

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION  
The University of Michigan  
School of Music, Theatre & Dance

Anil Çamci, assistant professor of music, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of music, with tenure, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2014	Leiden University, Academy of Creative and Performing Arts, in affiliation with The Royal Conservatory of The Hague and Delft University of Technology, Creative and Performing Arts
M.S.	2010	University of California, Santa Barbara, Media Arts and Technology Department, Multimedia Engineering
M.A.	2008	Istanbul Technical University, Center for Advanced Studies in Music, Music (Sound Engineering and Design)
B.S.	2006	Istanbul Technical University, Electrical Engineering Department, Electrical Engineering

Professional Record:

2017 - present	Assistant Professor, Department of Performing Arts Technology, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, University of Michigan
2015 - 2017	Postdoctoral Research Associate, Department of Computer Science, Electronic Visualization Laboratory, University of Illinois Chicago
2012 - 2015	Founding Coordinator of the Sonic Arts Program, Center for Advanced Studies in Music, Istanbul Technical University
2010 - 2015	Faculty Member, Center for Advanced Studies in Music, Istanbul Technical University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Çamci regularly teaches advanced undergraduate and graduate courses within the Performing Arts Technology curriculum, including Music Production (PAT 331 and 332), Creative Coding (PAT 204), and Immersive Media (PAT 443/534). He designed and has been the sole instructor to date of both Creative Coding and Immersive Media. Creative Coding is now a required course in the PAT department's undergraduate curriculum.

Professor Çamci has proven to be an impactful educator, who brings research activities into his classroom and constructs his courses on a firm foundation of pedagogical research from CRLT and journals in his field. He focuses on constructivist learning, specifically the use of small scaffolded assignments organized into larger structures. He has in turn shared his pedagogical insights with the field by authoring peer-reviewed publications on his teaching.

Professor Çamci builds his course activities around original research, at times co-authoring scholarship with his students as a result of these collaborations. He recruits students as team members in project-based learning explorations that seem especially apt for PAT's constantly evolving technologies. His immersive media course places students at the leading edge of both

theory and practice in the arenas of virtual and augmented reality research. His classroom functions as an interdisciplinary research lab, combining students as research team members with a variety of skills, backgrounds, interests, and perspectives. Maybe not surprisingly, this approach has found success engaging students from both inside and outside SMTD, particularly with students from the School of Information and College of Engineering. Professor Çamci also supervises a very large number of theses as primary mentor, both at the graduate level and undergraduate level.

Professional Activities: Professor Çamci's professional activity lies at the intersection of music, computer science, and engineering, and encompasses both creative expression as well as theoretical research. Professor Çamci's creative activities fall into three areas: 1) creativity support tools, particularly those for immersive media applications, 2) extended reality (XR) musical systems, and 3) formulating theoretical frameworks about the practices of the media arts, or what he terms "worldmaking."

Professor Çamci is admirably productive having completed a range of projects since being hired at UM. These include one published book and a second under contract, one full-length recorded album, two book chapters, three journal articles, 18 conference papers, and some 40 performances and installations. Much of this work has been published in top journals (such as the *Journal of New Music Research*) and presented at influential venues, such as the annual New Interfaces for Musical Expression (NIME) technology interaction conference, and the User Interface Software Technology Symposium.

Professor Çamci has also found considerable success as a composer and designer of sound and multimedia installations. He received the Best Installation Prize for his COVID-19 inspired work "Crowdscapes: A Crowd-sourced Soundscape Installation" at the prestigious 2020 NIME conference. Further, his recently recorded album of electronic music *Dekagon* (2022) was published by Innova Records—the house label of the American Composers Forum—after a national call and peer-evaluation process. Eight composers were selected out of 156 applicants and Çamci was chosen as one of four "lead composers" to receive a complete solo recorded release. The album is a collection of sonic experiments that extend from Professor Çamci's book The Cognitive Continuum of Electronic Music as well as his theoretical explorations in worldmaking.

In the realm of Creativity Support Technology and Tools, Professor Çamci is known nationally and internationally for the creation of open source, cross platform tools that can meet the needs of musicians with little knowledge of technology, while satisfying expert user's needs for sophisticated customization. Among the tools he has designed is INVISO, a software package that assists in the development of spatialized three-dimensional sound for applications such as film or gaming as well as virtual reality. INVISO is used by educators, researchers, and artists around the world.

