

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

Approved by the Regents

May 17, 2007

Twila Z. Tardif, associate professor of psychology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of psychology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts [also being promoted to research professor, Center for Human Growth and Development].

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1993	Yale University
M.S.	1988	Yale University
B.S.	1986	University of Toronto

Professional Record:

2002 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, Research Associate Professor and Program Director, Program in Culture and Development, Center for Human Growth and Development
1999 – 2002	Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, Chinese University of Hong Kong
1996 – 1999	Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, Chinese University of Hong Kong
1993 – 1996	Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Michigan
1993 – 1996	Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Michigan Society of Fellows, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Tardif is an excellent instructor whose interdisciplinary courses draw students from psychology, linguistics, anthropology, and education. She has mentored over 25 undergraduates, including several honors theses, in her research lab and students praise her generous feedback and encouragement. Her excellent contributions to research mentoring have been instrumental in creating and sustaining important links between Michigan and Chinese scholars through the Minority Health International Research Training (MHIRT) Program. Funded by the National Institutes of Health Fogarty International Center and administered through the Center for Human Growth and Development, the MHIRT Program was designed to provide students from underrepresented minority backgrounds with international opportunities to conduct health-related research.

Research – Professor Tardif's work provides a textbook example of programmatic research in the behavioral sciences. She has taken the deepest and most controversial issues in psychology – the relations among culture, mind, and human development – and turned them into questions whose answers are reshaping the way we think about language, culture, cognition, and development. Her work has impacted our understanding of children's early linguistic development. She is well-respected by senior people and is showing high impact in her field.

She has solid grant support and has begun several new lines of collaborative research. Several of her book chapters were peer reviewed and her co-authored book has been accepted for publication. Her scholarly articles appear in top tier U.S. and Chinese journals.

Recent and Significant Publications:

The Chinese Communicative Development Inventory (Putonghua and Cantonese Versions): Manual, Forms, and Norms, co-authored with P. Fletcher, et al., Brookes Publishing Company, forthcoming.

“Preschoolers’ understanding of knowing-that and knowing-how in the U.S. and Hong Kong,” with H. M. Wellman, et al., *Developmental Psychology*, 41, 2005, pp. 562-573.

“Chinese preschoolers understanding of ‘knowing how’ and ‘knowing that’ (in Chinese),” with X. Yang, et al., *Acta Psychologica Sinica*, 36(1), 2004, pp. 59-64.

“Learning to say “no” in Chinese,” with C. Wan, *Early Education and Development*, 12, 2001, pp. 303-323.

Service – Professor Tardif has been an exceptional citizen who has assumed significant and important administrative duties in the three units where she is appointed – the Department of Psychology, the Center for Human Growth and Development, and the Center for Chinese Studies. She has served on major committees, and has contributed invaluable service as a “cultural liaison” between Michigan and four institutions in China and Hong Kong. Professor Tardif led a delegation of psychology faculty to meet with faculty in Beijing to establish possible relations and collaborations. Faculty regularly consult with her about how to assist and work with the increasing number of Chinese-speaking graduate students and postdoctoral scholars.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“...it is clear that Tardif merits promotion to full professor. Her research program is unique, deep and important, and she is a productive and careful scientist.”

Reviewer (B)

“Her combination of skills is unusual, and her ability to branch into new fields bodes well for keeping her work on the cutting edge. She has a very high citation rate despite the recency of her work, which is one index of her reputation. ... Her body of work is truly remarkable.”

Reviewer (C)

“Prof. Twila Tardif is among the most influential and accomplished scholars in cross-cultural developmental psychology. Her work comparing English-speaking and Chinese-speaking children as they acquire language and concepts is innovative and illuminating.”

Reviewer (D)

“Anchored rigorously in methodology of psychology and linguistics, she explores basic issues in social science that are of philosophical interest from a cross-linguistic perspective... Professor Tardif’s work has enriched the field by bringing data from Chinese to bear on general theoretical issues of early vocabulary development. ...Tardif is a first-rate researcher of her generation with a consistent line of productive, insightful research.”

Reviewer (E)

“Dr. Tardif is unquestionably one of the leading figures in cross-cultural research on child language acquisition and its relation to cognitive development. Her brilliance as a scholar is matched by her facility in learning foreign languages. ...her articles are published in the top journals, and they are laying the foundations for a new scientific understanding of the role of language in the child’s processing of diverse features during the early years.”

Reviewer (F)

“...she is a hard working psychologist and an enthusiastic scholar with vision...and knowledge of psychology. ...she is playing an active role for the cooperation between communities of English speaking psychology and Chinese psychology.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Tardif is an outstanding teacher, a generous university citizen, and internationally respected scholar who has fostered collaborations across units and disciplines. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Twila Z. Tardif be promoted to the rank of professor of psychology, 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

May 2007