

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

Nicholas C. Henriksen, associate professor of Spanish, with tenure, and associate professor of linguistics, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of Spanish, with tenure, and professor of linguistics, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2010	Indiana University
M.A.	2006	Indiana University
B.A.	2003	Rutgers University

Professional Record:

2018-present	Associate Professor, with tenure, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, University of Michigan
2018-present	Associate Professor, without tenure, Department of Linguistics, University of Michigan
2012-2018	Assistant Professor, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, University of Michigan
2010-2012	Assistant Professor, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, Northern Illinois University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Henriksen stands out as an exceptional educator, particularly notable for his commitment to curricular development, student engagement, and diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) teaching initiatives. Since 2018, his dedication has been evident through his extensive range of linguistics courses, which span introductory to advanced levels, as well as his active involvement in curricular development such as anti-racist pedagogy and promoting gender inclusivity in the classroom. Furthermore, he has overseen an impressive number of independent studies (twenty-two), directed two honors theses, been a member of three doctoral dissertation committees, and provided guidance for twenty-two UROP (Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program) students. His proactive role in shaping departmental curriculum has been instrumental in strengthening the offerings in the field of Spanish linguistics. His dedication and expertise have attracted a significant number of students eager to delve into linguistic research under his mentorship. Through his courses, the Speech Production Lab, and the Humanities Collaboratory research project *From Africa to Patagonia*, students have also become research partners and co-authors in his scholarly endeavors fostering a unique mentoring environment where Michigan students thrive beyond the academic setting. The department has reaped substantial benefits from the interdisciplinary nature of his courses and his efforts to immerse students not only in linguistic analysis but also in acquiring skill sets for lifelong learning.

Research: Since receiving tenure, Professor Henriksen has published seven journal articles, five public essays, and ten chapters or conference proceedings, many of which appear in prestigious, competitive publication venues. Transcending the specific contributions of these investigations are several significant broader contributions of Professor Henriksen's research program. First, Professor Henriksen's work shows the descriptive and theoretical value of applying a wide intra- and inter-disciplinary lens to the study of speech communities and speech phenomena. For example, multilingual settings are the norm in speech communities across the globe. The Patagonian and the Amazonian Peru projects demonstrate both the complexity of language shift in these settings and the importance of studying shift in communities with different types of histories and cultures that can shape the trajectory of change. Second, Professor

Henriksen's investigations document the social dimensions of speech interactions, and consequent sociophonetic variation. Although such social weighting of speech is to be expected, Professor Henriksen's work across different speech communities is important and timely in the ways that it engages the discipline—and, importantly, the public—in issues of linguistic bias and discrimination. Thus, his work contributes to, in the words of John Baugh (a former president of the Linguistic Society of America), “linguistics in pursuit of justice.” Third, by any metric, Professor Henriksen's contributions to training the next generation of linguists and specialists in Romance languages are phenomenal. He has created a vibrant, productive research environment that provides students—including many undergraduates—with rigorous training in research design, phonetic analysis, and the publication process. These and other scholarly accomplishments were nationally recognized in 2021 through the Linguistic Society of America's Early Career Award.

Recent and Significant Publications:

- Henriksen, Nicholas and Kelly Kendro. “Laxing vowel harmony.” In *Oxford Handbook of Vowel Harmony*, edited by H. van der Hulst and N. Ritter. Oxford: Oxford University Press, in press.
- Coetzee, Andries W., Nicholas Henriksen, and Lorenzo García-Amaya. “Patagonian Afrikaans: A remnant variety spoken in South America.” In *Contemporary Afrikaans Linguistics*, edited by W. Carstens, N. Bosman, and T. Biberauer. In press.
- Galvano, Amber and Nicholas Henriksen. “Cross-dialectal comparison of /st/ clusters in Spanish: Implications for sound change.” *Proceedings of the International Congress of Phonetic Sciences, 2023* (2023): 3051-3055.
- García-Amaya, Lorenzo, Kelly Kendro, and Nicholas Henriksen. “Regional variation, articulation rate, and pausing patterns in three varieties of Spanish.” *Proceedings of the International Congress of Phonetic Sciences, 2023* (2023): 1449-1453.

