

The University of Michigan Regents Communication

Request for Action

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Paolo Squatriti, Ph.D., professor of history, professor of romance languages and literatures, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and professor of program in the environment, School for Environment and Sustainability, retired from active faculty status on May 24, 2026.

Professor Squatriti received a Ph.D. in medieval history from the University of Virginia in 1990. He joined the University of Michigan as an assistant professor in 1999. He was promoted to associate professor in 2002 and was made professor in 2013.

Professor Squatriti is a foremost scholar of medieval Italian history, the history of technology, socioeconomic and cultural history, agrarian history, and the environmental history of premodern Europe. His groundbreaking first monograph, *Water and Society in Early Medieval Italy, AD 400-1000* (1998), focused on the dialectical relationship between people and water, highlighting continuities and discontinuities in the management of this vital natural resource. He is author of *Landscape and Change in Early Medieval Italy: Chestnuts, Economy, and Culture* (2013), which shed light on the evolving character of the symbiotic relationship between humans and the chestnut tree, and *Weeds and the Carolingians: Nature, Culture, and Empire in Frankish Europe, AD 750-900* (2022). He also edited two volumes, *Working with Water in Medieval Europe: Technology and Resource Use* (2000), and *Natures Past: The Environment and Human History* (2007). As his oeuvre makes clear, Professor Squatriti was a pioneer in the historical study of the relationship between humans and the non-human world. He was an outstanding teacher of undergraduate and graduate courses in medieval European history, Italian history, and environmental history, a dedicated mentor to multiple generations of undergraduate and graduate students, and an exceptional contributor to service at the University of Michigan. An American Association of Italian Studies Book Award (for *Landscape and Change*), a Guggenheim Fellowship (2017), and two American Council of Learned Societies Fellowships (2000 & 2017), attest to Professor Squatriti's high standing in the international scholarly community.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Paolo Squatriti, professor emeritus of history, professor emeritus of romance languages and literatures, and professor emeritus of program in the environment.**

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