

The University of Michigan Regents Communication

Request for Action

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Vincenzo A. Binetti, Ph.D., professor of Italian in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on May 24, 2026.

Professor Binetti received his laurea degree from Università degli Studi di Firenze in 1984, his M.A. from the University of British Columbia in 1990, and his Ph.D. from Harvard University in 1994. He was appointed assistant professor at the University of Chicago in 1994 before joining the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1998. He was promoted to associate professor in 2001, and professor in 2009.

Professor Binetti is a preeminent scholar of nineteenth- and twentieth-century Italian literature, cultural studies, and literature's intersections with philosophy and political theory, with expertise in radical movements, migration, citizenship, and globalization. His first book, *Cesare Pavese: una vita imperfetta. La crisi dell'intellettuale nell'Italia del dopoguerra* (1998), offered a landmark reinterpretation of Pavese and the postwar intellectual, redefining debates about engagement, myth, and national identity in modern Italian culture. He followed this with *Città nomadi. Esodo e autonomia nella metropoli contemporanea* (2008), a pioneering study of urban space and autonomy in the global metropolis, and *Scritture minori. Letteratura, linguaggio politico e pratiche di resistenza* (2021), a touchstone for thinking about minor literature, political language, and resistance. His translations of Giorgio Agamben's *Means without End* and Roberto Esposito's *The Origin of Politics* have helped bring Italian political thought and reflections on radicalism to an international readership. Across dozens of articles and book chapters on Pavese, Calvino, Balestrini, Levi, Mediterranean and migrant writing, and the "Global South," he has shown how literary and cinematic texts rethink borders, urban space, and political subjectivity. He has taught a wide range of undergraduate and graduate courses on Italian literature, film, cultural and migration studies, and theories of citizenship, and is regarded as a rigorous, inspiring, and generous teacher. Within the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, he has served as chair, associate chair, graduate chair, Italian section head, and on numerous academic and administrative committees. He also made significant contributions to the profession, including through the Center for European Studies and international editorial and scientific boards. He was a dedicated mentor to a generation of undergraduate and graduate students in Italian.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Vincenzo A. Binetti, professor emeritus of Italian.**

Requested by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Kinsey', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jon Kinsey

Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2026