

May 17, 2007

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

Catherine R. Squires, assistant professor of communication studies and assistant professor of Afroamerican and African studies, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of communication studies, with tenure, and associate professor of Afroamerican and African studies, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1999	Northwestern University
M.A.	1996	Northwestern University
B.A.	1994	Occidental College

Professional Record:

2000 – present      Assistant Professor, Department of Communication Studies and Center for Afroamerican and African Studies (CAAS), University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Squires is an excellent instructor who is dedicated to curricular innovation. She has taken on a range of courses, from large introductory lecture classes to small senior and graduate level seminars. With the exception of one large lecture class in communication studies, she introduced and designed all of her other courses. Students consistently give her a high ranking and their evaluations of her seminars indicate an unusually capable and energetic presence in the classroom. Her courses have attracted great interest among students drawn to her dynamic and supportive teaching methods and her specialization in research on race, gender, and identity. Students of color have sought her as a mentor and role model and Professor Squires has served them with enormous care and dedication. She has played a signal role in helping to recruit and retain talented students of color at the graduate level.

Research – Professor Squires is a highly original and analytically rigorous scholar whose work focuses on media representations of race, definitions of racial categories, and theories of the public sphere in a multicultural society. She is interdisciplinary in her reading, thinking, and writing, and has created an impressive body of publications. *Dispatches from the Color Line*, forthcoming from State University of New York Press, is a groundbreaking book on the representations of mixed race people in the media. A second book, *Agents of Change*, is under contract with Polity Press and brings together the scholarship on race and the media that has been published in a variety of disparate places. Her articles and chapters are already being used to teach and have been cited by other scholars in her field.

Recent and Significant Publications:

*Dispatches From the Color Line: The Press and Multiracial America*, State University of New York Press, forthcoming 2007.

“Black audiences, past and present: Common sense media critics,” in *Say It Loud! African American Audiences, Media and Identity*, R. Means Coleman (ed.), Routledge, 2002, pp. 45-76.

“Black talk radio: Community needs and identity,” *Harvard International Journal of Press and Politics*, 5(2), 2000, pp. 73-95.

“Rethinking the Black public sphere: An alternative vocabulary for multiple public spheres,” *Communication Theory*, 12(4), 2000, pp. 446-468.

Service – Professor Squires has made a significant contribution for someone who holds the rank of assistant professor. Her service has been devoted primarily to undergraduate students and undergraduate education, and includes institution building in both units. Professor Squires’ signature service contribution has been to establish and direct the CAAS Advising Center. She also has served on the Executive Committee, on search committees, and on the Undergraduate Admissions Committee in the Department of Communication Studies. She offered service teaching as her contribution to the College’s Brown vs. Board of Education Theme Semester (2004-2005), served on panels for Campus Day events, addressed students about the Michigan Difference capital campaign, and served as faculty advisor for the University’s branch of the National Association of Black Journalists.

#### External Reviews:

##### Reviewer (A)

“...I recommend enthusiastically and without reservation that Catherine Squires be promoted to associate professor with tenure. It is clear to me that Professor Squires has developed a significant and compelling body of research addressing questions of race and mass media. I am confident that Professor Squires’ research will guide inquiries into these topics for many years to come.”

##### Reviewer (B)

“...Squires is at the forefront of research, scholarship, teaching, and mentoring... She is an original thinker, with superior training and credentials. ...*Dispatches from the Color Line* is a smart book and very courageous... Catherine’s interrogation and conclusions are significant and the book will be important in any further analyses of race, media, political activity, group affiliations and actions.”

##### Reviewer (C)

“I wouldn’t hesitate to rank Katherine [sic] Squires among the top ten scholars [of her generation] who are beginning to define the parameter of this emerging area. ... She is a first rate scholar, careful in her claims, and inclusive in the scope of arguments that she grants entry into her thinking and writing. Her writing is engaging, accessible, but fully capable of making clear distinctions where they are needed. This is a rare gift, and she has cultivated it to a high level.”

##### Reviewer (D)

“The SUNY Press book *Racial Horizons*...is unique in its field. The range of material covered—both the exhaustive and synthetic literature review and the empirical range of news coverage—is most impressive. ...I suspect that as it gains notice this book will become a widely referenced scholarly text.”

Reviewer (E)

"...I find her work tremendously impressive and illuminating. ...it seems assured that she will, in short time, be recognized as a leading scholar in the study of race and the media, given the yield, rigor and theoretical acuity of her work. ... Few if any such books are so intellectually rigorous, and at the same time so thoroughly topical and relevant to contemporary policy debates."

Reviewer (F)

"Squires' case studies lead her to make insightful, original, and generative arguments that seem certain to influence scholars in media studies, cultural studies, and critical race studies in important ways in the years ahead."

Reviewer (G)

"...*Dispatches from the Color Line* is a highly readable, sophisticated, and thoroughly original project. ... The second project has the potential to make the same kind of inroads as the first. It is evident to me that Professor Squires will make significant contributions to scholarship for many, many years to come."

Reviewer (H)

"Catherine Squires' writing and research is grounded in the field of mass communication, yet her work demonstrates significant engagement with the historical, sociological, and theoretical scholarship in racial and ethnic studies. This is no small feat; serious interdisciplinary inquiry requires a deep, rather than superficial, knowledge of multiple fields so that an intellectual conversation can be moved forward. Dr. Squires' work amply demonstrates this process."

Reviewer (I)

"...her published work is strong and displays an exemplary extension of her analytical and intellectual gaze to new fields of research. ...she would be granted tenure here."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Squires is an excellent instructor and mentor, and an original scholar who is at the top of her cohort. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Catherine R. Squires be promoted to the rank of associate professor of communication studies, with tenure, and associate professor of Afroamerican and African studies, 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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