

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

Sara L. Forsdyke, assistant professor of Greek and Latin, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of Greek and Latin, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

1997	Ph.D.	Princeton University
1994	M.A.	Princeton University
1991	M.A.	Queen's University
1990	B.A.	Harvard University

Professional Record:

1998 – present	Assistant Professor, Department of Classical Studies, University of Michigan
1997 – 1998	Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Classical Studies, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluations:

Teaching – Professor Forsdyke's teaching at Michigan is excellent. She has taught a wide variety of courses in Greek and classical civilization and in all possible settings—lectures to large audiences of non-concentrators, first-year seminars, large upper-division classes, and graduate seminars. She has been an Undergraduate Concentration Advisor for four of her six years in rank. She has also served on four dissertation committees and two undergraduate thesis committees in addition to supervising a number of preliminary examinations.

Research – Professor Forsdyke's research area lies in the larger political history of Athens during its crucial transition from an archaic state to a radical democracy. Her particular area of concern, and the focus of her book, is the Athenian institution of ostracism, a political device used to exile individuals for ten years by popular vote. She emphasized the importance of this exile in the political struggles of early Greece and convincingly explains the role of ostracism in the creation of the world's first democracy. Her work on Herodotus breaks new ground and her recent research is moving forward in exciting directions.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Exile, Ostracism and Democracy: The Politics of Expulsion in Ancient Greece, Princeton University Press, 2005.

"Revelry and riot in archaic Megara: Democratic disorder or ritual reversal?" *Journal of Hellenic Studies*, 125, 2005, pp. 73-92.

"Herodotus on Greek history, 524-480," in *A Companion to Herodotus*, I. de Jong, et al. (eds.), Leiden, 2002, pp. 521-549.

"Athenian democratic ideology and Herodotus' histories," *American Journal of Philology*, 122(3), 2001, pp. 333-362.

Service – Professor Forsdyke has been an excellent contributor to the Department of Classical Studies having served as Undergraduate Adviser in Classical Civilization and as Study Abroad Adviser as well as on many committees, including the Executive Committees of the Interdepartmental Programs in Classical Art and Archaeology and in Greek and Roman History. Her contributions in getting the graduate program in Greek and Roman History organized in 2002 were critical. Lastly, she organized the very successful Annual Meeting of the American Association of Ancient Historians in Ann Arbor in 2004 and was a major presence during the meeting itself.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“The book and seven articles I have reviewed comprise a significant body of work by a talented, productive, and engaging scholar working in a central and essential area of our field. ...there is every reason to think that she will continue to be productive at a high level...”

Reviewer (B)

“...I do support the case for her promotion, very vigorously and with enthusiasm.”

Reviewer (C)

“...one of her strongest talents is her confident and seemingly easy capacity to work historiographically at the juncture of history and literature. ... Forsdyke also works well at the interface of history and archaeology – an essential skill for anybody intent on furthering our knowledge of the Archaic period, for which contemporary literary documentation is so scarce.”

Reviewer (D)

“Professor Forsdyke has a highly productive record of publication and her articles have appeared in prestigious, anonymously-refereed journals. Moreover, the chapters in edited collections...demonstrate that she is establishing herself as an authority on Athenian politics and Herodotos’ contributions to understanding of political ideology.”

Reviewer (E)

“Forsdyke’s book on political exile will certainly establish her as one of the most interesting voices in the cultural history of classical Greece. ...the caliber of her published work and the promise of her further research plans seem to me fully to justify granting her promotion and tenure at a highly respected scholarly institution such as the University of Michigan...”

Reviewer (F)

“There is every reason to expect that she will be a leader in the field, and that her work will stand up well to the best work done on Greek history over the last two generations.”

Reviewer (G)

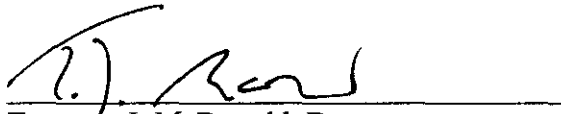
“She is certainly a figure of international repute, and a major player in the areas that she addresses; and those areas are among the hottest and most controversial of current scholarship.”

Reviewer (H)

“In the crowded field of the study of classical Athens, dr. [sic] Forsdyke’s work easily holds its own. Her analysis of the role of ostracism and exile in democratic Athens seems to me a very important contribution to our understanding of Athenian politics and Athenian thinking about politics.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Forsdyke is an excellent classroom teacher, and a hardworking colleague with an international scholarly reputation. Her work on Greek history confers distinction on the University. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Sara L. Forsdyke be promoted to the rank of associate professor of Greek and Latin, with tenure.



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

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