

May 17, 2007

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

Anita Norich, associate professor of English language and literature and Judaic studies, with tenure, Department of English Language and Literature, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of English language and literature and Judaic studies, with tenure, Department of English Language and Literature, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1979	Columbia University
M. Phil.	1976	Columbia University
M.A.	1974	Columbia University
B.A.	1973	Barnard College

Professional Record:

1998-1999	Interim Director, Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, University of Michigan
1991 – present	Associate Professor, Department of English Language and Literature, University of Michigan
1983 – 1991	Assistant Professor, Department of English Language and Literature, University of Michigan
1981 – 1983	Lady Davis Postdoctoral Fellow in Yiddish, Hebrew University
1980 – 1981	Adjunct Assistant Professor, Program in Comparative Literature, University of Pennsylvania
1979 – 1981	Adjunct Assistant Professor, School of Continuing Education, New York University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Norich pioneered the teaching of American Jewish literature, Yiddish literature, and Holocaust literature at Michigan. She is an extraordinary instructor of undergraduate and graduate students. Her commitment to teaching extends beyond the University to the community where she regularly lectures. Her success registers in her course evaluations, in the care with which she prepares her syllabus, and in the excellence of the dissertations written under her supervision. Her presence has dramatically raised Michigan's profile in the field of modern Jewish literatures, as the recent increase in doctoral students in the field attests.

Research – Professor Norich is among the very best and most respected scholars of Jewish literary studies. Her latest book, *Discovering Exile*, is a thoroughly-researched study of a neglected period in American Jewish life and literature and is considered to be path-breaking. Her current research, *Speaking in Tongues*, will make a powerful contribution to translation studies as well as that of Yiddish- and Jewish-American fiction and poetry. Her work is deeply interdisciplinary in nature, extending the boundaries of each of her major fields, and enriching

both. She is also one of the first scholars to bring gender analysis to the field of Yiddish literary studies.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Speaking in Tongues: Translating Yiddish in the Twentieth Century, University of Washington Press Stroum Lecture Series, under contract 2008.

Discovering Exile: Yiddish and Jewish Culture in America During the Holocaust, Stanford University Press, forthcoming 2007.

"Afterword to *Deborah* by Esther Kreitman," translated by M. Carr, The Feminist Press, 2004.

"On the Yiddish question," in *Mapping Jewish Identities*, L. Silberstein (ed.), New York University Press, 2000, pp. 145-158.

Service – Professor Norich's colleagues have recognized her experience and judgment by repeatedly electing her to serve on the Executive Committees of English and Judaic Studies. She has served as undergraduate chair and interim associate chair (English), interim director (Frankel Center), and was recently appointed executive director of the Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies. She has also served as a faculty mentor for a number of colleagues in English, Near Eastern Studies, and other units.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

"...I have been steadily going through Anita Norich's writing, much of which I already know; it is impressive work, thoughtful, careful, and important. ...given the complexity and difficulty of the cultural tasks she has set herself, she has accomplished a tremendous amount. It strikes me that she is now in a position to inherit the mantle of Irving Howe as the pre-eminent scholar of Yiddish literature in its American home. For she is now recontextualizing American Jewish writing in terms of Yiddish literature, carrying forward the dialogue of Yiddish literature and history with a new critical edge that illuminates both."

Reviewer (B)

"Each one of Professor Norich's articles, reviews, and books is meticulously written and researched, all of them substantial and crucially important to the field. ...I can say confidently that this book [*Discovering Exile*] will finally bring Professor Norich the larger public and professional acclaim that she has deserved long before now. ... The quality of Anita Norich's work has always been excellent. Now that the quantity of her work has also begun to reach critical mass, she has to be recognized for what she is: one of the most distinguished and productive senior scholars in Jewish literary studies."

Reviewer (C)

"For many years Anita Norich has been a celebrated figure in the world of Jewish studies. She was written widely on Yiddish literature and on American Jewish texts...and she is widely known for the wit, warmth, and humor she brings to her analyses of Jewish writing. ... In the past year Professor Norich's long-term research has culminated in several outstanding new publications. Reading this body of work now, as a whole, I can more readily grasp the overall trajectory of her career and more fully appreciate both her intellectual growth and the impact she has had on the field of modern Jewish literature."

Reviewer (D)

"...*The Homeless Imagination* remains the definitive account of Israel Joshua Singer... As with all of Professor Norich's work, this book combines original and incisive close readings, subtle historical contextualizations, and theoretical sophistication. These qualities can be found in abundance in her forthcoming *Discovering Exile*... As with Professor Norich's earlier feminist intervention in Jewish studies, her Stroum lectures will I believe be an important bridge between Jewish studies and translation studies."

Reviewer (E)

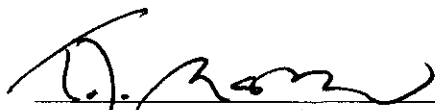
"Professor Norich is widely -- and justly -- considered among the finest scholars of contemporary Yiddish literature working in the United States. ... Her new manuscript [*Discovering Exile*] is...synthetic and original, and it offers many more suggestive reflections than it does definitive answers. ...it is the finest examination of what it means to be a writer of Yiddish in America during, and immediately after the Second World War."

Reviewer (F)

"Norich is a leading voice in Yiddish feminist literary studies both for her application of feminist theory to interpretation of Jewish texts and her rescue of marginal texts and underrepresented writers that merit closer scrutiny. ... Norich's work on Yiddish writers has value for an English Department both for its multicultural perspective and as an important tool for reading many Jewish American writers... Norich is a major asset in this period privileging multiculturalists for she is able to enrich the department's offerings with a body of literature neglected in the normative multicultural syllabus."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Norich is one of the top scholars of Yiddish- and Jewish-American literature of her generation. She also makes a strong curricular and intellectual contribution. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Anita Norich be promoted to the rank of professor of English language and literature and Judaic studies, with tenure, Department of English Language and Literature, 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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