

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
School of Natural Resources and Environment

Approved by the Regents
May 14, 2009

Rebecca D. Hardin, assistant professor of natural resources, School of Natural Resources and Environment, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of natural resources, with tenure, School of Natural Resources and Environment [also assistant professor of anthropology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts].

Academic Degrees:

| | | |
|-----------------------------|------|--|
| Ph.D. | 2000 | Anthropology, Yale University, New Haven, CT |
| M.A. | 1994 | Anthropology, Yale University, New Haven, CT |
| B.A. <i>magna cum laude</i> | 1988 | Literary and Social Theory, Brown University, Providence, RI |

Professional Record:

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 2003–present | Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and the School of Natural Resources and Environment, University of Michigan |
| 2002–2003 | Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology and McGill School of Environment, Faculty of Arts, McGill University. |
| Spring 2001, 2002 2000–2001 | Visiting Professor, Science Politique, Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne Lecturer, Department of Anthropology, Yale University |

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Hardin's undergraduate and graduate teaching, exemplified by several cross-listed courses, establishes a critical link between Anthropology and SNRE. She has offered Culture, Adaptation and Environment (Environ/Anthrcult 256) four times and is also co-teaching the Interdisciplinary Global Change course (Environ 111/Geo 111) with several others. Her course offerings are particularly noteworthy for the number and diversity of the seminars she has developed; students' appreciation of these is evident in the upper-quartile CRLT ratings. She won a CRLT grant (\$8000, 2005) to develop a new interdisciplinary curriculum in environmental anthropology in SNRE. Professor Hardin makes significant contributions to mentoring. In SNRE, she is an advisor or co-advisor for eight doctoral students (including one who completed) and a member for six others, as well as directing a master's thesis. In Anthropology, she co-chairs two doctoral committees, and has directed three undergraduate honors theses. She serves on three additional doctoral committees in other departments and has served as an external advisor to five graduate students at other universities. Her mentoring is extraordinary not only in quantity, but also in the high praise the students have for her commitment, generosity, and skillful advising.

Research: Professor Hardin is an active grant-getter (averaging one to two grants a year) for research, teaching, and conference organizing. Her publications include one sole-authored book manuscript (accepted at the University of California Press at Berkeley), four sole- and co-authored articles in peer-reviewed journals; one co-edited collection of essays; eight sole- and co-authored chapters; and six sole- and co-authored reports and working papers. Her work under review includes two edited collections (one sole, the other as first editor), three co-authored articles, and four co-authored chapters, with substantial work in preparation. Professor Hardin's

research, based in central Africa, has broad theoretical relevance. She is recognized as one of the leading scholars of her generation in environmental anthropology. Her work *Concessionary Politics: Environmental Identities, Resources and Rivalries in Africa*, based on long-term ethnographic and archival fieldwork since the mid-1990s in the Central African Republic (CAR), is most valued for insights into political ecology. Professor Hardin's main theoretical contribution to anthropology and environmental studies is her argument that nature reserves are the long-time outcome of "concessionary politics," originating in political-economic-ecological organizations for commercially exploiting natural resources and now for studying and conserving them. Derived from French royal concessions of imperial lands in the 1700s, they were transformed during colonization to persist in postcolonial enterprises ranging from international timber companies to NGOs, research organizations, nature reserves, and local start-up businesses. Professor Hardin tests her model for reserves in CAR using a comparative perspective of timber concessions in Congo-Brazzaville and platinum mining in Royal Bafokeng Nation (Republic of South Africa). In her current work, she examines questions about governance of natural resources under condition of environmental and social change, notably her co-authored paper in *Science* on governance in forestry worldwide, and her papers on ethnicity and contemporary elites in the governance of natural resources in central and southern Africa. Furthermore, her work is also contributing insights into a range of other fields, unusually broad for a junior person, including: work on human-animal relations crossing the subfields of social-cultural and biological anthropology; collaborative work linking issues in political ecology and medical anthropology; and analytical work on fieldwork methodologies.