Professor Çamci's work combines creative expression with leading edge technological experimentation and research. His work has been published and performed in prestigious, high-visibility scholarly vehicles and he has won accolades and secured new opportunities and funding for his work. In sum, he is a star in the making at an institution with the resources and ambitions to create scholar-artists of true impact.

Service: Professor Çamci is deeply involved in the curricular, community, and mentorship activities of the PAT department. Drawing on his range of industry connections, he has established two recurring events that serve to create community in the department and to provide professional support and opportunities for students. One is a weekly series of public performances under the title PAT[I/O] to showcase student work. The other is an annual PAT Career Fair, which has become a national model. This event brings industry representatives from companies such as Shure, Harman, Boze, Marvel and Capitol Music to campus. As a direct result, PAT students have found increased success in securing internships and job placements.

Professor Çamci's arrival in the PAT department coincided with an initiative to build a new Ph.D. program in Performing Arts Technology. He became a vital member of a three-person subcommittee charged to envision the degree and shepherd a proposal through SMTD, the Rackham Graduate School, the UM Regents, and the state approval process. PAT will welcome its first Ph.D. student this year, and Professor Çamci has been asked to serve as the department's inaugural director of graduate studies. He will combine this work with his continuing mentorship of one of the department's undergraduate cohorts of about a dozen students. His work has an ongoing impact on the shape and future direction of the department.

Professor Çamci also participates in service duties to SMTD's school-wide faculty governance committees. He has been a member of both the undergraduate and graduate curriculum committees, the school's Scholarship Committee, and a committee on Staff Awards. In addition, he participated in the Faculty Forum on Inclusive Teaching and has been on two search committees. He is responsible for the planning and maintenance of the PAT department's Brehm Technology Suite. For the university as a whole, Professor Çamci has served on the Extended Reality (XR) Steering Committee and helped design the XR Graduate Certificate. He has also served as a mentor for the UM Girls Encoding Program.

In his field, Professor Çamci is involved in service to several professional organizations, including the International Computer Music Association, the Audio Engineering Society, and NIME. He has served as a reviewer for conference programs and as an organizer of workshops at major conferences, including NIME, IEEE VR, and Audio Mostly.

#### External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "Dr. Çamci's work demonstrates a deep interdisciplinary skillset...[and] incorporate[s] rigorous quantitative and qualitative research methods at a level that is quite rare in music technology.... He is also one of just a handful of peers who have found such a high level of success in both the research and creative domains of music technology, with a track record of peer-reviewed performances/exhibitions, recognition, and an album to complement his extensive scholarly publication record."

Reviewer B: "I find Dr. Camci's portfolio to be extremely strong, documenting performance at the high end of expectations for an artist/scholar in his peer group."

Reviewer C: "Dr. Camci has focused so much on this area [Music in XR] as of recent years, that he has helped create a scholarly niche within the field of research. His work is placed well amongst others who also produce groundbreaking work in the area."

Reviewer D: “Overall Professor Camci demonstrates a high level of artistic and programming creativity, a commitment to the field and to the academy, an involvement with various associated communities through conferences, publications, and public presentations, and significant achievements in conference recognition and professional publishing.”

Reviewer E: “Dekagon showcases a confident composer, very adept at creating richly synthesized sounds and an advanced technique of polyphony not often evident in computer music.”

Reviewer F: “I have been impressed by his work in music technology. His ongoing collaboration with...is very fruitful and has proposed some of the most exciting advances regarding music in VR environments... His contributions to several recent NIME conferences...also attest to his influential role in the new musical interfaces community.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Çamci is a dedicated and impactful teacher, a cutting-edge researcher and creative artist, and a community-oriented colleague who goes beyond the norm to contribute to the success of SMTD. He is the very model of an engaged artist/scholar. With the enthusiastic support of the school’s Executive Committee, I strongly recommend Anil Çamci for promotion to the rank of associate professor of music, with tenure, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.



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David Gier  
Paul Boylan Collegiate Professor of Music  
and Dean, School of Music, Theatre & Dance

May 2023