

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

Joshua M. Pasek, associate professor of communication and media, with tenure, and associate professor of political science, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of communication and media, with tenure, and professor of political science, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2011	Stanford University
M.A.	2009	Stanford University
B.A.	2005	Pomona College, Claremont, CA

Professional Record:

2022-present	Distinguished Research Fellow, Annenberg Public Policy Center, University of Pennsylvania
2022-present	Associate Director, Michigan Institute for Data Science (MIDAS)
2020-present	Associate Professor, Political Science (by courtesy)
2020	Distinguished University Fellow in Institutions of Democracy, Annenberg Public Policy Center, University of Pennsylvania
2018-present	Associate Professor, Communication and Media
2016-present	Core Faculty, Michigan Institute for Data Science (MIDAS)
2014-present	Faculty Affiliate, Michigan Institute for Data Science (MIDAS)
2011-present	Faculty Affiliate, Center for Political Studies, Institute for Social Research
2011-2018	Assistant Professor, Communication and Media, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Pasek's teaching makes invaluable contributions to the department's graduate and undergraduate curricular needs in quantitative methods and political and science communication. He frequently experiments, tries new approaches, and overhauls the content of a course to respond to the current news, information, and technology. This dynamic approach led to a Provost Innovation Prize in 2022 for a redesign of COMM 467: Debating Politics and Science. He is also a generous and rigorous mentor to undergraduate and graduate students. The two students whose dissertations he has chaired are both currently assistant professors in tenure track positions.

Research: Professor Pasek is a world-leading scholar of political opinion, political information, and novel methodologies in survey research. He has an h-index of 36, with seventeen of his publications having over 100 citations. Two of his statistical packages written for the R environment have been cumulatively downloaded nearly a million and a half times. His research focuses chiefly on understanding how citizens in a democracy make informed decisions based on political information. He investigates how people receive political information, how they process the information they receive, including relative to pre-existing beliefs and biases, and how to best measure people's political attitudes and beliefs. Several of his papers deal directly

with racial and partisan bias and in this contribute to broader goals linked to equity and diverse experiences. He has also been successful at garnering sizable grants from the NSF and the Russell Sage Foundation.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Annenberg Institutions of Democracy Collaboration. (2023). Democracy Amid Crises: Polarization, Pandemic, Protests, and Persuasion. Oxford University Press.

Chinn, S., and Pasek, J. (2021). Some deficits and some misperceptions: Linking partisanship with climate change cognitions. *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*, 33(2), 235-254.

Jefferson, H. J., Neuner, F. G., and Pasek, J. (2021). Seeing blue in black and white: Race and perceptions of officer-involved shootings. *Perspectives on Politics*, 19(4), 1165-1183.

Pasek, J., McClain, C., Newport, F., and Marken, S. (2020). Who's tweeting about the president? What big survey data can tell us about digital traces. *Social Science Computer Review*, 38(5), 633-650.

Service: Professor Pasek's leadership record is notable for someone at his career stage. He has had a range of leadership roles in his fields of study and has done considerable service for the university, including as the associate director of MIDAS and on the faculty senate. He was part of the search committee for the university's vice president of communications and serves on the communication advisory committee and the library council. He freely shares open-source software that is globally recognized and used for analyzing survey data within the R statistical environment. Finally, he does significant outreach with major media outlets and popular publication venues in which he shares his results and engages in key public conversations. He has worked directly with journalists at the *Washington Post* to provide analysis of people's comments in the 2018 election cycle and expanded that work for the 2020 election cycle with CNN.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A): "If I had a world-changing project and had to pick a dozen of the 'very best and brightest' communication scholars internationally who are currently doing survey research to carry out the work with me, Pasek would be in that group."

Reviewer (B): "[Professor Pasek] is best understood as a team-oriented scholar who works within a broad network of collaborators, contributing in many ways at once. My sense is that without [his] participation many of the projects he has worked on would not have existed."

Reviewer (C): "The field of political communication is fortunate to have a number of outstanding scholars that are roughly in Pasek's cohort. While individual comparisons are difficult, with each having their own strength, I have no hesitation in placing him among the best of this impressive group."

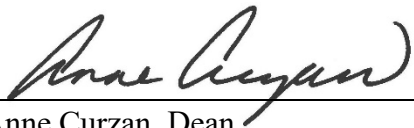
Reviewer (D): "If [Professor Pasek] was a rising star when being considered for tenure, he is now an established one."

Reviewer (E): “Quite a few of [Professor Pasek’s] studies compare two or more theoretical ideas to assess whether evidence supports one side more than others. This is a sophisticate [sic] approach, both in deriving the theoretical differences and in creating studies that allow for meaningful comparisons. The results of this work add to our theoretical understanding beyond the unique circumstances investigated in any individual article.”

Reviewer (F): “Reviewing his body of work makes clear how substantial Dr. Pasek’s contributions have been to our knowledge of how people encounter media and the effects of their information processing on political attitudes.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Pasek has maintained a collaborative, high-quality, and influential program of research investigating political opinion. He approaches instruction with enthusiasm and dynamic experimentation, which includes the desire to bring real life political and social issues into the classroom. Professor Pasek’s service and leadership have been significant at the university and in his fields. His scholarly record is consistently excellent. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Joshua M. Pasek be promoted to the rank of professor of communication and media, with tenure, and professor of political science, without 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

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