

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION  
The University of Michigan – Flint  
College of Arts and Sciences  
Department of Social Sciences and Humanities

Jason E. Kosnoski, associate professor of political science, with tenure, Department of Social Sciences and Humanities, College of Arts and Sciences, is recommended for promotion to professor of political science, with tenure, Department of Social Sciences and Humanities, College of Arts and Sciences.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D. 2003 The New School for Social Research, Political Science, New York, NY  
M.A. 1995 University of Virginia, Political Science, Charlottesville, VA  
B.A. 1992 Drew University, Political Science, Madison, NJ

Professional Record:

2010 – Present Associate Professor of Political Science, with tenure, University of Michigan-Flint, Michigan  
2005 - 2011 Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Michigan-Flint, Michigan  
2003 - 2005 Post-Doctoral Fellow, City University of New York, New York

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Kosnoski identifies two central goals for his instructional practice: 1) a focus on teaching students about the theory and practice of democracy and civic engagement; and 2) structuring courses to optimally increase the democratic knowledge of students. Professor Kosnoski is an energetic and accomplished instructor. He regularly modifies his courses to encompass emerging topics that illustrate the breadth, depth, and connectivity of classical political theories with the contemporary world. He consistently seeks to amplify diverse voices in the literature, particularly increasing the number of female authors and authors of color included in his courses. Professor Kosnoski notes that he is always seeking to improve his assignments to ensure that a greater number of students can enhance their learning as well as the application of their learning in diverse environments.

Student evaluations for Professor Kosnoski are uniformly positive. The numerical evaluations range from 4.2 to 5 and the written comments focus on the enthusiasm for the subject matter, the challenging yet engaging presentation of his courses, and how much students benefited from class discussions. His peer evaluations are similarly positive. It is clear that Professor Kosnoski has developed a continuous process for and commitment to refining and adapting his teaching skills. Particularly admirable in my view is his commitment to the introductory courses in the discipline and also his efforts to develop new courses that attract students broadly across multiple disciplines.

Research: Professor Kosnoski is an active and consistently productive scholar. His expertise and contributions are clearly demonstrated primarily in the form of single authored books, peer-reviewed journal articles, and book chapters. Since his promotion to associate professor, Professor Kosnoski has produced a book manuscript: The Political Theory of Salvage (State University of New York Press, 2022) in SUNY Press's New Political Science Series; well received book chapters, "The Work of Utopia: Ernst Bloch and Jacques Derrida on the Future of Marxism," (Routledge, 2020), "John Dewey and the Geography of Power," (Routledge, 2017); and the article: "Rhythms of Resistance: Dewey, Deleuze and Experience of Occupy Wall Street," in the journal *Contemporary Pragmatism* (Vol. 16, May 2019).

Building on his earlier body of work on the philosopher John Dewey, Professor Kosnoski in his most recent book on political theory of salvage draws our attention to the central role of "affect" or more broadly a person's emotion and feeling-laden engagement with the world around them. The innovative aspect of this foundational theoretical orientation in Professor Kosnoski's work is that he alerts us to the imperatives of not separating feeling from intellect and how people learn from and engage effectively with their environments to transform the world around them.

By drawing on the works of several scholars in the literature including Dewey and Deleuze on space; Anna Tsing on salvage; Lauren Berlant on affect and William Connolly on becoming, Professor Kosnoski effectively provides us with a nuanced critique of neoliberalism and the possibilities of socio-political transformation through collective activism. One reviewer commented that the book is "fertile, varied, synoptic, and innovative."

Another qualitative aspect of Professor Kosnoski's scholarship is demonstrated in his peer-reviewed article: "The Rhythms of Resistance: Dewey, Deleuze, and the Experience of Occupy Wall Street," in which he shows how geography, space and 'rhythmic' affect within the context of Occupy Wall Street movements enhances participant's civic learning, habits, talents and the production of political ideas that are essential for participatory citizenship and democratic possibilities.

Furthermore, in his book chapter contribution titled: "John Dewey and the Geography of Power," Professor Kosnoski effectively refutes Alan Ryan's criticism of Dewey by arguing that advocacy of the strategy can be more compelling if we understand Dewey's theory of power, social complexity, and the way people experience politics and the economy and its adverse impact on their lives. The scholarly contribution of this chapter lies in Professor Kosnoski's erudite attention to Dewey's theory of social 'geography' and connecting it to more recent critical works on the limits of neoliberalism in the contemporary global economy. From the foregoing review, Professor Kosnoski's scholarly contributions demonstrate his deep knowledge of the field of Political Theory and the capacity to remain productive and engaged into the future.

