

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

Catherine Sanok, associate professor of English language and literature, 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 English language and literature, with tenure, and professor of women's studies, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1999	University of California, Los Angeles
M.A.	1995	University of California, Los Angeles
B.A.	1992	Yale University, New Haven

Professional Record:

2007 – present	Associate Professor, Department of English Language and Literature and Department of Women's Studies, University of Michigan
2001 – 2007	Assistant Professor, Department of English Language and Literature and Women's Studies Program, University of Michigan
1999 – 2001	Assistant Professor, Department of English, University of Washington

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Sanok has taught seventeen courses, many of them on new subjects, including various undergraduate and graduate seminars, an Introduction to Graduate Studies, and one mixed undergraduate/graduate seminar. Her main teaching focus is medieval English literature, and it is clear from student evaluations that she makes medieval texts not just accessible, but intellectually engaging. Her successful pedagogy is demonstrated in the careful scripting of student work in her syllabi, in her thoughtful approach to student learning, and in students' ratings and comments in online course feedback.

Research – Professor Sanok's work can be seen to build upon and bring up to date the distinguished scholarly record of earlier generations of medievalists in Michigan's Department of English Language and Literature, which has long been associated with the philological tradition and, in particular, with the momentous achievement of the Middle English Dictionary, completed in 2001. Her recent scholarship presents compelling arguments that saints' lives both reflect and constitute social identities among their readerly communities in late medieval England. Her new book is a cutting-edge work of scholarship. In its painstaking and incisive analysis of a little-known and previously unpublished corpus of non-canonical literary works, it will reshape its immediate subfield and contribute to debates in the adjacent field of early modern studies. It will also blur the boundaries between them and show how putatively "early modern" works look decidedly "medieval" from the perspective provided by these earlier narratives. Professor Sanok's publication trajectory has been steady and strong and she will no doubt continue to consolidate her position as a national leader in her field over the years ahead.

Recent and Significant Publications:

New Legends of England: Forms of Community in Late Medieval Saints' Lives, University of Pennsylvania Press, forthcoming.

"Calendar time in *Balade* form," in Sanctity as Literature in Late Medieval Britain, A. Bernau and E. von Contzen, eds., Manchester University Press, 2015, pp. 228-244.

"John of Bridlington: Mitred prior and model of the mixed life," in Religious Men in the Middle Ages, P. Cullum and K. Lewis, eds., Boydell and Brewer, 2013, pp. 143-159.

"Forms of community in the South English legendary," in Rethinking the South English Legendaries, H. Blurton and J. Wogan-Browne, eds., Manchester University Press, 2012, pp. 211-232.

Service – Professor Sanok has made substantive contributions to the department and the college in a variety of roles in which she has earned a reputation for thoroughness, thoughtfulness, and care. She has been elected many times to serve on the Department of English Language and Literature's Executive Committee, has been appointed (in succession) director of the department's undergraduate and graduate programs, and has contributed to the work of the college's Curriculum and ADVANCE Advisory Committees. Professor Sanok's especially strong leadership was evident in the development and shepherding through of a new Department of English minor.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

"In my view, Cathy Sanok is one of the most exciting scholars working today in Middle English studies—or, indeed, in literary studies of any kind. She thinks hard about a range of difficult subjects, and makes them bear remarkable intellectual fruit far beyond any narrow topical bounds. Hers is the very best kind of scholarly work."

Reviewer (B)

"Since her last promotion, Catherine Sanok has produced a body of scholarly work that is as impressive for its quantity as well as for the exceptional quality of its innovative thought. She is already highly respected in medieval English literary studies; this forthcoming major work will establish her as one of the field's most influential voices. Hers is an extraordinary record of accomplishment in all the areas that review committees consider, and I'm pleased to express my unequivocal and enthusiastic support for her promotion to professor."

Reviewer (C)

"In the years since tenure Sanok has published seven chapters in collections as well as an article in the *Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies*. All of these essays appear in first-rate venues: the collections, for example, are edited by leading scholars in the field and published with or forthcoming from top-notch presses, while *JMEMS* is one of the first-tier academic journals in the literary profession, with an acceptance rate somewhere south of ten percent. The essays themselves are, like her first book, erudite, illuminating, impactful, and beautifully written."

Reviewer (D)

"*New Legends of England* is exemplary of Sanok's work, and it is an extraordinary book. Deeply-researched, careful, comprehensive, theoretically sharp, imaginative, and occasionally brilliant, the monograph is another entry in the first-rate scholarship that we have come to expect from Sanok."

Reviewer (E)

"*New Legends* is a magisterial study of vernacular English saints' lives in the fifteenth century-magisterial not only because of the neglect of many of these texts in current medieval scholarship, but because of the book's ambitious and capacious scope. Her book's intervention in medieval studies goes beyond the realm of hagiography, taking up the discipline's recent engagements in formalism and debates surrounding incipient ideas of the nation and identity."

Reviewer (F)

"The dossier Cathy Sanok submits for promotion to Professor is exemplary of the very best the academy can offer. Her statements of teaching and scholarship and the scholarship itself bear out what I already know of her as a fellow medievalist. Her intelligence, involvement, courtesy, and energy mark her as both a scholar and a person. I have only praise for the work Cathy has done and will do in the future."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Sanok has been an invaluable member of the Michigan community. She is internationally recognized for her scholarly contributions to the study of gender, hagiography, medieval and, increasingly, early modern literature and formalism. She is an effective and deeply conscientious teacher, a model of both teaching and research for graduate students, and a powerful collaborator in creating scholarly communities at UM and elsewhere. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Catherine Sanok be promoted to the rank of professor of English language and literature, with tenure, and professor of women's studies, without 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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