

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

Paul A. Anderson, assistant professor of American culture and assistant professor of Afroamerican and African studies, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of American culture, with tenure, and associate professor of Afroamerican and African studies, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

1997	Ph.D.	Cornell University
1993	M.A.	Cornell University
1989	B.A.	University of Pittsburgh

Professional Record:

2001 – present	Assistant Professor, Program in American Culture and Center for Afroamerican and African Studies (CAAS), University of Michigan
2000 – 2001	Visiting Assistant Professor, Program in American Culture and Department of History, University of Michigan
1997 – 2000	Postdoctoral Fellow, Visiting Assistant Professor, Michigan Society of Fellows, Program in American Culture and Department of History, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluations:

Teaching – Professor Anderson is an excellent teacher who sets high standards for his students. He is committed to helping them develop oral argumentative skills basic to a humanities education. It is clear that all of his students acknowledge that he is a fine scholar who possesses a deep and wide body of knowledge. He has developed a strong repertoire of carefully planned courses that jointly serve the CAAS and American culture curricula – at both the undergraduate and graduate levels.

Research – Professor Anderson was trained as a cultural historian of the modern United States. His work is informed by social and cultural theory, and is strongly engaged with literature. The culminating work of the first phase of his career, *Deep River: Music and Memory in Harlem Renaissance Thought*, has been reviewed widely and favorably across an array of interdisciplinary journals. He has published two essays derived from research for his second book and a third essay is forthcoming.

Recent and Significant Publications:

“Casablanca and the Music of War,” *Critical Inquiry*, to appear summer 2006.
“Ralph Ellison’s Music Lessons,” in *The Cambridge Companion to Ralph Ellison*, R. Posnock (ed.), Cambridge University Press, 2005, pp. 82-103.
“Escape Artistry and Entrapment: Matthew Barney and Mary Kelly,” *Artpapers*, November/December 2003, pp. 35-39.
Deep River: Music and Memory in Harlem Renaissance Thought, Duke University Press, 2001.

Service – Professor Anderson has served as a graduate student advisor and is one of the founders of the “Music of the Americas” study group. In the Program in American Culture, he has made excellent contributions to graduate and undergraduate advising and mentorship, as well as long-range planning and program administration. He has served on four CAAS committees, two of which were joint between CAAS and the Program in American Culture. Professor Anderson’s service reflects his commitment to developing, evaluating, and enacting the transformations that both units have undergone in recent years.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“The entry of *Deep River* into the arena ups the ante of the scholarship to come. I think it’s truly a landmark book. ... The essay on Graham Locke’s *Blutopia* is striking as an example of Anderson’s ability to steer his way through several arcane and difficult artists’ work and make sense of them in a way that music scholars seem unable to do.”

Reviewer (B)

“He is a broadly interdisciplinary scholar of a historicist bent with excellent background and interest in critical theory and recent cultural studies. ... Anderson’s book *Deep River: Music and Memory in Harlem Renaissance Thought* is superb—very learned about its subject, critically adept, theoretically sophisticated, admirably balanced, and rigorous in its precision. I think it is one of the best books on the intellectual history of the Harlem Renaissance in recent years... This is a book that will last.”

Reviewer (C)

“He is as comfortable, and as knowledgeable, discussing the work of Sun Ra as he is discussing John Hammond’s Spirituals to Swing concert. I can testify from my many years in the profession that there are precious few scholars who can make credible contributions on both the Harlem Renaissance and the contemporary avant-garde...”

Reviewer (D)

“Anderson is a first-rate scholar who has had the good sense to produce a field altering book with his very first effort and both programs at Michigan are lucky to have him.”

Reviewer (E)

“Professor Anderson’s work is extraordinarily intelligent, knowledgeable and promising. He has mapped out a range of areas of inquiry that is his own and by way of which he has begun to make unique contributions to current debates and concerns within the profession. ... His book *Deep River* makes a truly important contribution to the study of the Harlem Renaissance... I regularly recommend it to colleagues and students and include it on course syllabi. ... Anderson is an exceptionally productive, painstaking and articulate scholar who has already made important contributions and shows every sign he will continue to do so.”

Reviewer (F)

“...I very much like the articles...as they show meticulous archival work...excellent close readings of passages from mss. to printed form, and deep familiarity with the history and scholarly literature of jazz. ... I think he is worthy of receiving tenure at the University of Michigan or any major research university.”

Reviewer (G)

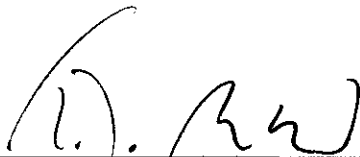
“...Anderson’s *Deep River* is one of the very few most impressive examples of interdisciplinary scholarship on African American music.”

Reviewer (H)

“...I was impressed by Professor Anderson’s book, finding it both thoughtful and remarkably lucid, considering the intellectual complexity of the subject. ... Anderson is dealing with a cutting edge subject when he considers social memory in his book.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Anderson is one of the leading researchers in his field. He has made substantial contributions to the teaching and service missions of the College. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that assistant professor Paul A. Anderson be promoted to the rank of associate professor of American culture, with tenure, and associate professor of Afroamerican and African studies, with tenure.



Terrence J. McDonald, Dean
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

May 2006