Recent and Significant Scholarly Activity:

Kosnoski, Jason, The Political Theory of Salvage. SUNY Press, December 2022

Kosnoski, Jason, "Specter and Spirit: Ernst Bloch, Jacques Derrida and the Work of Utopia."

Marx, Marxism and the Spiritual. Anjan Chakrabarti, Anup Dhar, Serap A. Kayatekin eds. Routledge, 2020

Kosnoski, Jason, "John Dewey and the Geography of Power" in American Political Thought: An Alternative View. Jonathan Keller and Alex Zamalin eds. Routledge, 2017

Service: Professor Kosnoski is an energetic academic citizen with a record of high-quality service to the university, the community, and his profession. Drawing directly upon his expertise in political science, his array of activities are grounded in the common theme of nurturing the habits of citizenship found on our campus and community.

Perhaps most impressive has been Professor Kosnoski's efforts to enhance the democratic values and habits of active citizenship found on campus through a series of democracy education events. Between 2017 and 2019, he initiated and led the campaign to win recognition as a Voter Friendly Campus from the Fair Elections Center and the NAPSA. The project featured voter registration drives and several voter education events, including a student forum and the visit of Congressman Dan Kildee. His efforts not only won the campus Voter Friendly Status in 2019-20 but led to the campus receiving first place in the Collegiate Voting Challenge 2020 for having the highest voter turn-out of any campus in the state.

The Fair Elections Center recognized Professor Kosnoski's considerable efforts "to break down barriers and empower students with information and tools they need to participate in the political process puts the civic mission of higher education into action." Professor Kosnoski followed through on this success by participating in the Tune in, Turn Out project to provide voter education on all three campuses of the University of Michigan. He served as the project coordinator for the Flint campus, selecting and working with student presenters and chairing the Flint sessions.

Professor Kosnoski provided leadership as the chair of his department between 2012-2015 and has actively participated in a variety of duties, including his work on the revision of the political science major, search committees, the department's honors program, honor society, and the thoughtful nomination of Maize & Blue scholars. In the aftermath of the restructuring of the college, Professor Kosnoski serves on the Student Affairs Committee of the new Social Science and Humanities Department.

Beyond the university, Professor Kosnoski has made professional contributions to his discipline and has shared his expertise with the community in ways that are meaningful and impactful. Professor Kosnoski is a recognized expert in his field and an active contributor to the life of his discipline, providing peer reviews of articles for the *American Political Science Review*, *Polity* and the *Journal of Politics*.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "My recommendation is that Jason Kosnoski's scholarly record merits promotion to Professor at the University of Michigan-Flint."

Reviewer B: "Professor Kosnoski has moved beyond being a Dewey scholar to becoming a theorist of contemporary democracy in his own right over the course of his career at UM-Flint."

Reviewer C: “Kosnoski’s publications since his last tenure/promotion review would definitely meet and possibly exceed the criteria for promotion to full professor at my university.”

Reviewer D: “In my estimation, Professor Kosnoski has provided evidence of significant accomplishment as a scholar. Based on the criteria provided to me, he has met or exceeded expectations in scholarship.”

Reviewer E: “Kosnoski’s post-tenure work has made significant contributions to our understanding of Dewey and of protest and resistance in the contemporary world. He shows every sign of remaining productive and engaged, now and in the future.”

Summary of Recommendation: Professor Kosnoski is a skilled instructor and compelling classroom presence who cares deeply about his students. He has maintained an active and impactful scholarly agenda in the discipline of Political Science and especially his area of specialization. His record of diligent teaching, leadership, service, and motivation of student learning through citizenship engagement activities are consistent and impressive. It is with support of the College of Arts and Sciences Executive Committee that I recommend Jason E. Kosnoski for promotion to professor of political science, with tenure, Department of Social Sciences and Humanities, College of Arts and Sciences.

Recommended by:



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Douglas Knerr, Interim Dean  
College of Arts and Sciences

Recommendation endorsed by:



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Sonja Feist-Price, Provost and  
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs



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Debasish Dutta, Chancellor  
University of Michigan – Flint

May 2023