

May 17, 2007

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

Julian A. Levinson, assistant professor of English language and literature, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of English language and literature, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2000	Columbia University
M.A.	1992	Columbia University
B.A.	1990	Swarthmore College

Professional Record:

2000 – present	Samuel Shetzer Endowed Chair in American Jewish Studies and Assistant Professor, Department of English Language and Literature, University of Michigan
2000	Adjunct Professor, Department of English, Fordham University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Levinson’s teaching has strengthened both English and Judaic studies. He teaches a broad range of courses of various sizes and levels, and he succeeds in them all. His teaching is indicative of his breadth of knowledge, his engagement with students, and his intellectual liveliness in and out of the classroom. Students rate him very highly and especially appreciate his generosity with his time outside the classroom.

Research – Professor Levinson’s major strengths are many and include his unique voice, intellectual sophistication, abundance of skill in languages, and capacity to comment intelligently on multiple genres. His essays and articles have appeared in a wide range of publications: four in the major refereed journals in his fields of expertise, a fifth under review, three essays in edited volumes, and three additional significant review essays. He has one publication in German and two more in Yiddish. His book is an intelligent manuscript examining the meaning and significance of secular Jewish culture in America. His scholarship will continue to inform American studies, Judaic studies, literary studies, and cultural studies.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Exiles on Main Street: Jewish American Writers and the Art of Return, Indiana University Press, forthcoming.

“Modernism from below: Moyshe-Leyb Halpern and the situation of Yiddish poetry,” *Jewish Social Studies*, 10(3), 2004, pp. 143-160.

“The maimed body and the tortured soul: Holocaust survivors in American film,” *The Yale Journal of Criticism*, 17(1), 2004, pp. 141-160.

“Is there a Jewish text in this class? Jewish Modernism in the multicultural academy,” *Michigan Quarterly Review*, 42(1), 2003, pp. 195-210.

Service: Professor Levinson's service has been exemplary. His performance on committees in the Department of English and in the Frankel Center for Judaic Studies has been conscientious and energetic. He served on both Executive Committees. Professor Levinson has been an excellent undergraduate advisor for Judaic studies. He served on the Awards Committee, the Graduate Student Third-Year Review Committee, and the Fellowship Awards Committee in English, and he was a judge in the Hopwood writing contest for two years. He also speaks regularly to adult-education groups, to community organizations, and to synagogues.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

"...Levinson provides sufficient evidence of being one of the major re-writers of American Jewish literary history...he deserves the institutional support represented by tenure."

Reviewer (B)

"...Julian's work shows everything one would want to see in order to award tenure with confidence. His work has developed most impressively over the past half dozen years, and shows every prospect of continuing on its strong upward trajectory in the future. He writes eloquently, at once with deep engagement and judicious balance (an all too uncommon combination), and these qualities must make him a sought-after teacher. It is a real pleasure to read his work..."

Reviewer (C)

"Professor Levinson's work situates Jewish American letters, and the writers central to its creation and interpretation, in multiple contexts. ... Reading his works, one senses a mature scholar behind them, and as such, his body of writing compares quite favorably to others in his specialty at a comparable point in their careers."

Reviewer (D)

"*Exiles on Main Street* is an original study that should revolutionize thinking in his field—Jewish American literary and intellectual history. It will have an impact. It sets a standard for scholarship that will oblige others to rethink their positions in light of it."

Reviewer (E)

"I admire his adventurous reach and his commitment to writing for general audiences as well as scholarly ones; his writing is generally engaging and lucid and gives energetic voice to his intellectual agility."

Reviewer (F)

"...Levinson's research statement...sketches a new project on the interaction between Yiddish, Hebrew, and English in Jewish American literature of the first half of the twentieth century. This new project sounds very promising... He is obviously a very smart and knowledgeable man who will go far..."

Reviewer (G)

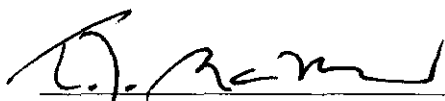
“First, it should be noted how wide-ranging Professor Levinson’s work truly is. His areas of expertise encompass American modernism, Yiddish poetry, film, cultural theory, Jewish culture studies, and of course the entire canon of Jewish American literature.”

Reviewer (H)

“...I’d rate him in the highest category both in terms of the level of his productivity and the calibre of his scholarship. ...I’d already elevate him to the ranks of the ablest academic analysts of American Jewish Literature. I cannot think of anyone of Levinson’s age and experience who is remotely comparable, and would have to identify scholars who are at least a generation older...”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Levinson is a leading scholar in his field, an outstanding teacher, and an admired colleague. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Julian A. Levinson be promoted to the rank of associate professor of English language and literature, with tenure, in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



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

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