

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

**Nancy Rose Hunt, Ph.D.**, professor of history in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and professor of obstetrics and gynecology in the Medical School, retired from active faculty status on June 30, 2016.

Professor Hunt received her B.A. degree from the University of Chicago in 1980 and her Ph.D. degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1992. She joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1997, and was promoted to associate professor in 2000, and professor in 2011.

Professor Hunt is a leading scholar in the fields of African history, gender history, history of medicine, and postcolonial studies. Her introduction in the path-breaking volume *Gendered Colonialisms in African History* (1997) charted a bold new direction for histories of gender in Africa. The crucial contribution of her scholarship lies in rejecting simplified dualistic arguments about colonialism in favor of more textured and enmeshed accounts of the colonial encounter. This is especially evident in *A Colonial Lexicon: Of Birth Ritual, Medicalization, and Mobility in the Congo* (1999), the winner of the African Studies Association's coveted Melville J. Herskovits Book Award (2000) that eschews conventional arguments about the relationship between biomedicine and local therapies by conveying their multiple entanglements and engagements. Her second major book, *A Nervous State: Violence, Remedies, and Reverie in Colonial Congo* (2016), explores the interchange between security, biopolitics and therapeutic insurgency in twentieth-century Belgian Congo.

Professor Hunt taught undergraduate and graduate courses in African history and the history of medicine. Her signature and wide-ranging lecture course, "Health and Illness in African Worlds," brought the revisionist scholarship of postcolonial studies into the undergraduate classroom. Highlights of her service record include chairing many search committees, dedicated mentoring of several generations of undergraduate and graduate students, and substantial contributions in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology and the Institute for Research on Women and Gender.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar and teacher by naming **Nancy Rose Hunt, professor emerita of history and professor emerita of obstetrics and gynecology.**

**Requested by:**



**Sally J. Churchill, J.D.**  
Vice President and Secretary of the University

**September 2016**