

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

Approved by the Regents

May 17, 2007

Mark H. Nornes, associate professor of screen arts and cultures, with tenure, and associate professor of Asian languages and cultures, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of screen arts and cultures, with tenure, and professor of Asian languages and cultures, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1996	University of Southern California
M.A.	1990	University of Southern California
B.A.	1986	St. Olaf College

Professional Record:

2005 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Screen Arts and Cultures (SAC), University of Michigan
2001 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures (ALC), University of Michigan
2001 – 2005	Associate Professor, Program in Film and Video Studies, University of Michigan
1996 – 2001	Assistant Professor, Program in Film and Video Studies and Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, University of Michigan
1996	Lecturer, Vanderbilt University

Summary Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Nornes is an excellent instructor of students at all levels. His classroom teaching has been wide ranging and has contributed significantly to the curricula of both units. He has taught ten different courses ranging from graduate seminars in critical theory to large introductory undergraduate lecture courses. He has served on nine dissertation committees and directed three masters theses as well as three honors theses. He has been particularly active in developing new and innovative team-taught courses. Students give him high ratings and confirm that he is a popular, dedicated, and effective teacher.

Research – Professor Nornes focuses his research on Japanese cinema and he is one of the leading scholars of the field. Until quite recently, Western scholarship on Japanese film was limited to the study of subtitled films distributed to the West. Fluent in Japanese, Professor Nornes has access to the entire range of Japanese film production. He has, moreover, proven himself to be a highly productive scholar. Since his promotion to tenure, he has written two books, both of which are forthcoming from the University of Minnesota Press. In *Forest of Pressure*, Professor Nornes continues his exploration of Japanese documentaries, while in *Traffic*, Professor Nornes explores the fascinating cross-cultural issues that emerge in the process of dubbing films. He has also established himself as a major figure in the professional realm of the Japanese documentary, having played an important role in the Yamagata International Film Festival for over sixteen years—curating film

screenings, writing exhibition catalogs, and furthering digital technologies in relation to film scholarship.

Recent and Significant Publications:

*Forest of Pressure: Ogawa Pro and the Postwar Documentary*, University of Minnesota Press, forthcoming, 2007.

*Traffic: The Translator's Cinema*, University of Minnesota Press, forthcoming 2007.

*Japanese Documentary Film: The Meiji Era Through Hiroshima*, University of Minnesota Press, 2003.

Service – Professor Nornes' service record is exemplary. He is currently serving as director of Graduate Studies in ALC and co-chair of SAC's Technology Committee. He was associate chair of ALC (2002–2004) and has served on the Executive Committees of ALC, SAC, and the Center for Japanese Studies. He chaired and served on search committees and has served on tenure review committees. Nationally and internationally, he has reviewed manuscripts for university presses, served on editorial boards, and consulted on film projects. He founded and remains a mainstay of the Kinema Club, a 600-member web-based collaborative network that brings together scholars on Japanese film from around the world and holds regular conferences and workshops.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

"This is impressive. ...[Nornes'] double-barrel publication feat should really cause a stir in the next couple of years as it is absorbed by the scholarly community."

Reviewer (B)

"All of Prof. Nornes's books and articles would appear at the top of my list of works in his field... Nornes has already achieved international recognition, and his productivity is quite breathtaking."

Reviewer (C)

"I am happy for this opportunity...to speak to the work of Professor Nornes, who has contributed so much to the field of film studies in general, the fields of Japanese film and cultural studies in particular. ...I consider his scholarship and contributions to the field invaluable, absolutely singular in nature, and irreplaceable."

Reviewer (D)

"...along with *Japanese Documentary Film*, *Forest of Pressure*...represents its author's most significant contribution to the existing scholarship of Japanese cinema in the West. ...*Forest of Pressure* is a seminal work, the first really comprehensive study of the director's [Shinsuke Ogawa's] production."

Reviewer (E)

"...given the chance to review Dr. Nornes' two books[,] *Traffic* and *Forest of Pressure*, I am even more impressed by his work than I had expected. These books are not only erudite, thought provoking, and rich in research and detail, but they are also genuinely innovative, suggesting new directions for scholarship, both in Japanese and in cinema studies."

Reviewer (F)

“Not only is he the pre-eminent authority of Japanese documentary filmmaking, he has also written extensively on Japanese fiction film, the Japanese industry and other Asian cinemas.”

Reviewer (G)

“He is an absolutely necessary and vital presence in the field of Japanese cultural studies... someone who is both a serious scholar of film and of Japan...”

Reviewer (H)

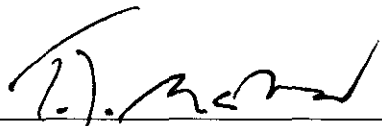
“I assure [you] that he is one of the most important researchers in the genre [of Japanese documentary film], not only in the United States, but also in other countries including Japan. ... His understanding of Japanese culture and postwar Japanese society is excellent.”

Reviewer (I)

“...Professor Nornes is one of very few prolific scholars of Japanese cinema, one who contributes substantially to all areas of research, teaching, and service. ... His strength lies in his solid training in film studies as well [as] in Japanese language and culture. ... His intimate knowledge of contemporary Japanese film circles is enhanced by his meticulous archival research and extended fieldwork in Japan, and his critical observation of Japanese film history and criticism is further strengthened by his engagement with contemporary film and cultural theories.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Nornes is a productive and innovative scholar whose work has had a significant impact in the United States and in Japan. He is an excellent teacher and his service contributions are noteworthy. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Mark H. Nornes be promoted to the rank of professor of screen arts and cultures, with tenure, and professor of Asian languages and cultures, 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

May 2007