

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

Robin M. Queen, assistant professor of Germanic languages and literatures and assistant professor of linguistics, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts is recommended for promotion to associate professor of Germanic languages and literatures, with tenure, and associate professor of linguistics, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

1996	Ph.D.	University of Texas, Austin
1993	M.A.	University of Texas, Austin
1990	B.S.	Georgetown University

Professional Record:

1999 – present	Assistant Professor, Departments of Germanic Languages and Literatures and Linguistics, University of Michigan
1996 – 1999	Assistant Professor, Department of English, Kent State University

Summary of Evaluations:

Teaching – Professor Queen is an excellent instructor and mentor. An innovative teacher who earns consistently high course evaluations, she successfully teaches large-enrollment courses and has recently undertaken the design and implementation of a new undergraduate track in the Department of Linguistics. Her graduate courses are interdisciplinary and provide foundational training not only for students in both of her departments, but also for those in cognate departments, especially Anthropology. She is in great demand as a mentor and has chaired or is chairing six dissertation committees, served or is serving as a member of eleven additional dissertation committees, and supervised five undergraduate research projects.

Research – Professor Queen is a respected sociolinguist and Germanic linguist, whose broad-based work on language contact is influential in its creative use of new methods, its sharp analyses, and its theoretical implications. Her research record displays both diversity and coherence, and is part of a long-term research agenda that holds the promise of fundamentally changing our understanding of languages and dialects in contact. Her most recent research analyzes the linguistic patterns in films dubbed from American English into German and provides novel insights into how the sociolinguistic variation of one speech community is translated into that of another. Her publications appear in prestigious journals and important conference proceedings, both being primary means for disseminating information in the discipline.

Recent and Significant Publications:

“Phrase-final intonation in narratives told by Turkish-German bilinguals,” *International Journal of Bilingualism*, in press.

“‘How many lesbians does it take...?’ Jokes, teasing and the negotiation of stereotypes about lesbians,” *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology*, 15(2), 2005, pp. 239-257.

“‘Du hast jar keene Ahnung’: Dubbing African-American English into German,” *Journal of Sociolinguistics*, 8(4), 2004, pp. 515-537.

“Bilingual intonation patterns: Evidence of language change from Turkish-German bilingual children,” *Language in Society*, 30(1), 2001, pp. 55-80.

Service – Professor Queen’s contributions are integral to the intellectual life of her departments, and to the study of language variation and use across the College. She has been active in the formation of an interdepartmental faculty-student discussion group in the research area encompassing sociolinguistics and linguistic anthropology, and a core member of the Turkish-German Studies Group formed by faculty and graduate students in 2001, which has been increasingly setting the agenda for Turkish-German studies on both sides of the Atlantic. She has served on the Executive, Graduate, and Admissions committees of her departments. She has co-chaired the Linguistic Society of America’s Committee on the Status of Women in Linguistics, is regularly invited to serve as a journal and book referee, and in 2006 will take up the position of co-editor of the *Journal of English Linguistics*.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“Her research, with its focus on how identity, ideology, and contact between social groups converge in language use, is moving us closer to the ‘linguistics of contact’...an approach that promises to be extremely productive for sociolinguistic research. Queen is certainly a leading figure in guiding the field in this important new direction.”

Reviewer (B)

“...in the community of linguists concerned with gender and sexuality she is well regarded. ...Queen has made a solid contribution to scholarship and has credible plans to maintain her scholarly output.”

Reviewer (C)

“I have read through the entire oeuvre and am impressed. From the first, Queen has been a thoughtful and careful scholar, always logical, scrupulous with evidence, and knowledgeable within her fields. Her papers have been crisp statements, fully supported, building towards conceptual points. More recently, however, there is more: She has grown substantially, showing courage and ambition in proposing novel theoretical formulations that will advance scholarship in each of her substantive areas.”

Reviewer (D)

“...I am primarily aware of her reputation among the group of people in linguistic anthropology studying sexualities and identities. There she is well-established and her opinions are valued.”

Reviewer (E)

“...she has published in the three most important journals for people doing the kind of work she does...she has a very solid reputation in language and sexuality studies...she has a really innovative ongoing project, and no doubt a great deal more data to draw on, in the German-Turkish community, which I look forward to seeing more of.”

Reviewer (F)

“The chapter she did for [the edited book *When Languages Collide*]...was an excellent piece of work, insightful, well-argued, and interestingly presented. ... Her other papers on German-Turkish bilingualism are equally strong...”

Reviewer (G)

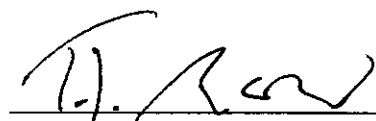
“...I think her achievement and her promise merit promotion to tenure: her publications are uniformly of high quality and originality, and I expect her influence to continue to grow in the years ahead.”

Reviewer (H)

“Dr. Queen’s research is consistently pushing the envelope in her fields of interest. She was one of the pioneers of work on lesbian language.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Queen’s research contributions are significant, her teaching is as innovative as her research, and she deftly interweaves the two so that they mutually inform each other. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Robin M. Queen be promoted to the rank of associate professor of Germanic languages and literatures, with tenure, and associate professor of linguistics, with tenure.



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

May 2006