

The University of Michigan Regents Communication

Request for Action

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

George Steinmetz, Ph.D., Charles H. Tilly Collegiate Professor of Sociology and Germanic Languages and Literatures and professor of sociology in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on May 24, 2026.

Professor Steinmetz received his bachelor's degree from Reed College (1979) and his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison (1987). He joined the University of Michigan in 1997 after being on the faculty of the University of Chicago from 1987 to 1997.

Professor Steinmetz established himself as one of the world's most prominent political and historical sociologists. He is the author of three innovative and internationally acclaimed books, whose impact extends far beyond his discipline. He has edited and co-edited five volumes, two of them have become foundational in multiple fields, on topics ranging from social theory, to epistemology, to theories of state and culture. And he has authored about 160 articles and book chapters in English, French, and German, some of which have been translated to Albanian, Chinese, Italian, Portuguese, and Russian. Among these publications are cornerstone contributions to political theory, social theory, studies of empire and coloniality, theory of history, theories of states, and the history of social sciences. Professor Steinmetz is one the key figures in sociology's cultural turn, and his standing in the field is evident in numerous recent articles and interviews dedicated to his career. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including the prestigious Lewis A. Coser Award for Theoretical Agenda Setting in Sociology and the Siegfried Landshut Prize from the Hamburg Institute for Social Research. He has been central to formulating what we can refer to as the Michigan approach to historical sociology—a theoretical move away from defining stable laws and rules that supposedly govern social and historical dynamics, and toward analyzing processes in their intricacies, contingencies, and ever-changing complexity.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **George Steinmetz, ., Charles H. Tilly Collegiate Professor Emeritus of Sociology and Germanic Languages and Literatures and professor emeritus of sociology.**

Requested by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Kinsey', with a stylized, cursive script.

Jon Kinsey
Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2026