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

Jesse E. Hoffnung-Garskof, assistant professor of history, and assistant professor of American culture, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of history, with tenure, and associate professor of American culture, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:
Ph.D. 2002 Princeton University
A.M. 1993 Harvard University
A.B. 1993 Harvard University

Professional Record:
2002 – present Assistant Professor, Department of History and the Program in American Culture, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluations:
Teaching – Professor Hoffnung-Garskof has compiled a remarkable teaching record. His dedication, high standards, and imagination have drawn praise from students and faculty. His innovative use of technology to enable students’ active intellectual engagement is especially notable. Students appreciate his service in large lecture courses, in first-year seminars, and in the Department of History’s honors program where he demonstrates that he is a teacher who has the ability to reach and inspire students at all levels.

Research – Professor Hoffnung-Garskof came to Michigan as a published scholar with his path-breaking article, “The Migrations of Arturo Schomburg: On Being Antillano, Negro, and Puerto Rican in New York, 1891-1917” (Journal of American Ethnic History, 2001). He has since published two essays and his monograph, A Tale of Two Cities: Santo Domingo and New York after 1950, is forthcoming from Princeton University Press. As much as, if not more than, anyone else working on the late twentieth century, Professor Hoffnung-Garskof has met the promise of truly transnational historical scholarship. At the same time, this work has an influence in immigration history, ethnic history, cultural history, and the urban history of the United States and the Dominican Republic.

Recent and Significant Publications:


Service – In the Program in American Culture, Professor Hoffnung-Garskof has served on three search committees, been a commentator for three Manuscript Writing Workshops, was an active participant in their external review, and led the effort to organize a major conference. He is also a core member of the Program in Latina/o Studies. He has made equally important contributions to the Department of History, chairing the committee that reviewed the use of technology in the curriculum and drafting the proposal for a major set of innovations related to technology and history instruction. He served as a concentration advisor and chaired the Honors Program.

External Reviews:
Reviewer (A)
“He wrote...a breathtaking book that will be a historiographic landmark in this emerging field. ...this is a pioneering book. I have no doubt that it will immediately be greeted with praise and a great deal of attention, to be held up as a model for a field that needs more exemplars of good, solid, archively-based research, with a narrative informed but not driven by theories of modern social change.”

Reviewer (B)
“...I am highly impressed by the historical and theoretical range of that work... the candidate is fully abreast of the latest theoretical work on transnational cultural flows and national identities. He has also given himself over to demanding work in ethnography and community history, which makes for a very rich and innovative text.”

Reviewer (C)
“...Hoffnung-Garskof’s combination of judicious synthesis and meticulous primary research has produced a study that I believe will soon become a model of what regional transnational work can and should be. ... I think this book represents a major, mature scholarly achievement that is all the more impressive given that it is the author’s first monograph.”

Reviewer (D)
“It is in the analysis of the discourses generated around these words and concepts that we see the circular conversation on nation at its most vibrant.”

Reviewer (E)
“The book is a tour-de-force that will contribute not only to the fields of Caribbean and U.S. Latino history but also to migration, colonial, and transnational studies more generally. ... He has given us a highly sophisticated and deeply nuanced analysis... His scholarship is conceptually innovative, rigorously researched, and persuasively argued.”
Reviewer (F)
“A Tale of Two Cities, in many ways, is actually three scholarly projects wrapped into one: 1) an outstanding history of Santo Domingo and the Dominican Republic living under U.S. imperialism in the latter half of the twentieth century; 2) a path-breaking study of the migration and settlement of Dominicans into New York City, and especially Washington Heights, during the intense period of deindustrialization in the city itself; and 3) an innovative look at the economic and cultural exchange between these two populations…”

Reviewer (G)
“...I was delighted to encounter in his *A Tale of Two Cities* a sophisticated and model-like example of what many have begun to call ‘transnational’ history. The book expertly connects not just ‘two cities’—Santo Domingo and New York—but two complex political-cultural systems as they interact and shape one another over half a century.”

Reviewer (H)
“...A Tale of Two Cities is a remarkable, well-written, rigorously documented, and engagingly argued study…”

Summary of Recommendation:
Professor Hoffnung-Garskof is a notable scholar and an innovative and successful teacher who has a fine record of service. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Jesse E. Hoffnung-Garskof be promoted to the rank of associate professor of history, with tenure, and associate professor of American culture, with tenure, in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

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

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