

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION  
THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
SCHOOL OF INFORMATION  
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

Eric E. Gilbert, associate professor of information, with tenure, School of Information, and associate professor of electrical engineering and computer science, without tenure, College of Engineering, is recommended for promotion to professor of information, with tenure, School of Information, and professor of electrical engineering and computer science, without tenure, College of Engineering.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2010	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, Illinois
B.S.	2001	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, Illinois

Professional Record:

2018 – Present	Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, College of Engineering, University of Michigan
2017 – Present	John Derby Evans Endowed Professor of Information, School of Information, University of Michigan
2017 – Present	Associate Professor of Information, School of Information, University of Michigan
2011 – 2017	Assistant Professor, College of Computing, Georgia Institute of Technology, Atlanta, GA
2006 – 2010	Research Assistant, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Champaign, IL

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Gilbert is devoted to educating the next generation of computer and information scientists. His educational philosophy emphasizes the inclusion of diverse voices and fosters critical thinking and active engagement in both undergraduate and graduate courses. He aims to prepare students as both critical thinkers about technology as well as hands-on designers and builders. At the University of Michigan School of Information (UMSI), Professor Gilbert has instructed a diverse range of courses across multiple degree programs. His courses include SI 429 (Online Communities), SI 660 (Experimental Social Computing Systems), SIADS 682 (Social Media Analytics), and SIADS 696 (Milestone II). These courses differ considerably in their degree level, format, and target audience.

Professor Gilbert has made invaluable contributions to the curriculum of multiple degree programs at UMSI. He developed Experimental Social Computing Systems (SI 660) for the Master of Science in Information (MSI) program and created an inaugural elective for the MADS program, Social Media Analytics (SIADS 682). He also made significant modifications to Milestone II (SIADS 696). His most recent contribution was spearheading the development of a new course for the Bachelor of Science in Information (B.S.I.) program, Introduction to User Experience (SI 307). Professor Gilbert is one of the few instructors that teaches core courses in both the user experience pathway and in data science.

Professor Gilbert's mentorship of Ph.D. students is particularly effective. He places a strong emphasis on granting autonomy to the Ph.D. and master's students he mentors, tailoring the level of freedom based on their capabilities. Thus far, he has guided eight Ph.D. students to graduation and currently co-advises another six. His mentees have impressive post-graduation job placements at highly prestigious institutions, such as the University of Minnesota, the University of Washington, the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, and Rutgers University. Additionally, some have entered prominent industry research labs, including Google. Furthermore, Professor Gilbert has shared his insights on Ph.D. advising through his "Syllabus for Eric's Ph.D. students," which has garnered international recognition and impact.

Research: Professor Gilbert uses computationally-intensive methods to study social media usage and behavior, as well as to develop and evaluate interventions that address problems that arise within social media contexts. He has led highly impactful, large-scale, empirical studies of the impact of social media policy and design on user behavior. He has developed, studied, and made available several software tools and techniques, some of which have been adopted by major tech companies.

Professor Gilbert's publication and impact record place him among the most successful researchers in the social computing field and his impact statistics are in line with expectations for promotion to professor. Since joining the University of Michigan in 2017, he has been highly productive and continued to produce high quality, high impact work having published 20 rigorously peer-reviewed papers. He has also won one best paper award and received three nominations for best paper awards since 2018. He has also been successful with extramural research funding having raised nearly \$2 million since arriving at the University of Michigan. In addition, his expertise has been recognized outside academia. He has been asked to testify before Congress, participate in open-source software communities, and work with social media companies to incorporate his research findings into their platforms.

#### Recent and Significant Publications:

- Im, J., Dimond, J., Berton, M., Lee, U., Mustelier, K., Ackerman, M., and Gilbert, E. (2021). "Yes: Affirmative Consent as a Theoretical Framework for Understanding and Imagining Social Platforms." *Proceedings of the 2021 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '21)*. Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, Article 403, 1–18.
- Im, J., Tandon, S., Chandrasekharan, E., Denby, T., and Gilbert, E. (2020). "Synthesized Social Signals: Computationally-Derived Social Signals from Account Histories." *Proceedings of the 2020 CHI Conference on Human Factors in Computing Systems (CHI '20)*. Association for Computing Machinery, New York, NY, USA, 1–12.
- Chandrasekharan, E., Gandhi, C., Mustelier, M.W., and Gilbert, E. (2019). "Crossmod: A Cross-Community Learning-based System to Assist Reddit Moderators." *Proc. ACM Hum.-Comput. Interact.* 3, CSCW, Article 174 (November 2019), 30 pages.
- Jhaver, S., Bruckman, A., and Gilbert, E. (2019). "Does Transparency in Moderation Really Matter? User Behavior After Content Removal Explanations on Reddit." *Proc. ACM Hum.-Comput. Interact.* 3, CSCW, Article 150 (November 2019), 27 pages.

