

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

Michael D. Bonner, associate professor of Islamic history, with tenure, Department of Near Eastern Studies, and associate professor of history, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of Medieval Islamic history, with tenure, Department of Near Eastern Studies, and professor of history, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

1987	Ph.D.	Princeton University
1984	M.A.	Princeton University
1976	A.M.	Harvard University
1974	A.B.	Harvard University

Professional Record:

1997 – 2000	Director, Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies, University of Michigan
2001 – 2003	of Michigan
1995 – present	Associate Professor, Departments of History and Near Eastern Studies, University of Michigan
1989 – 1995	Assistant Professor, Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of Michigan
1988	Lecturer, Department of History, Princeton University
1988	Preceptor, National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute in Islam, Princeton University
1987 – 1988	Visiting Lecturer, Department of Near Eastern Studies, Cornell University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Bonner organizes and revises his materials meticulously, lectures fluently and with authority, displays a sense of humor, and is accessible to his students. Many graduate students have also benefited from his erudition and academic guidance in the series of interlocking seminars that he has designed to introduce them to close reading of the original sources, thus preparing them for independent research. He has chaired five doctoral committees, served as co-advisor for two other students, sat as a member of eighteen further committees, and has acted as advisor on four undergraduate honors theses.

Research – Professor Bonner’s latest work on the Jihad is not only timely, but represents an excellent achievement of synthesis and interpretation. His forthcoming volume on wealth and poverty in the Islamic world, *The Return of Wealth*, promises to be path-breaking. His extraordinary facility with both the languages of medieval sources and with modern European languages of research sets him apart, and his recent selection as sectional editor for the third edition of *The Encyclopaedia of Islam* testifies to his willingness to work for the common good of the community of scholars, and to the high regard in which he is held by his peers.

Recent and Significant Publications:

The Jihad and its Origins (English version), Princeton University Press, forthcoming 2006. *Le jihad. Origines, interprétations, débats*, in series *L'Islam en débats*, J. Dakhli and F. Micheau (eds.), Paris: Les Éditions du Téraèdre, 2004.

Islam, Democracy and the State in Algeria: Lessons for the Western Mediterranean and Beyond, edited with M. Tessler and M. Reif, London: Routledge, 2005.

Arab-Byzantine Relations, Volume 8 of *The Formation of the Classical Islamic World*, under general editorship of L. I. Conrad, Aldershot, United Kingdom: Ashgate/Variorum, 2004.

Poverty and Charity in Middle Eastern Contexts, edited with A. Singer and M. Ener, Albany: SUNY Press, 2003.

Service – Professor Bonner has served the University well, sitting on numerous committees both within the Department and on the College level. During his second term as Director of the Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies, he organized the drive to recover that institution's status as a National Resource Center, which it had lost in 2000. His untiring efforts in this regard were decisive in the success of the 2002 application. He has been active as a consultant to the National Endowment for the Humanities and as a leading member of the Middle East Studies Association and the American Oriental Society.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

"...he is better grounded in non-English European scholarship on medieval Islamic history than any of his American contemporaries... I believe he will serve as the sub-editor for early Islamic history for the planned third edition of the *Encyclopedia of Islam*. ... This appointment represents the international reputation he was [sic] earned as a master of the original Arabic sources..."

Reviewer (B)

"Michael Bonner is surely one of the handful of first-rank scholars in this field of his generation."

Reviewer (C)

"Michael's work is innovative and based on deep scholarship—not only on a knowledge of the relevant original Arabic texts but also on his understanding of research in related areas of history and anthropology. He is recognised in the field as one of its foremost scholars..."

Reviewer (D)

"...Bonner is an accomplished Arabist able to recognize the complexity of the material that serves as the basis for all historical investigation. A cautious and well trained scholar, he is not one to bend the sources to his own conceptual framework but will take out of the sources only that which the text allows."

Reviewer (E)

"...besides being a well respected 'Early Islam' specialist, M. Bonner is a great generalist as well. He is both a pedagogue and a researcher. ... I believe sincerely that the candidate has all the professional aptitudes to be a full professor..."

Reviewer (F)

"He is a strong and respected scholar in medieval Islamic studies, but has also developed a solid presence in the modern field. ... The standard of Bonner's work is excellent. His philological skills are very impressive indeed, and a scholar who can handle both Byzantine and Arabic materials well is a rare gem."

Reviewer (G)

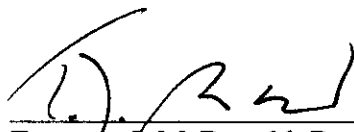
"Bonner is definitely a scholar of international standing and I would have no hesitation in putting him in the top ten in the world. ...I believe the book on Jihad, to be published shortly by Princeton, will be of very great importance."

Reviewer (H)

"Bonner is productive, as his c.v. demonstrates. But his range is wide and his breadth is positive and noteworthy."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Bonner is a productive researcher, an innovative classroom instructor, an inspiring mentor of graduate students, and a dedicated administrator. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Michael D. Bonner be promoted to the rank of professor of Medieval Islamic history, with tenure, Department of Near Eastern Studies, and professor of history, without tenure.



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

May 2006