

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

Edward Webb Keane Jr., associate professor of anthropology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of anthropology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

1990	Ph.D.	University of Chicago
1984	M.A.	University of Chicago
1977	B.A.	Yale College

Professional Record:

2000 – 2003	Associate Professor, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, University of Michigan
1997 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan
1997	Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Pennsylvania
1991 – 1997	Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Pennsylvania
1991	Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Keane is an important figure in the Department's undergraduate and graduate programs, crosscutting linguistics and social-cultural anthropology. His syllabi and course evaluations show that he is a thoughtful and experienced teacher. His graduate teaching includes the required core courses in two of the four sub-fields of anthropology, as well as topical offerings. He is currently serving as the chair or co-chair of eight anthropology students and as committee member for 25 students in anthropology and in other fields.

Research – Professor Keane is recognized as a top scholar in his field. His first book, *Signs of Recognition* (University of California Press, 1997), has become a classic. His second book, *Between Freedom and Fetish: Converting to Christian Modernity*, is likely to have an even wider readership. His current research on Indonesian national culture will form the subject of a third book tentatively entitled *Nation and Mediation in Indonesia*. In short, he is an outstanding scholar whose work shows a continuing process of intellectual growth and development that we fully expect to continue in the future.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Between Freedom and Fetish: Converting to Christian Modernity, University of California Press, forthcoming 2006.

“Signs are not the garb of meaning: On the social analysis of material things,” in *Materiality*, D. Miller (ed.), Duke University Press, 2006, pp. 182-205.

“Public speaking: On Indonesian as the language of the nation,” *Public Culture*, special issue on *Technologies of Public Persuasion*, E. Povinelli and D. Gaonkar (eds.), 15(3), 2003, pp. 503-530.

“Self-interpretation, agency, and the objects of anthropology: reflections on a genealogy,” *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 45(2), 2003, pp. 222-248.

Service – Professor Keane’s colleagues value him for his willing and able service. In the Department of Anthropology, he has served as a member of the Executive Committee, Associate Chair during the year of the department’s external review, and as one of the main authors of the department’s Long Range Plan. Professor Keane’s record of service to the profession at large is also impressive. Besides organizing panels at professional meetings and giving lectures and papers, he serves on the editorial boards of three journals in anthropology and one interdisciplinary book series; he regularly reviews books, papers, and proposals.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“In my view he is one of the most subtle social anthropologists of his generation. His published writings display a remarkable command of the relevant history and contemporary state of anthropological theoretical debates, as well as of cognate disciplines such as linguistics, psychology, and philosophy...”

Reviewer (B)

“I consider Professor Keane to be quite outstanding. In all honesty, I cannot think of anybody of his academic generation who I would place above him in any American university. I would only consider two other anthropologists as being at the same level.”

Reviewer (C)

“I would...rank Keane among the very best and most consequential of his cohort - or, [f]or that matter, of anthropologists of any age... In terms of the significance of his work, I would certainly rank both books [*Signs of Recognition* and *Between Freedom and Fetish*] as among the very best and most innovative and important in recent anthropology.”

Reviewer (D)

“Webb...has also been a pioneer in bringing some areas together – in particular the relationship between semiotics and material culture studies.”

Reviewer (E)

“...Dr. Keane is one of the most original of mid-career anthropologists, well launched into a developing approach to cultural change: one at once theoretically sophisticated and well grounded in field research.”

Reviewer (F)

"I...unreservedly urge you and your colleagues to promote him to the rank of Professor with Tenure. ... You are extremely fortunate to have someone of such caliber as you do in Webb. And this goes beyond his deep command of materials and issues in his fields of expertise. He is just plain, out-and-out good—a wonderful scholar."

Reviewer (G)

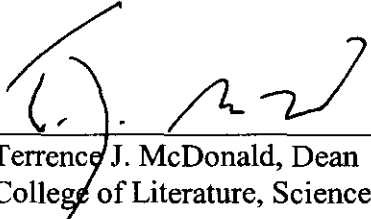
"...I find the contents of the dossier to constitute an undeniable demonstration that the candidate fully merits promotion... Certainly he is a major presence on the international anthropological scene; his work is widely appreciated..."

Reviewer (H)

"...Keane exhibits a simply dazzling control of major theory beyond semiotics and beyond anthropology itself, and is a fluent adaptor and critic of, and contributor to, general ideas in philosophy and history."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Keane is widely regarded as one of the major scholars in his field. He is an excellent teacher and mentor, and a valuable citizen. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Edward Webb Keane Jr. be promoted to the rank of professor of anthropology, with tenure.



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

May 2006