Service: Professor Henriksen has proven to be an outstanding citizen of the department, the college, the university, and the profession at large. One of the most striking aspects of his exceptional commitment to service is his recognition that this facet of his professional dedication is closely intertwined with his teaching and research endeavors. Indeed, his impact has been felt throughout his tenure at Michigan, where he served as an exceptional associate chair in Romance Languages and Literatures (RLL) from 2019 to 2023 and as a founding member of the RLL Gender Diversity Committee and is currently serving as the interim assistant chair in RLL.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A): “I would also like to make special mention of Dr. Henriksen's collaborations with his graduate and undergraduate students. This kind of collaboration is incredibly time-consuming for the faculty member, often at a cost to their own research productivity, but provides invaluable experience for the next generation of scholars. I noted that Dr. Henriksen's forthcoming paper in *Journal of Linguistic Geography* was co-authored with 10 students, including nine undergraduates. Dr. Henriksen's commitment to mentoring his students, including undergraduate students, in the research process through to publication is nothing short of astonishing.”

Reviewer (B): “...Professor Henriksen's contributions to the fields of Hispanic Linguistics, phonetics and phonology are profound and are reflected in his record of publications, presentations and service. He has published an edited volume, twenty articles in refereed journals, eight book chapters, eleven articles in refereed conference proceedings and five public essays. While in rank as an Associate Professor at the University of Michigan, he has produced six articles and has delivered eight competitive papers and eight invited talks at several prestigious venues. He also has a book in preparation with Equinox Press. Overall, I would consider the impact of Professor Henriksen's work to be praiseworthy.”

Reviewer (C): “It should be noted that, because Dr. Henriksen works at the vanguard of a small but important intersection of disciplines, he has published not only in the subfield at this intersection but has also made important contributions to each of the separate relevant fields of Spanish dialectology/sociophonetics and laboratory phonology/phonetics. Only a small handful of scholars have the breadth to negotiate the complexities at the intersection of these fields, as well as the depth to make real advances in each of the separate disciplines.”

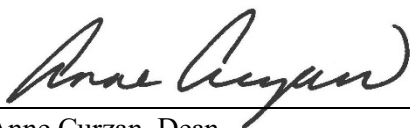
Reviewer (D): “...[Professor Henriksen] is one of the most accomplished researchers of his cohort in the field of experimental approaches to Spanish phonology and, in fact, one of the leading figures in this field.”

Reviewer (E): “The overall conclusion that I come to on reading his dossier is positive. His work is solid, significant, and would result in a promotion here. As a former department chair I have written a number of ‘promotion to full’ letters, and this looks like a ‘slam dunk’ case to me.”

Reviewer (F): “Dr. Henriksen’s overall standing in the discipline is very high. He is among the top researchers in the world in Spanish phonetics and phonology. His work, published in the most prestigious journals of our discipline (*Journal of Phonetics*, *Laboratory Phonology*, *Journal of the International Phonetic Association*, *Phonetica*, *Language and Speech*, *Probus*, *a.o.*), is at the forefront of the most innovative and interdisciplinary approaches in Spanish phonetics and phonology.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Henriksen has established a strong international scholarly reputation within the field. His leadership and service contributions are a testament to his unwavering generosity toward students, colleagues, and staff members. They also underscore his effective leadership and commitment to fostering a more diverse, inclusive, and welcoming environment for marginalized or less visible communities, making our academic community a better place for all. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Nicholas C. Henriksen be promoted to the rank of professor of Spanish, with tenure, and professor of linguistics, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



Anne Curzan, Dean
Geneva Smitherman Collegiate Professor of
English Language and Literature, Linguistics,
and Education
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor
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