

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

Pamela Ballinger, associate professor of history, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of history, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1999	Johns Hopkins University
M.A.	1994	Johns Hopkins University
M.A.	1991	Trinity College, Cambridge
B.A.	1990	Stanford University

Professional Record:

2011 - present	Fred Cuny Professor of the History of Human Rights, Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Michigan
2004 – 2011	Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, Bowdoin College
1998 – 2004	Assistant Professor Department of Anthropology, Bowdoin College

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Ballinger makes invaluable contributions to the Department of History through her teaching. She teaches from her specialty onto a wider canvass, most notably in her lecture course on the history of human rights, a broadly conceived class drawing students from diverse social scientific and humanistic backgrounds. Professor Ballinger is distinguished most of all by a superlative ability to engage students in relatively small classes. These include seminars on Mediterranean history, Italian fascism, seaside tourism, and anthropological theory. She is truly at home as an instructor of the Honors seminar, which prepares students for the research and writing of their theses. At the graduate level, she teaches brilliantly across the disciplines of history and anthropology. Unfailingly generous with her time, she is an outstanding mentor for undergraduate and graduate students alike. She brings interdisciplinary scholarship directly into the classroom, motivating undergraduate students out of their comfort zones.

Research – Professor Ballinger is an outstanding historian of migration, displacement, and refugees, with a particular focus on the Italian-Balkan borderlands during the second half of the 20th century. She approaches these subjects with larger questions of national identification, citizenship, and collective memory in mind. Occupying the first-ever U.S. chair in the history of human rights, she also grounds the study of human rights with great originality in the histories of particular times and places. Trained and making her early career in anthropology, Professor Ballinger can be seen as both historical anthropologist and a historian or ethnographer of uprootedness and migrancy. She is a true boundary-crosser, equally at home in both disciplines. Her first book, History in Exile, was an acknowledged tour de force of anthropologically informed historical analysis and historically grounded ethnography. Her second book, Forgotten Memories, will further confirm the impact of her remarkable corpus of articles. Her next major project on seascapes promises to demonstrate the value and possibilities of transnational history.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Forgotten Refugees: Decolonization, Displaced Persons and the Reconstruction of Italy, 1945-1960, manuscript under revision.

“A sea of difference, a history of gaps? Migrations between Italy and Albania, 1939-1992,” forthcoming in *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 60(1), 2018, pp. 1-29.

“Whatever happened to Eastern Europe? Revisiting Europe’s peripheries,” *East European Politics and Societies*, 3(1), 2017, pp. 44-67.

“Colonial twilight: Italian settlers and the long decolonization of Libya,” *Journal of Contemporary History*, 51(4), 2016, pp. 813-838.

Service – Professor Ballinger has been an excellent citizen who generously fulfills all expectations for service. She has served on the Executive Committees in History (2013-2014) and twice in the Anthropology-History Joint Program (2012-14, 2016-18), before stepping up as the latter’s current director. She has been active across many spheres of the department’s administrative life, including the Graduate and the Governance Restructuring Committees, the Honors Program, and the wider college arena. She has also taken on professional leadership roles in her field(s).

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“...Professor Ballinger is a highly visible presence and leader in multiple fields and two disciplines, in Europe and North America. Her service to these disciplines has been exemplary (most recently as President of the Society for the Anthropology of Europe and on the Board of Directors of ASEES). Her third book project, *Other Seas*, promises to expand her intellectual reach even further into the field of oceanic history and environmental history, and she has already made significant progress in developing it.”

Reviewer (B)

“...Ballinger has established herself as one of the leading historians and anthropologists in the field of migration studies, primarily as a specialist on Italy, as well as a prominent and respected scholar in the Balkan and Mediterranean fields. ...*Forgotten Refugees*...not only builds on her expertise of Italian refugees from Yugoslavia, but adds the numerous migrations of Italians... This is a pioneering study and a serious contribution to the understanding of Italianness in the postwar era. It is richly researched with fresh archival material from no less than twenty six [sic] archives in seven countries, as well as oral interviews.”

Reviewer (C)

“Ballinger is preparing for publication an immensely ambitious and important volume [Forgotten Refugees] that builds upon her previous research and that promises to be a substantial and path-breaking contribution to the inter-disciplinary field of refugee studies and to the history of modern Europe. ... She has made effective use of a hugely impressive range of archival and other unpublished research, supplemented by some oral testimony. I particularly applaud the bold, thoughtful and imaginative way in which she brings together arguments...without losing sight of a key point about exclusion and inclusion in the international refugee regime. I can’t wait to put this book on my reading lists.”

Reviewer (D)

“Ballinger is a highly productive scholar... from a simple quantitative point of view: 20 article/chapters in seven years. ...[she] has produced a string of intelligent articles that speak primarily to the issues of refugee history, national identity, and borderland studies. ... The scholarship is sound...”

Reviewer (E)

“...I was struck by her sharp mind, intrepidity as a researcher, and the vast and growing geographic scope of her studies... I was also taken by her distinguished intellectual lineage, that she had trained as an ethnographer and historian at Stanford, Cambridge, and Johns Hopkins...this gave her a range and depth that others working around similar cultural artifacts...mostly lack. ... Only by reading Ballinger’s work...did I grasp how much her interdisciplinary formation and de-centered perspective on Italian history offers in the way of illuminating local and micro-histories, identity culture, and memory politics.”

Reviewer (F)

“...I strongly believe that she very much deserves to advance to the rank of full professor. ...she has very much been on my radar screen as a leader in her field for some time—an exciting field that she has in fact done a great deal to define in the first place.”

Reviewer (G)

“...her substantial scholarly achievements more than qualify her for promotion to full professor in the Department of History at the University of Michigan. In scholarly terms she certainly adds to the distinction of the department. My own department...would absolutely consider a scholar of Ballinger’s level of accomplishment to be eligible to fill one of our chairs.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Ballinger is a prominent and prolific scholar in her field. She has established herself as a dedicated and challenging teacher, who consistently draws the highest praise from her students, and she has demonstrated an impressive record of service. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Pamela Ballinger be promoted to the rank of professor of history, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



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

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