

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

David A. Miller, assistant professor of economics, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of economics, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2004	Stanford University
A.B.	1995	Harvard University

Professional Record:

2013 – present	Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, University of Michigan
2012 – 2013	Visiting Researcher, Microsoft Research Center
2008 – 2009	Visiting Professor, Department of Economics, Yale University
2004 – 2013	Assistant Professor, Department of Economics, University of California, San Diego

Summary of Evaluation

Teaching – Professor Miller is a serious, committed, and successful teacher, who is dedicated to improving his teaching and incorporating innovative uses of instructional technology. He is a valued mentor and advisor, and has shown great success in identifying and nurturing students with untapped potential. Student evaluations of his courses have typically matched or exceeded those of previous teachers. At the graduate level, he has taught Economics 602, 604, and 620, and he excels at that level with the majority of his student evaluations in the upper quartile. Professor Miller has also been an active advisor of doctoral students in economic theory at Michigan.

Research – Professor Miller is a game theorist with a particular focus in the area of repeated games. This work engages important questions about how to sustain cooperation and achieve efficient outcomes in situations where there are repeated interactions among self-interested actors. Professor Miller has established an impressive record of placing high-quality pieces in top journals. He is a pioneer in the area of dynamic mechanism design, an area of burgeoning research activity with much of it verging on pure mathematics. His work is technically sophisticated but has economic content and relates to real world phenomena. Professor Miller is currently working on several new projects, including a promising new paper that examines the interaction between external enforcement and informal incentives in long-term relationships. He is also drafting papers on long-term employer-employee relationships and on multilateral enforcement in networks.

Recent and Significant Publications

“Ostracism and forgiveness,” with S. N. Ali, *American Economic Review*, 106(8), 2016, pp. 2329–248.

“Wasteful sanctions, underperformance, and endogenous supervision,” with K. Rozen, *American Economic Journal: Microeconomics*, 6(4): 2014, pp. 326–361.

“A theory of disagreement in repeated games with bargaining,” with J. Watson, *Econometrica*, 81(6), 2013, pp. 2303–2350.

“Robust collusion with private information,” *Review of Economic Studies*, 79(2), 2012, pp. 778–811.

Service – Professor Miller has had a strong service record. He was elected to serve a full two-year term on the departmental Executive Committee, where he has been a conscientious and active member. He also worked with vigor on departmental recruiting efforts to enhance the standing of its theory group. Lastly, he headed the department’s Computer Committee and assumed responsibilities in the graduate examination process and in organizing seminars.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A)

“Miller’s work is excellent, and I would even say that the paper on ostracism...among the best papers I have read recently: a clever formalization of a simple idea with a link to real world phenomena.”

Reviewer (B)

“Professor Miller is a highly accomplished game theorist who easily navigates between the pure and applied end of the game theory spectrum. I have no hesitation strongly endorsing his promotion. In my view he comfortably exceeds any reasonable standard for promotion at a top ten department and he would be a serious candidate for promotion at my own.”

Reviewer (C)

“Professor Miller has published some fine papers. In particular, the work on ex post incentive constraints in repeated games (...in *Theoretical Economics* and a sole-authored paper in *Review of Economic Studies*) as well as the paper on contractual equilibria (...in *Econometrica*) are truly first rate contributions.”

Reviewer (D)

“David is a fine researcher [in his cohort] who has worked on many interesting issues in the area of repeated games. The work is of high quality...”

Reviewer (E)

“I think that David Miler should be promoted to tenure at this time if, as I expect, his teaching and department citizenship are well above average. He has interesting ideas and is not afraid to tackle hard problems.”

Reviewer (F)

“David is a talented and careful economic theorist who is steadily conducting research of high quality. He has recently published several papers in top journals...now his vita more accurately reflects the high-quality research that he has been producing for some time. ... I recommend that you promote David to the rank of associate professor with tenure.”

Reviewer (G)

“...David is an engaged and productive scholar working on interesting topics and breaking some new ground. I support his promotion to tenure.”

Reviewer (H)

“...[Professor] Miller has made important scientific contributions to enhance our understanding about how economic agents cooperate, and I would support his promotion.”

Summary Recommendation:

Professor Miller has established a national reputation as a scholar working in the economic theory of infinitively repeated games. He has delivered excellent undergraduate and graduate classes while mentoring Ph.D. students. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor David A. Miller be promoted to the rank to associate professor of economics, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



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Andrew D. Martin, Dean  
Professor of Political Science and Statistics  
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

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