

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

Philip S. Hart, associate professor of communication and media, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and associate professor of environment, without tenure, School for Environment and Sustainability and College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of communication and media, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and professor of environment, without tenure, School for Environment and Sustainability and College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

2008	Ph.D.	Cornell University, Ph.D. in Communication
2005	M.S.	University of Oregon, M.S. in Environmental Studies
2002	B.S.	University of California at Davis, B.S. in Environmental Policy Analysis and Planning

Professional Record:

2017-present	Associate Professor, Communication and Media and Program in Environment
2013-2017	Assistant Professor, Communication and Media and Program in Environment

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Hart is a thoughtful, meticulous, and engaged instructor who conceives of his courses as communities for critical inquiry. He uses active learning approaches as well as inclusive teaching practices for the courses he teaches in both the Program in the Environment and Communication and Media and employs a model of continuous improvement so that his courses are maximally effective, transparent, and student-centered. He has effectively revised the large introductory lecture course, COMM 102 (over 200 students), and has now teamed with CRLT's Foundational Course Initiative to address long-standing outcome differences for students whose perspectives are not well represented in the College and/or the Communication major.

Research: Professor Hart is a world-leading scholar of media communication about the environment, especially climate change. He has an h-index of 33, with fifteen of his publications having over 100 citations and one having over 300 citations. His research speaks to some of the most pressing concerns of our time, focusing on the development of communication strategies for overcoming the politicization, polarization, and perceptual biases involved in modern-day public environmental discourse. Professor Hart's scholarship covers three interconnected areas: media content about science, health, environmental, and risk (SHER) issues; effects of various SHER-relevant communication strategies and moderators of those effects; and public opinion of SHER issues and its connection with relevant behavior and policy support.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Hart, P. S., Chinn, S., & Soroka, S. (2020). Politicization and polarization in COVID-19 news coverage. *Science Communication*, 42(5), 679-697.

Hart, P. S., Stedman, R. C., & Clarke, C. (2021). Political polarization in support for subsidizing unprofitable coal power plants. *Energy Policy*, *150*, 112156.

Hart, P. S. & Feldman, L. (2018). Would it be better to not talk about climate change? The impact of climate change and air pollution frames on support for regulating power plant emissions. *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, *60*, 1-8.

Service: Professor Hart's service record is appropriate for his career stage. He has played important roles within the discipline, including as the Divisional Head of a section of the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication and as the founder of the Society for Environmental Affairs (in 2020). He has served on the editorial boards of three journals and is a reviewer for many of the field's highest ranked journals. Professor Hart has also done considerable service in the Department of Communication and Media as the associate chair for undergraduate studies (2021-present). He is an active mentor to assistant professors and graduate students.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A): "[Professor Hart's] research quantity is similar to our top colleagues, although he tends to publish in relatively higher quality journals which may require additional time to publish. What I think is key, however, is that I always look forward to reading his studies when they come out."

Reviewer (B): "[Professor Hart's] work is rigorous and influential. He has very effectively tackled considerations regarding media representations of science, health and environment, as well as effects and impacts that communication strategies have on various segments of the public."

Reviewer (C): "I have kept up with his work because I consider it to be top-notch research that has developed some of my own theoretical thinking. I am pleased to see that citations to his work have finally started to increase. His work has important implications for the broader discipline but until recently he was mostly known only within his own niche."

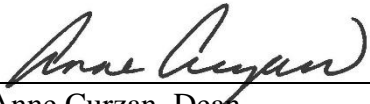
Reviewer (D): "Based on the publication rate and journal quality, Dr. Hart's level of productivity exceeds recent successful promotion cases that I have reviewed for R1 universities."

Reviewer (E): "Based on my reading of his research, which extended beyond the seven works shared with me, I feel that [Professor Hart's] research is theoretically programmatic, methodologically rigorous, and serves the important function of pushing the field forward. In this regard, I assess him to be among the most impactful researchers in climate change risk communication research, especially when compared to faculty at a comparable stage of their career..."

Reviewer (F): "I don't know of any other [junior] and mid-career scholars in the risk communication field who would rank higher than Professor Hart in research contributions."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Hart has maintained a robust, high-quality, prolific, and influential program of research within science communication and the environment. He approaches instruction with an equally meticulous attention to detail and desire to improve and has had significant success in lowering grade discrepancies linked to demographic characteristics such as gender and race. His service and leadership have been moderate in amount but outstanding in quality. The Executive Committees of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I, with the support of the School for Environment and Sustainability, recommend that Associate Professor Philip S. Hart be promoted to the rank of professor of communication and media, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and professor of environment, without tenure, School for Environment and Sustainability and College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



Anne Curzan, Dean
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