

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

Hitomi Tonomura, associate professor of history, with tenure, and associate professor of women's studies, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of history, with tenure, and professor of women's studies, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D. 1986	Stanford University
M.A. 1979	University of Oregon

Professional Record:

2000 – present	Associate Professor, Women's Studies Program, University of Michigan
2000 – 2003	Associate Professor, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, University of Michigan
2000 – 2002	Director, Center for Japanese Studies, University of Michigan
1995 – 1999	Director, Center for Japanese Studies, University of Michigan
1993 – present	Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Michigan
1986 – 1993	Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Serving as the Department's specialist in Japanese history before 1800, Professor Tonomura has responsibility for courses in this field at all levels, as well as for supervising all graduate students who have a primary or secondary interest in the field. She has shown considerable creativity in developing a range of topical courses on alluring subjects, from Japanese "myths" about sex and violence to the vibrant world of the samurai. Drawing on a diverse array of media sources, from popular films to Japanese animé, she connects the modern culture students to premodern concepts and practices.

Research – Professor Tonomura has established herself as a leading historian of medieval and early modern Japan. Her scholarship is marked by breadth and imagination, innovative use of theory, rigorous analysis, and remarkable erudition. Since her promotion to associate professor in 1993, she has published ten articles or chapters and eight shorter essays in a variety of venues. She co-edited *Women and Class in Japanese History* (1999), a groundbreaking collection of essays in which she co-authored the introduction and contributed a bibliographic essay on the historiography of premodern Japanese women. She tackles conceptually and historically elusive topics, treats them with a broad chronological sweep, displays a sure critical sense, and takes a fully interdisciplinary approach.

Recent and Significant Publications:

"Birth-giving and avoidance taboo: Women's body versus the historiography of *Ubuya* (parturition hut)," *The Journal of Women's History*, forthcoming.

“Coercive sex in the Medieval Japanese court: Lady Nijō’s memoir,” *Monumenta Nipponica*, 61(3), 2006, pp. 283-338.

“Black hair and red trousers: Gendering the flesh in Medieval Japan,” *American Historical Review*, 99(1), 1994, pp. 129-154.

*Community and Commerce in Late Medieval Japan: The Corporate Villages of Tokuchin-ho*, Stanford University Press, 1992.

Service – Professor Tonomura’s record of service has been nothing short of extraordinary. She has spent six of the thirteen years since her promotion to associate professor directing the Center for Japanese Studies. Currently, she is serving as director of their Publication Program and director of Graduate Studies. She has served on University-wide committees, including the Barbour Fellowships Review Committee and the Institute for the Humanities Graduate Student Fellowships Review Committee. Professor Tonomura has also emerged as a leader in her profession, organizing three major conferences, serving on the editorial boards of four of the most prestigious journals in her fields, and serving as a member of numerous national and international boards and committees.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A)

“The author’s first book, *Community and Commerce*...was an important contribution to the field, since it was one of the first works on medieval Japan, at least in English, to utilize a social historical perspective. Tomi’s article, “Black Hair and Red Trousers,” was also pathbreaking (and widely read) for its innovative discussion of gender and sexuality.”

Reviewer (B)

“She is a prolific scholar whose creative research impact is felt well beyond her original field of research in medieval Japanese institutional history. ...both the History Department and the Program in Women’s studies [sic] at Michigan is fortunate to have Hitomi Tonomura as a stimulating...scholar and re-shaper of several fields of research.”

Reviewer (C)

“She is the pre-eminent scholar studying women and gender during Japan’s ancient and medieval periods (700-1700), and one of the leading feminist historians for all Japanese history.”

Reviewer (D)

“...Tomi has garnered virtually every fellowship available to historians of Japan (Japan Foundation, ACLS, Fulbright-Hays, SSRC, and more) and several of them several times. ...her fine article “Black Hair and Red Trousers,”...won the even more prestigious Berkshire Prize.”

Reviewer (E)

“She is a genuine asset to the field, shows every indication of continuing to be so, and will, I am certain, do Michigan proud for the rest of her career. Tonomura’s scholarship is first-rate: rigorously researched, solidly and cogently analyzed, eminently readable, and centered on topics of keystone importance to her field. She would rank close to the top of any list of historians of gender and sexuality in premodern Japan, and is, without a doubt, the premier authority on this field outside Japan.”

Reviewer (F)

"...*The Samurai and Their Women*...shows all signs of becoming an important, well-received book of both wide scope and careful scholarship... Tonomura's scholarly output over the past ten years has been prolific as well as varied and interesting."

Reviewer (G)

"She is acknowledged to be one of the top five historians of medieval Japan as well as one of the top five historians of Japanese gender and sexuality (including the modern era) currently teaching in the United States."

Reviewer (H)

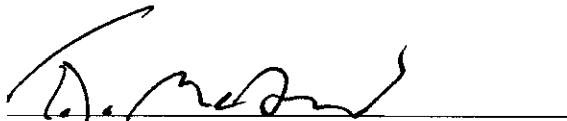
"Her publications...have greatly enriched our understanding of the contours and dynamics of medieval society and would find a place, I believe, on any list of the most important recent works on premodern Japanese history."

Reviewer (I)

"...there is, to my mind, no other historian of Japan in the western world who has thought and written as originally and provocatively, as has Professor Tonomura, in the areas of gender and history in medieval Japan."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Tonomura has established herself as a leading historian of premodern Japan. She is a strong teacher and has an outstanding record of service. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Hitomi Tonomura be promoted to the rank of professor of history, with tenure, and professor of women's studies, without tenure, in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



Terrence J. McDonald  
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor,  
Professor of History, and Dean  
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

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