Chandrasekharan, E., Pavalanathan, U., Srinivasan, A., Glynn, A., Eisenstein, J., and Gilbert, E. (2017). "You Can't Stay Here: The Efficacy of Reddit's 2015 Ban Examined Through Hate Speech." *Proc. ACM Hum.-Comput. Interact.* 1, CSCW, Article 31 (November 2017), 22 pages.

Service: Professor Gilbert's service contributions exceed the criteria for promotion to professor. He has been elected to UMSI's Dean's Advisory Committee twice since joining the school in 2017 and has served on the BSI and diversity, equity, and inclusion committees. At the university level, Professor Gilbert served on the recent UMSI Dean Search Advisory Committee. Externally, Professor Gilbert has served as the program chair and steering committee chair for the International Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence Conference on Web and Social Media, and as the general chair and editor for Computer-Supported Cooperative Work and Social Computing, two of the most prestigious venues in his field. He also co-lead an event at the Computing Community Consortium, convening top computer scientists in the field to discuss content moderation in social media.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "I would put him up with very strong full professors in social computing ...all of whom are established leaders in their field. [Professor Gilbert] definitely belongs in this group and is perhaps distinguished by his strong connection between theory building and system building ... He is thoroughly deserving of promotion to full professor in your department."

Reviewer B: "Simply put, [Professor] Gilbert is held in high esteem by his colleagues, and he is recognized as a highly-productive and highly-expert researcher, an effective mentor of graduate students, and as a highly desirable collaborator. His reputation is very strong and he is no longer viewed as 'up-and-coming' but rather as a leader in the field in his own right."

Reviewer C: "[Professor] Gilbert is one of the most creative and visible scholars in the field of social computing today... Ever since his days in graduate school, and through his post-tenure years at Michigan, [Professor] Gilbert consistently presented creative, original, and often paradigm-shifting work that had significant impact on the research community and beyond. Such [a] sustained stream of innovative contributions is a rare feat in any field and occupation."

Reviewer D: "His papers on Reddit have received much attention from the community, being cited quite a high number of times, and actually being adopted by Reddit and other social media platforms that require community moderation. It is very remarkable that his research led to real-world impact, and this is further proven by the paper award he has received from the top-tier venues."

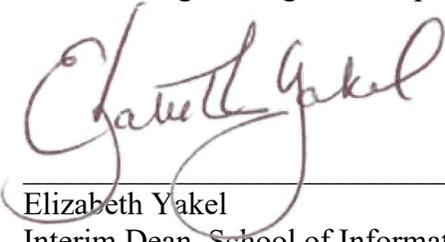
Reviewer E: "His methods and approaches are creative, original, effective, and resoundingly convincing. Professor Gilbert's range is astonishing and enviable. His program of research is undoubtedly generative. I think he is one of the best computational social scientists we have today at any rank and level of experience.... his intellectual leadership of graduate student projects and placement of students at top institutions, and his prolific record are undeniable and make for a clear case for promotion to Full."

Reviewer F: “Again we see demonstration of insightful research questions matched with creative methodology that is Gilbert’s signature. The results of this work, in short, suggest that explanations for post removal are in general effective but underused, suggesting an important way forward for supporting more civil discourse. This is an important finding as we find ourselves in an era of online information disorder.”

Reviewer G: “Clearly, Professor Gilbert’s works are of high quality, with a considerable quantity of research output, a clear focus on key issues in social computing, and a significant scholarly impact. These impressions suggest that Professor Gilbert is a prominent and influential figure in the field.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Gilbert stands at the forefront of social computing research, bridging the dynamic realms of human-computer interaction and data science. He has consistently produced influential and award-winning research in the field of social computing, plays a vital role in shaping the curriculum across multiple degree programs and assumes significant service responsibilities both within the University of Michigan and externally. Therefore, with the support of the Promotion and Tenure Committee of the School of Information and the Executive Committee at the College of Engineering, we enthusiastically recommend Eric E. Gilbert for promotion to professor of information, with tenure, School of Information, and professor of electrical engineering and computer science, without tenure, College of Engineering.



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Elizabeth Yakel  
Interim Dean, School of Information  
C. Olivia Frost Collegiate Professor of Information



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Steven L Ceccio  
Interim Dean  
Vincent T. and Gloria M. Gorguze Professor  
of Engineering  
College of Engineering

May 2024