

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

Approved by the Regents

May 17, 2007

Catherine Sanok, assistant professor of English language and literature and assistant professor of women's studies, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of English language and literature, with tenure, and associate professor of women's studies, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1999	University of California, Los Angeles
M.A.	1995	University of California, Los Angeles
B.A.	1992	Yale University

Professional Record:

2001 – present	Assistant Professor, Department of English Language and Literature, University of Michigan
2003 – present	Assistant Professor, Women's Studies Program, University of Michigan
1999 – 2001	Assistant Professor, Department of English, University of Washington

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Sanok has demonstrated a serious pedagogical commitment to students by teaching courses that meet key requirements in the undergraduate English and women's studies curriculum, as well as a graduate seminar in English. Her course designs evidence her efforts to create challenging, rigorous, and compelling learning experiences and her revisions in those courses indicate her thoughtful responses to student feedback and her strong desire to improve her teaching. She has advised two students on their senior honors theses, and served on five dissertation and one doctoral exam committee. She has gone beyond formal classes in graduate mentoring by serving as faculty co-sponsor of a Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies' interdisciplinary workshop known as "Spiritus Aevi."

Research – Professor Sanok's scholarship demonstrates originality, research depth, and the clear promise of future productivity. Her published work makes exciting contributions to medieval and early modern literary studies as well as to women's studies and religious studies. Her book argues for new ways of understanding medieval women's literary culture, revealing the complex interactions of writers, readers, patrons, book owners, and guilds in the development and social uses of hagiography. It is expected to have a profound impact on the work of scholars in the several fields to which it contributes. Professor Sanok's articles demonstrate her expertise across a broad range of medieval and early modern literature, including Latin and Old French.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Her Life Historical: Exemplarity and Female Saints' Lives in Late Medieval England, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2007, in press.

"The lives of women saints of our countrie of England: Gender and nationalism in recusant hagiography," in *Catholic Culture in Early Modern England*, R. Corthell, et al. (eds.), University of Notre Dame Press, under contract.

“Almoravides at Thebes: Islam and European identity in the *Roman de Thèbes*,” *Modern Language Quarterly*, 64(3), 2003, pp. 277-298.

“The geography of genre in the *Physician’s Tale* and *Pearl*,” *New Medieval Literatures*, 5, 2002, pp. 177-201.

Service – Professor Sanok has taken on a number of important assignments, serving on many of the more time-consuming and critical committees in the Department of English Language and Literature. Since 2003, when she accepted a joint appointment in the Women’s Studies Program, she has devoted similar energy and talent there. Her service ranges from important elected positions within the department to conference organization, demonstrating in each venue the value of her collegiality and intelligence. She also co-founded and co-organized an ongoing internationally respected seminar which has improved intellectual and collegial opportunities locally and enhanced the national reputation of the Michigan medieval program.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“This [*Her Life Historical*] is going to be a much-used and warmly reviewed book. I am even more excited to see what Professor Sanok will do with her second book project. ...it will be part of the first wave of scholars trying to bridge the gap of the late medieval and Early Modern. ... I hope this suggests how very much I am impressed by Catherine Sanok’s work, and my sense that she is among the vanguard of her generation.”

Reviewer (B)

“Sanok’s work is at a very interesting stage intellectually now. ...her work is certainly—and remarkably—as mature as scholars who are her seniors. ... *Her Life Historical* is an exhilarating read; refreshing, suggestive, and chock-full of fascinating connections, insights and innovative research. ... I have no doubt this book will be very widely read and that it will be an influential book in the field.”

Reviewer (C)

“...I want to address an attribute of this [Sanok’s] work that has perhaps made the strongest impression upon me: the superior quality of mind that it consistently exhibits. Sanok is obviously an accomplished literary critic and cultural and literary historian, but she is so because she is a very good thinker. Her scholarship does not simply engage important critical and theoretical paradigms; it actively critiques them. ... *Her Life Historical* will be an important and influential contribution to the study of medieval English hagiography and will establish Sanok’s reputation as [a] significant critical voice in medieval studies.”

Reviewer (D)

“I think that Sanok’s unique contribution to the field is her notion of exemplarity as a fiction in saints’ lives and its necessary relationship to questions of historical continuity and discontinuity. This seems to me to be absolutely brilliant as an overarching theme for her book, and one that will be taken up and pursued by scholars in the future. ... Sanok’s work attests to that rare scholar who shuttles easily between recent theoretical advances in medieval studies and an insistence on historical specificity... I have no doubt that she is on her way to becoming a major scholar in the medieval studies.”

Reviewer (E)

“...the whole range of her work on female hagiography is among the most interesting, balanced, and wide-ranging writing I have encountered in some years. Both on its face and on its merits, Professor Sanok’s case for promotion and tenure is one of the strongest I have seen.”

Reviewer (F)

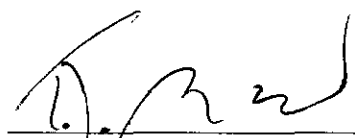
“I have reviewed close to a dozen tenure files in medieval literature over the past five years, and Sanok’s publication record is perhaps the most impressive I have seen in terms of the quality of publication venues and the quantity of scholarly items. Her book alone...would guarantee her tenure. But in addition to this book, she has published in extremely selective, very high impact journals that most of us would be content to have published in over an entire career.”

Reviewer (G)

“...she has produced an exceptional body of work, impressive for its remarkable range and substance, for the powerful and delicate intelligence everywhere on display, for the lucidity and elegance that marks virtually every sentence she writes, and for the attention it’s bound to generate, given the high profile of all the journals and presses she has worked with. ... She is a scholar who will not just fit into a department, but will define what departments do.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Sanok has developed a national and international scholarly reputation in her field of study, has made valuable contributions to the development of undergraduate and graduate education, and has performed excellent service. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Catherine Sanok be promoted to the rank of associate professor of English Language and Literature, with tenure, and associate professor of Women’s Studies, without 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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