

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

Sumathi Ramaswamy, associate professor of history, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of history, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

1992	Ph.D.	University of California, Berkeley
1986	M.A.	University of Pennsylvania
1984	M.Phil.	Jawaharlal Nehru University
1982	M.A.	Jawaharlal Nehru University
1980	B.A.	University of Delhi, India

Professional Record:

1998 – present	Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Michigan
1993 – 1998	Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia

Summary of Evaluations:

Teaching – Professor Ramaswamy is crucial to the Department of History’s offerings in modern world history. Her concerns with nationalism, gender, and culture enrich course offerings for her region of the world and with regard to cross-cultural and theoretical understandings. She is a demanding teacher, but students are enthusiastic about her courses. She clearly makes the readings come alive. Graduate students are very fond of her and her upper-level classes were especially popular.

Research – Supported by a wide array of grants, Professor Ramaswamy has established an exceptional scholarly record. Since coming to Michigan in 1998, Professor Ramaswamy has published a second monograph, an edited volume, eleven articles in scholarly journals, five book reviews, and one non-academic article. Currently, she has three articles forthcoming in collections of essays and three more in progress. In the next three years, she plans to complete two more book projects.

Recent and Significant Publications:

The Lost Land of Lemuria: Fabulous Geographies, Catastrophic Histories, University of California Press, 2004. Indian edition published by Permanent Black, New Delhi, 2005.

Beyond Appearances?: Visual Practices and Ideologies in Modern India, Sage Publications, 2003.

“The goddess and the nation: Subterfuges of antiquity, the cunning of modernity,” in *The Blackwell Companion to Hinduism*, G. Flood (ed.), Blackwell, 2002, pp. 549-566.

“Maps and mother goddesses in modern India,” *Imago Mundi: A Periodical Review of Early Cartography*, 53, 2001, pp. 97-114.

Service – Professor Ramaswamy has served as a member of a search committee and as a concentration advisor, as well as on the Curriculum Committee and the Executive Committee of the Department of History. She has taken on a number of commitments beyond the Department, including service on the Executive Committee of the Anthropology/History Ph.D. Program and

the Rackham Merit Fellowship Committee. She assumed leadership of the Center for South Asian Studies at a critical moment in the evolution of the Center. In all these tasks she has displayed the same administrative skills that made her tenure as the Ford Foundation's Program Officer for Education, Arts and Culture in India such a success.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

"This is a scholar in perpetual motion, moving from one ambitious and important idea to the next, with the support of major grants and fellowships that few scholars of any generation have accumulated in so short a time. Ramaswamy is, in other words, a first-class historian who is eminently worthy of promotion..."

Reviewer (B)

"Ramaswamy is one [of] the very best South Asianists of her generation. As a researcher, she is of the very highest category. ...her two books...have both been pioneering achievements, opening up avenues of research that others often did not even know existed. ... her work has become more adventurous, taking on newer and newer conceptual and archival challenges."

Reviewer (C)

"Sumathi is personable, intelligent, gifted, caring, and a no-nonsense individual of high and rare integrity."

Reviewer (D)

"...I consider Prof. Ramaswamy to be the outstanding historian of South Asia at her career level working in the United States today. ... Sumathi Ramaswamy is a scholar filled with wonderful ideas, who conveys an intense excitement about history. She is committed not just to the study of South Asia but to understanding South Asia's place in the larger world."

Reviewer (E)

"Ramaswamy's ability to build theoretical work, of urgent interest to wider audiences, on the bedrock of faultless empirical investigation...can only be of immense appeal to any leading Department of History. ...there can be no doubt that her work is very widely admired and cited..."

Reviewer (F)

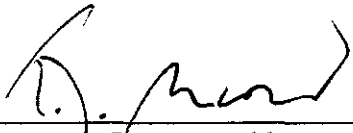
"I regard her highly as a scholar...I have followed her work with interest and admiration. ... *The Lost Land of Lemuria* is one of the best books I have read in the last five years. The work has a breadth and imagination that one encounters only once in a while in contemporary scholarship."

Reviewer (G)

"...her field of expertise could best be described as cultural history with special reference to South India. But this scarcely does justice to someone who ranges across the 'western' histories of science, psychology, linguistics and many other disciplines with great facility. ...her work is extremely fascinating and original. ... Professor Ramaswamy is a first-rate scholar, with a rare eye for the telling details and a very strong command of her subject-areas."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Ramaswamy has established herself as a leading historian of South Asia. She is also an extremely talented teacher and a valuable citizen. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Sumathi Ramaswamy be promoted to the rank of professor of history, with tenure.



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

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