

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

Yaron Z. Eliav, assistant professor of Rabbinic literature, Department of Near Eastern Studies, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of Rabbinic literature, with tenure, Department of Near Eastern Studies, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

1998	Ph.D.	Hebrew University
1993	M.A.	Hebrew University
1990	B.A.	Open University of Israel

Professional Record:

2004 – 2005	Senior Fellow, Institute for Advanced Studies, Hebrew University
2000 – present	Assistant Professor and Jean and Samuel Frankel Professor of Rabbinic Literature, Department of Near Eastern Studies and Jean and Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, University of Michigan
1998 – 1999	Dorot Postdoctoral Fellow, New York University
1995 – 1996	Fulbright Fellow, Princeton University
1992 – 1998	Instructor, Hebrew University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Eliav is a gifted teacher who has worked diligently to develop his course into one that speaks to a wide variety of students. His effectiveness is documented in student evaluations. He has offered eight different courses at Michigan, five of which are undergraduate courses and three are graduate seminars. He has served on four dissertation committees, advised three Master of Arts students in the Frankel Center, and is now chairing a dissertation committee and mentoring a new Master of Arts student.

Research – Professor Eliav’s field is Rabbinics and he is among the leading scholars moving it into new dimensions. His interdisciplinary approach, his mastery of areas of study that in previous years might have been considered remote from the field, and his integrative approach is exceptional. His publication record is notable in quantity and quality. He has authored 26 articles that have appeared or have been accepted for publication; fifteen of these have appeared since his appointment at Michigan. His book, *God's Mountain: The Temple Mount in Time, Space, and Memory*, provides new insight on a widely studied subject. In addition, he has co-edited several volumes and has lectured internationally at various institutions and conferences.

Recent and Significant Publications:

*God's Mountain: The Temple Mount in Time, Space, and Memory*, Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2005.

“The Tomb of James Brother of Jesus as *Locus Memoriae*,” *Harvard Theological Review*, 97 (2004), pp. 32-59.

“Viewing the Sculptural Environment; Shaping the Second Commandment,” in *The Talmud Yerushalmi and Graeco-Roman Culture III*, P. Schäfer (ed.), Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2002, pp. 411-433.

“The Roman Bath as a Jewish Institution: Another Look at the Encounter Between Judaism and the Greco-Roman Culture,” *Journal for the Study of Judaism*, 31, 2000, pp. 416-454.

Service – Professor Eliav has been an involved colleague in Near Eastern Studies and the Frankel Center. He has served on several committees in each unit, including those charged with graduate and undergraduate fellowships and admissions, and with curriculum. He has also participated in one faculty search, and served as the Hebrew and Jewish Cultural Studies (HJCS) Undergraduate Advisor as well as advising a number of Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program (UROP) students. He organized two international conferences and found time to serve on the board of the Michigan Center for Early Christian Studies.

#### External Reviews:

##### Reviewer (A)

“...it should be clear how highly I value what will be Prof. Eliav’s most sustained and important publication to date [*God’s Mountain*]. It will become the defining work on this subject. It will solidify and advance his reputation as one of the leading scholars [of his generation] of the history of Judaism and Jewish history in antiquity...”

##### Reviewer (B)

“...I was especially struck by two related characteristics of his work: his facility with languages, and his generosity with notes. Yaron writes English with more lucidity than do many native speakers. ... Besides attesting to the breadth of his reading, these meaty notes mark his collegial generosity.”

##### Reviewer (C)

“...his scholarship displays a real talent for inter-disciplinary research and conceptualization.”

##### Reviewer (D)

“Eliav’s rare control of both the literature and its social, cultural and historical background is an important component in maintaining your department’s place in the front ranks of Jewish Studies. ...I cannot think of anyone who has been more productive.”

##### Reviewer (E)

“Dr. Eliav is above all an expert in the analysis and interpretation of the rabbinic literature from late antiquity, but he combines that expertise with extensive knowledge of the classical world...and early Christianity. ...Eliav is a leading figure among scholars of his generation in this field. ... In my view he remains a scholar of remarkable talents and impressive energy.”

##### Reviewer (F)

“In short, the labors expended in this study [*God’s Mountain*] are formidable and admirable. Eliav’s impressive knowledge of the languages and texts required for this sweeping investigation exhibit the superb skills of this gifted scholar.”

Reviewer (G)

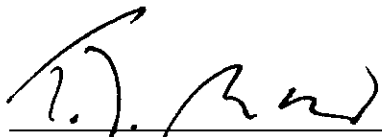
“His expertise in the fields of archaeology, second Temple and rabbinic Judaism, and early Christianity, and his facility with the requisite primary texts is perhaps unparalleled among scholars at comparable stages in their careers.”

Reviewer (H)

“Yaron is clearly one of the up-and-coming stars in the field. Very few people share his command of the literary sources, particularly the rabbinic material; at the same time, he possesses a thorough grasp of the archaeological finds.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Eliav’s work is innovative and exciting. He has created courses that have a solid reputation among students and an ever-increasing popularity. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Yaron Z. Eliav be promoted to the rank of associate professor of Rabbinic literature, with tenure, Department of Near Eastern Studies.



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

May 2006