

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

Shaowei Ke, assistant professor of economics, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of economics, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2015	Princeton University
M.A.	2012	Princeton University
B.Econ	2010	Tsinghua University

Professional Record:

2020	Visiting Scholar, Alibaba
2020	Visiting Faculty, Cowles Foundation, Yale University
2015-present	Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Ke has been a valuable instructor at both the undergraduate and graduate level. His undergraduate behavioral economics course, which focuses on economic behaviors that depart from classical rationality assumptions, leverages in-class experiments and real world examples to build intuition and make technically rigorous concepts accessible. At the Ph.D. level, Professor Ke's math for economists and core microeconomic theory courses provide an immensely valuable foundation for first-year graduate students. He has chaired or co-chaired a number of completed dissertations, has advised numerous students on their required third-year paper, and has co-authored papers with multiple Ph.D. students.

Research: Professor Ke is an economic theorist who works on topics in decision theory and welfare economics. His work is noted for deviating from classical economic models by using a rigorous axiomatic approach to construct new frameworks for understanding how agents make choices considering intergenerational differences, heterogeneity in preferences, and ambiguity. Professor Ke has a breadth of interests, examining both static and dynamic questions and investigating purely theoretical topics as well as applying rigorous theory to specific real world issues. He is well known for developing creative approaches to address important, long-standing theoretical questions. Widely acknowledged as being among the top theorists of his cohort, Professor Ke will continue to have an important impact on the profession in the years ahead.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Ke, S. and Zhang, Q. (2020). "Randomization and ambiguity aversion." *Econometrica*, 88(3), 1159–1195.

Ke, S. (2019). "Boundedly rational backward induction." *Theoretical Economics*, 14(1), 103–134.

Feng, T. and Ke, S. (2018). "Social discounting and intergenerational pareto." *Econometrica*, 86(5), 1537–1567.

Ke, S. (2018). "Rational expectation of mistakes and a measure of error-proneness." *Theoretical Economics*, 13(2), 527–552.

Service: Professor Ke has had numerous service roles within the Department of Economics, having served on the Graduate Program Committee, Ph.D. Admissions committee, Master of Applied Economics Committee, and Social Committee. He also served on the department's Remote Teaching Committee during Summer 2020 that produced a detailed report in preparation for online teaching during 2020-21. Professor Ke has also co-organized the weekly Economic Theory seminar series. Outside the university, Professor Ke has been an ad hoc journal reviewer on numerous occasions, including for multiple top journals, and has helped organize conferences.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A): "The paper with T. Feng, 'Social discounting and intergenerational Pareto,' published in *Econometrica*, is simply a home run...an important paper, and a key contribution to the crucial problem of social discounting."

Reviewer (B): "I have been following Professor Ke's work with great interest since he graduated...I find him original, deep, and talented. He chooses to work on important questions and manages to introduce powerful new insights. I think he is a top-notch theorist whose work will be widely cited for years to come...He has already established himself as a leader in the field, and I can think of no one of his generation who can claim to have made more important contributions to decision theory."

Reviewer (C): "Dr. Ke is an extremely strong economic theorist...His best work is foundational in nature, but he is always motivated by applied questions...Michigan is fortunate to have a theorist of his caliber on faculty."

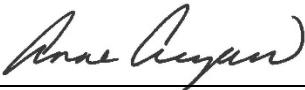
Reviewer (D): "...I would describe Dr. Ke's primary research focus as the creative use of decision theory to develop and use more realistic models of human decision making in applied economic settings. This is a research agenda I find important and fascinating. I see Dr. Ke as one of the best [junior] theorists working in this vein."

Reviewer (E): "[Dr. Ke] is a scholar with notable research achievements and increasing international renown, and holds promise and potential for even more significant contributions...His work, despite its obviously technical nature, is evidently informed by a keen sense of what questions are important to economics and pose a particular challenge to doing economics."

Reviewer (F): "Shaowei is a brilliant [junior] scholar who published excellent, creative papers in the leading journals of the profession. He has acquired a very well-respected position in his field."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Ke is an outstanding scholar who develops rigorous, cutting-edge models that greatly advance our understanding of economic decision making. He is a dedicated teacher and advisor and has provided service to the department, university, and profession. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Shaowei Ke be promoted to the rank of associate professor of economics, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



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

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