

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

Christopher Fariss, associate professor of political science, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of political science, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2013	University of California, San Diego
M.A.	2007	University of North Texas
B.A.	2005	University of North Texas

Professional Record:

2023–present	Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Michigan
2019–present	Faculty Associate, Donia Human Rights Center (DHRC), University of Michigan
2019–present	Affiliated Faculty, Michigan Institute for Data Science (MIDAS), University of Michigan
2016–2023	Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Michigan
2016–present	Faculty Associate, Center for Political Studies (CPS), Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan
2015–2016	Jeffrey L. Hyde and Sharon D. Hyde and Political Science Board of Visitors Early Career Professor in Political Science
2013–2016	Assistant Professor, Department of History, Pennsylvania State University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Fariss has taught courses in data science, measurement, and the politics of human rights, with undergraduate courses designed around discovery, discussion, and doing. Professor Fariss has a strong record of mentorship—of undergraduates, of graduate students, of students whose committee he is on, of students in wholly different fields than his. He is generous with his time, open and available to students, and dedicated and detailed in his work with them.

Research: Professor Fariss’ work on the measurement of human rights practices challenges the conventional wisdom about a null or even negative relationship between human rights treaty membership and compliance. He has helped Michigan become the leading center of empirical research on conflict, violence, and repression.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Barnum, Miriam, Christopher J. Fariss, Jonathan N. Markowitz, and Gaea Patrice Morales. “Measuring Arms: Introducing the Global Military Spending Dataset.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* (Accepted).

Dancy, Geoff and Christopher J. Fariss. “The Global Resonance of Human Rights: What Google Trends Can Tell Us.” *American Political Science Review* (Forthcoming).

Slough, Tara and Christopher J. Fariss. “Misgovernance and Human Rights: Experimental Evidence of Illegal Detention without Intent.” *American Journal of Political Science* 65, no. 1 (January 2021):148-165.

Fariss, Christopher J. "Respect for Human Rights has Improved Over Time: Modeling the Changing Standard of Accountability." *American Political Science Review* 108, no. 2 (May 2014):297-318.

Service: Professor Fariss has served on the Undergraduate Affairs Committee, the Methods Search Committee, the Rubin Speakers Series' coordinator, the Diversity Ally Committee, three tours on the Graduate Admission Committee, and the Fulbright Interview Committee. Professor Fariss sits on the editorial board of one journal (the *International Studies Review*) and was an editorial assistant on another (*International Studies Quarterly*). He is a council member in the Peace Science Society (International), the leading research community on the topic of political conflict/violence and peace. Professor Fariss also served as a section chair for the Human Rights Section of the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, and is an active and leading member of the CPRD research group at the University of Michigan.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A): "[Professor Fariss'] research has also been tremendously influential, particularly in determining trends and patterns of human rights violations over time, including questions of how to measure respect for human rights consistently across time and space. His work and related datasets have substantially shaped how quantitative human rights scholars think about and capture human rights violations."

Reviewer (B): "...the number of students that [Professor Fariss] is working with and advising at both the undergraduate and graduate level is simply phenomenal. I have never seen such an extensive listing in all of the evaluations I have ever done at any level."

Reviewer (C): "Fariss has made important contributions to a wide range of topics, including human rights, repression, models of international conflict, latent measurement models, and concept/measurement in the social sciences."

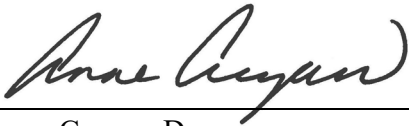
Reviewer (D): "I am most appreciative of Fariss's [sic] contributions to improving measurement in several areas of international relations scholarship."

Reviewer (E): "[Professor Fariss'] work utilizes cutting edge methodological techniques to answer important research questions in our field, such as whether human rights treaties are effective at improving member states' human rights practices and whether human rights norms can encourage actors to protect others' human rights. He draws upon a wide range of methodological approaches including Bayesian measurement models, network analysis, text analysis, and machine learning. He has produced multiple datasets that are publicly available and widely used by other scholars."

Reviewer (F): "Prof. Fariss' main claim to fame is his fundamental, game-changing contributions to the study of states' human rights practices. It would be difficult to work in this area and not engage his research. His impacts starts [sic] with significant, and continuing, contributions to the measurement of human rights practices."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Fariss has developed an impressive research portfolio; his research is ambitious and impactful; his teaching is effective; and he is a good citizen of the university. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Christopher Fariss be promoted to the rank of professor of political science, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



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Anne Curzan, Dean

Geneva Smitherman Collegiate Professor of  
English Language and Literature, Linguistics,  
and Education

Arthur F. Thurnau Professor  
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

May 2024