

May 17, 2007

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

Stuart A. Kirsch, assistant professor of anthropology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of anthropology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1991	University of Pennsylvania
B.A.	1982	George Washington University

Professional Record:

2003 – present	Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan
1995 – 2003	Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan
1999 – 2001	Visiting Senior Research Associate, Department of Social Anthropology, University of Cambridge
1991 – 1995	Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Mount Holyoke College

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Kirsch sets an important standard for students and offers the kinds of first-hand experiences that are indispensable for effective teaching in the discipline. He willingly takes on the difficult role of teaching the very large Anthropology 101 and his smaller courses are very well received. His upper-level undergraduate courses and graduate seminars cover a wide range of subjects, complementing and augmenting the department's offerings. In addition to two grants for developing his undergraduate courses, Professor Kirsch has been the co-author of two successful grants for curriculum and workshop development in the Asian/Pacific Islander American Studies Program (2003, 2005). He is currently mentoring eighteen graduate and four undergraduate students. His current graduate advisees include eight candidates and five pre-candidates, representing seven departments and programs.

Research – Professor Kirsch is a sociocultural anthropologist whose geographical area of specialization is Melanesia, the region of the southern Pacific islands that includes New Guinea. His scholarship is distinguished by its unusual interdisciplinary nature, crossing conventional boundaries between anthropology and advocacy, and for his particular interpretation of "indigenous knowledge," a concept that has become basic to environmental studies in anthropology. He has produced a very substantial body of writing, including a book and five articles in peer-reviewed journals, as well as four chapters in edited volumes. Professor Kirsch has won several research fellowships and visitorships at academic institutions in the United Kingdom and the United States.

### Recent and Significant Publications:

“Indigenous movements and the risks of counter globalization: Tracking the campaign against Papua New Guinea’s Ok Tedi Mine,” *American Ethnologist*, 34(2), forthcoming May 2007.

*Reverse Anthropology: Indigenous Analysis of Social and Environmental Relations in New Guinea*, Stanford University Press, 2006.

“Property limits: Debates on the body, nature, and culture,” in *Transactions and Creations: Property Debates and the Stimulus of Melanesia*, E. Hirsch and M. Strathern (eds.), New York: Berghahn Books, 2004, pp. 21-39.

“Rumour and other narratives of political violence in West Papua,” *Critique of Anthropology*, 22(1), 2002, pp. 53-79.

Service – Professor Kirsch’s record of service is excellent. He has been a member of three major departmental committees: admissions (2004-2006), executive committee (2003-2005), and co-chair of the curriculum committee (2003-2004). He recently joined the steering committee for the new interdisciplinary Museum Studies Program (2005-2008) and is active in the doctoral program in anthropology and history as well as in the Asian/Pacific Islander program of American studies. In addition to serving as book review editor for the interdisciplinary journal, *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, he regularly reviews manuscripts for eighteen journals and six presses, and grants for the National Science Foundation and the Nuffield Foundation. Professor Kirsch's international service is distinguished by his advocacy on behalf of the rights of indigenous peoples. The most striking feature of his service is how completely it is integrated with his teaching and scholarship.

### External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“Kirsch’s just-published book, *Reverse Anthropology*, is an unusual work because it brings together so many elements of his professional life and of the profession as a whole... And yet the author deftly interweaves these diverse elements to create a clear and uplifting picture of an embattled people.”

Reviewer (B)

“Stuart Kirsch speaks and writes with assurance and effectiveness, and has already established a reputation amongst Melanesianists and environmental anthropologists as a sound researcher and communicator... given the character of his public speaking I strongly surmise that his teaching skills are more than satisfactory.”

Reviewer (C)

“...I find Stuart’s work impressive and inspiring, and I’m happy to recommend him strongly. He is without question one of the best scholars in the field of contemporary Melanesian studies... I believe that he is a great asset...”

Reviewer (D)

“His scholarly output is exceptionally strong and includes ten journal articles – including six in the field’s most prestigious journals – as well as book chapters, review essays, and appropriate research grants. Punctuating these is Kirsch’s recent book, *Reverse Anthropology*, which, simply put, is a tour de force.”

Reviewer (E)

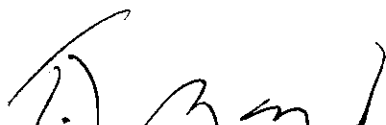
“...the particular combination of scholarly and applied work that characterizes Stuart’s vita is not common. ...engagement in it is extremely time- and energy-consuming...and still somewhat outside the usual academic canon, for the anthropologist to find ways to write about the contemporary problems and situations with which he is involved.”

Reviewer (F)

“There is no question in my mind that he is at the very top of mid-career anthropologists who work in Oceania. ...he is one of the very few anthropologists to integrate successfully the study of human-nature relations as a cultural system with careful attention to both ethnographic and historical nuance. ...virtually none carry this integration off with the thoroughness and imagination that Kirsch does.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Kirsch is a highly respected member of his profession. His record of teaching, research, and service is excellent. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Stuart A. Kirsch be promoted to the rank of associate professor of anthropology, with tenure, in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



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Terrence J. McDonald  
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor,  
Professor of History, and Dean  
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

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