Recent and Significant Publications:

- n.d. Hardin, R. *Concessionary Politics: Environmental Identities, Resources and Rivalries in Africa*. Book manuscript accepted for publication by countersigned contract (3/26/08), University of California Press, Berkeley.
2008. Hardin, R. "Toward an Ethic of Intimacy: Touring and Trophy Hunting for Elephants in Africa." In *Elephants and Ethics: Towards a Morality of Coexistence*, eds. C. Wemmer and C. A. Christensen, 419-70. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.
2008. Agrawal, A., Chhatre, A., and Hardin, R.. "Changing Governance of World Forests." *Science*, 320 (5882): 1460-462.
2007. Remis, M. J., and Hardin, R.. "Anthropological Contributions to Protected Area Management." In *Transforming Parks and Protected Areas: Policy and Governance in a Changing World*, eds. K. S. Hanna, D. A. Clark, and D. S. Slocombe, 85-109. London: Routledge.
2006. Hardin, R., and Remis, M. J.. "Biological and Cultural Anthropology in a Changing Tropical Forest: A Fruitful Collaboration." *American Anthropologist* 108(2): 273-85.

Service: Professor Hardin's colleagues in Anthropology and SNRE value her willing and able service. In SNRE she has been a core member of the Environmental Justice field of study; she also initiated and finalized a proposal to Rackham and to the Graham Institute for an interdisciplinary graduate certificate program in international environmental justice. In Anthropology, she served on the Executive Committee (2006-2007) and in student recruitment for the joint Ph.D. Program in Anthropology and History. With her election to the Senate Assembly of LS&A in September 2008, Professor Hardin has expanded her service to the university. She has organized innovative workshops and symposia on campus and elsewhere.

One of these, “Corporate lives: New perspectives on the corporate social form,” held at Santa Fe last year, was a first-time partnership between the Wenner Gren Foundation for Anthropological Research, and School for Advanced Research. She also serves on the editorial advisory board of the book series “New Frontiers in Historical Ecology” at Left Coast Press (integrating disciplinary and professional scholarship), as well as doing reviews for publishers and granting organizations. She is active as an outside consultant for organizations including Conservation International, World Wildlife Fund, and the U.S. Department of State.

External Reviews:

Reviewer A: “I consider Rebecca Hardin to be at the forefront of a new group of ecological anthropologists.”

Reviewer B: “While maintaining her disciplinary strength as a broadly trained cultural anthropologist, Professor Hardin is attempting to build connections with other perspectives including biological anthropology/ecology, environmental studies, public health/medical anthropology, and . . . an anthropology of corporate actors.”

Reviewer C: “[Hardin’s] concept of the concession, its politics and cultural logic, was for me one of those relatively rare ideas that change the way we see reality. . . . This was not derivative research; it represented a ‘clean break’ with previous thinking about zones of conservation and natural resource exploitation.”

Reviewer D: “In providing the first ethnography of concessions, the forthcoming book argues against the notion of concessions as an imposed foreign concept in Africa, and locates the encounters among Africans and others at the core of powerful precedents for forest management. This is going to alter how debates on both politics and recourse management need to be framed.”

Reviewer E: “Her work both on wildlife, and on viral diseases, engages anthropology with ‘hot’ interdisciplinary debates around conservation and epidemic control. This is truly anthropology on the frontline.”

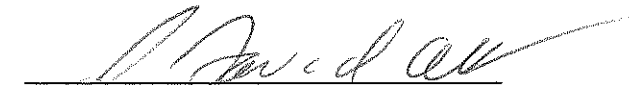
Reviewer F: “In anthropology and in environmental social science at large, as in most academic fields, each generation of scholars is characterized by only a handful of individuals who contribute large new ideas. Prof. Hardin is one of that handful for her generation.”

Reviewer G: “Her innovative work integrating ethnographic, oral historical and archival research on concessionary politics across multiple scales and settings has crystallized in the in press book manuscript ‘Concessionary Politics’.”


Reviewer H: “Her teaching and research is absolutely necessary for training the coming generations of NR practitioners and professors.”

Reviewer I: “Professor Hardin’s book manuscript, Concessionary Politics . . . represents a very ambitious intellectual project. . . . This work, combined with the ambitious and wide-ranging volume of other writings that Dr. Hardin currently has in press or in preparation leads me to believe that she will be a highly influential figure in the field in the future.”

Summary of Recommendation: Based on the breadth and originality of her work and her capacity to work across disciplinary boundaries in her research, teaching, and service, Rebecca Hardin is regarded as one of the most promising scholars of her generation working in Anthropology and Environmental Studies. I recommend the promotion of Rebecca Hardin to associate professor of natural resources, with tenure, School of Natural Resources and Environment.



J. David Allan
Acting Dean
School of Natural Resources and Environment



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

May 2009