. He invests incredible time and energy into his students' interests and development, both during and long after their time at Taubman College.

Research: Professor Grengs's research advances a foundational shift taking place in the scholarship and practice of transportation planning, moving away from a focus on achieving 'mobility,' toward achieving 'accessibility.' With a passionate concern for social justice, he has contributed substantially to the prominent and leading role that the University of Michigan's Urban and Regional Planning Program has played in explaining the need for that change and providing guidance on how to do so. His unique and significant contributions to that effort have centered on the relationships between mobility, accessibility, and social justice, particularly with regard to minority and low-income populations, as well as on generating innovative comparative analysis and on developing methodological improvements for conceptualizing and measuring accessibility in practice. Professor Grengs has disseminated his work through publication of a co-authored academic press book, peer-reviewed journal articles, book chapters, and research reports. The various articles have been published in top journals for the urban and regional planning academic field and the transportation planning subfield. He has made numerous peer-reviewed academic conference presentations and

invited lectures and other public appearances speaking to a variety of topics related to transportation planning, climate change, social equity, and accessibility.

Recent and Significant Publications, Exhibitions, and Awards:

- Levine, Jonathan, Joe Grengs, and Louis Merlin. (2019). *From Mobility to Accessibility: Transforming Urban Transportation and Land-Use Planning*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.
- Grengs, Joe. (2019). On the Way But Not There Yet: Making Accessibility the Core of Equity Planning in Transportation. In Krumholz, Norman and Wertheim Hexter, Kathryn (Eds.), *Advancing Equity Planning Now: Seeking a More Just City*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.
- Grengs, Joe. (2015). Nonwork Accessibility as a Social Equity Indicator. *International Journal of Sustainable Transportation*, 9 (1), 1-14.
- Levine, Jonathan, Grengs, Joe, Qingyun Shen, and Qing Shen. (2012). Does Accessibility Require Density or Speed? A Comparison of *Fast* Versus *Close* in Getting Where You Want to Go in U.S. Metropolitan Regions. *Journal of the American Planning Association*, 78 (2), 157-172.
- Grengs, Joe. (2010). Job Accessibility and the Modal Mismatch in Detroit. *Journal of Transport Geography*, 18, 42-54.
- Grengs, Joe, Jonathan Levine, Qing Shen, and Qingyun Shen. (2010). Intermetropolitan Comparison of Transportation Accessibility: Sorting Out Mobility and Proximity in San Francisco and Washington, DC. *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, 29 (4), 427-443. (Chester Rapkin Award for the Best Article in the *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning).

Service: Professor Grengs has been an exemplar of service to the Urban and Regional Planning Program, Taubman College, the University of Michigan, the academy, and the profession. Among the most prominent of his service responsibilities, Professor Grengs has served as the program chair in Urban and Regional Planning for the last four years, encompassing the transition to a new dean and navigating the Covid-19 crisis. He served as the treasurer of the Association of Collegiate Schools of Planning (the leading academic organization in the discipline) from 2016 –2019; on the steering committee for Planners Network (a nationwide activist progressive organization of some 500 academic, professional, student, and communitarian participants) from 2016 –2019; director of Doctoral Studies for the URP Program from 2014 –2017, and as a reviewer for many journals.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: “I believe that Professor Grengs has made significant intellectual contributions, particularly as they relate to the notion of accessibility – its measurement and use in both academic and professional practice.”

Reviewer B: “...he has produced important advancements in methodologies for measuring accessibility and in applying these measures to evaluating the implications of transportation policy for social justice. His co-authored book, *From Mobility to Accessibility*, which pulls together his important work over the last decade, is an outstanding contribution...”

Reviewer C: “Dr. Grengs’ scholarly impact crosses disciplinary boundaries. His spatial modeling expertise has benefited collaborators in planning, public health, and gerontology. I think it’s critical to recognize the importance to the field of this work... By working with scholars from other fields, he has been able to demonstrate the importance of environmental characteristics to outcomes ranging from aging in place to health disparities.”

Reviewer D: “Dr. Grengs’s [sic] research is focused on issues of transportation planning and social equity. He has developed unique and valuable perspectives on how to improve transportation planning, challenging many of the key tenets of professional practice by planners and engineers.”

Reviewer E: “Professor Grengs...is a leading thinker, advocate, and practitioner of the use accessibility measures to evaluate the performance of the transportation and land use system...His contributions and writing are influential and highly regarded among planning scholars.”

Reviewer F: “Dr. Grengs has been at the forefront with emerging technologies in what is becoming a separate field within urban studies and planning: urban data science....[his work] demonstrates the clear potential for more advanced data and technology use in collecting and analyzing primary data for both equity and accessibility analyses outside of mobility studies into emerging fields like urban health. These are significant, original ideas in vitally important policy areas...”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Grengs has a strong record of scholarly impact as well as substantial service to the college and profession. In a year where justice is in the forefront, it is important to recognize the persistent approach to promoting social equity and justice embodied by Professor Grengs’s entire body of work. It is with the support of the Taubman College Promotion and Tenure Committee and the Executive Committee that I recommend Joseph D. Grengs for promotion to professor of urban and regional planning, with tenure, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning.



Jonathan Massey
Dean and Professor
A. Alfred Taubman College of
Architecture and Urban Planning

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