PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan-Dearborn
College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters
Department of Social Sciences

Joe H. Lunn, associate professor of history, with tenure, Department of Social Sciences, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, is recommended for promotion to professor of history, with tenure, Department of Social Sciences, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D. 1993 University of Wisconsin
M.A. 1980 University of Oklahoma
B.A. 1973 University of Oklahoma

Professional Record:

2000 - present Associate Professor of History, University of Michigan-Dearborn
1993 - 2000 Assistant Professor of History, University of Michigan-Dearborn
1990, 1998 Adjunct Lecturer, University of Maryland (European Division), Cambridge, England
1989 Adjunct Lecturer, Troy State University (European Division), Cambridge, England

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Lunn is rated excellent in teaching. His teaching evaluations indicate that students find him knowledgeable, organized and articulate. Over the years, he has honed his teaching style, and his evaluations have grown stronger over time. Professor Lunn has also taught a wide range of subjects, from African history to an Honors tutorial on World War II through film. His field of expertise includes a very popular course on World War I and he regularly teaches a modern European survey course using diverse texts. He has taught a wide variety of courses in the Honors Program, the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies Program, the African-American Studies Program and the First Year Seminar Program. Professor Lunn’s scores on student evaluations are consistently well above 4 on a 5 point scale, where 5 is highest score possible. Members of the Social Science Department who have observed him teaching and reviewed his materials have found him to be an engaged and engaging teacher, and note that he “skillfully involve[s] all... students in their own learning.”

Research: Professor Lunn’s research is rated excellent. His scholarship remains exciting and outstanding. His innovative work with Senegalese veterans of World War I seems to be on its way to becoming a classic and reviewers have profusely praised it. His work is thoroughly interdisciplinary, crossing social and cultural boundaries with grace and a meticulous concern for detail. “Joe Lunn is one of the leading historians of Africa of his generation,” one reviewer declared. Professor Lunn’s research has been recognized by his colleagues with his receipt of the Distinguished Research Award, University of Michigan-Dearborn in 2006. He has also won the Alfred Heggoy Prize (Best Book), French Colonial Historical Society in 2000. Reviewers anticipate with eagerness his anthology of Senegalese oral histories. Along with numerous paper
presentations, he has published seven articles and book chapters. He continues to be an enthusiastic and wide-ranging scholar.

Recent and Significant Publications:


Service: Professor Lunn’s service is rated excellent and matches his energetic work in teaching and scholarship. He has served at every level, from departmental to University committees, showing particular interest to further the University’s goals for diversity. One of the expectations in CASL is that tenured professors will greatly increase their service to the profession as they progress toward the rank of professor. Professor Lunn has made outstanding progress in this regard, serving as an outside evaluator on promotion and tenure cases for more junior historians, reviewing manuscripts and serving on prize committees.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: “[Lunn] has done a tremendous service to both Africanist scholarship and the people of Senegal in preserving their stories for they are largely absent from official French histories of the war. [H]e has produced a steady stream of first rate journal articles and book chapters relating to French imperialism, African military service, the First World War, and the theory and practice of oral history.”

Reviewer B: “[T]he interview materials that provide the documentation of African experience in Lunn’s book are exceptional for the depth of information they contain, which is a testament to Professor Lunn’s careful methodology and his abilities as a field researcher… Joe Lunn’s publications place him with the finest historians working on the history of French colonial rule in West Africa.”

Reviewer C: “… having cut into his subject in depth, what he is now also doing is exploring its width. Lunn’s research is therefore genuinely interdisciplinary and increasingly comparative. He seems to be focused on a single theme (and in terms of material he is), but he is exploring that theme by the use of different methodologies, and by exploiting the insights of colonial, social, gender, racial and military history… As other scholars move to fill the gap in our
knowledge of other non-European soldiers, they will inevitably use Lunn as an exemplar and pioneer in the field.”

Reviewer D:  “Professor Lunn has accomplished that most difficult of tasks: forcing scholars to reassess what they thought they knew. Put simply, he has not only widened, but also fundamentally changed the framework of the specialist debates in his areas of research... Joe Lunn’s work ranks alongside the most original and exciting work currently being done by scholars of ‘new imperial history’.”

Reviewer E:  “Joe Lunn’s research already has contributed significantly to the renewal and enrichment of the study of African history which has been underway for the last two decades. Joe Lunn is one of the leading historians of Africa of his generation.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Lunn is rated excellent in each of the three categories – teaching, scholarship and service, and he is a much valued colleague within his department and the College. His zeal, passion and collegiality shine through in every area of his professional life. We are pleased to recommend, with strong support of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters Executive Committee, Joe H. Lunn for promotion to professor of history, with tenure, Department of Social Sciences, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.

Kathryn Anderson-Levitt  
Dean  
College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters

Daniel Little  
Chancellor  
University of Michigan-Dearborn

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