

May 17, 2007

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

Magdalena J. Zaborowska, associate professor of American culture, without tenure, and associate professor of Afroamerican and African studies, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for the granting of tenure to be held with her titles of associate professor of American culture and associate professor of Afroamerican and African studies, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1992	University of Oregon
M.A.	1987	University of Warsaw
B.A.	1985	University of Warsaw

Professional Record:

2001 – present	Associate Professor, Program in American Culture and Center for Afroamerican and African Studies (CAAS), University of Michigan
2000–2001	Visiting Associate Professor, Program in American Culture and Taubman School of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan
1999–2000	Research Fellow, Newcomb College Center for Research on Women, Tulane University, and Centre for Cultural Research, Aarhus University (six months in each position)
1998–2000	Associate Professor, Department of English and American Studies, Aarhus University
1996–1997	Assistant Professor, Department of English and American Studies, Aarhus University
1992–1996	Assistant Professor, English Department, Furman University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Zaborowska has been a successful instructor who has taught a wide range of classes at all levels. She has been extremely responsive to the curricular needs of the Program in American Culture and her teaching in the fields of African American literature, gender and manhood, and space and place make significant contributions to curricula in both units. Her overall record is excellent. Classroom evaluators praise her presentation style, her use of technology, and her dedication to Michigan students. She is an exceptional mentor and has played an important role in graduate admissions and curricular discussions. As a frequent participant in workshops, cross-unit public presentations, and programmatic initiatives, she is a regular and important contributor to the instructional environment of the College.

Research – Professor Zaborowska’s scholarship is rich and exciting. Her first book, *How We Found America: Reading Gender through East-European Immigrant Narratives* (University of North Carolina Press, 1995), remains an important marker in the literature on immigration, women’s writing, and the literary imagination of the self. Her current manuscript, *James Baldwin’s Turkish Decade*, uses interviews, archival research, as well as literary and visual analysis to unearth a largely ignored chapter in the life of this great African American writer. In addition to these two monographs, Professor Zaborowska has explored her broader interests in three edited or co-edited volumes and a number of articles, chapters, and essays.

Recent and Significant Publications:

James Baldwin's Turkish Decade: Erotics of Exile. Duke University Press, 2007.

"Racing transatlantic passages: James Baldwin's African 'America' and immigrant studies," in *Cultural Psychology of Immigrants*, R. Mahalingam (ed.), Lawrence Erlbaum, 2006, pp. 169-196.

Over the Wall/After the Fall: Post-Communist Cultures through the East-West Gaze, with S. Forrester and E. Gapova (co-eds.), Indiana University Press, 2004.

The Puritan Origins of American Sex: Religion, Sexuality and National Identity in American Literature, with N. F. Radel and T. Fessenden (co-eds.), Routledge, 2001.

Service – Professor Zaborowska has been an important participant in the Program in American Culture's external review and long-range planning processes. She has served as a member and as chair of the Graduate Admissions Committee while managing the graduate student presentation workshop. In CAAS, her emphasis has been work on the Honors Program. She has also participated in a number of important programs across this campus, including the Institute for Research on Women and Gender, the International Institute, the Center for Russian and East European Studies, and the Global Feminisms Project. Widely known throughout Europe's African Americanist community, her service commitments extend to the international arena, as she is a frequent participant in the life of European institutions for American and African American studies. These broader contributions make her service profile an exceptional one.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

"The most perfect expression of the pioneer quality of Professor Zaborowska's negotiations of the crossroads of American, European, African and Islamic cultures is her book on James Baldwin's Turkish experience... Its acceptance by Duke University Press speaks for itself."

Reviewer (B)

"Professor Zaborowska's scholarship is first rate and presents clear signs of someone who has and will continue to be a leader in the fields of black literary studies, American studies, and transnational studies. ...based on productivity, she is on even par, and in some instances supersedes, her peers. ...I have no doubt that she will continue to produce first rate scholarship and more importantly, continue to push the field in new directions."

Reviewer (C)

"On the basis of the articles on visual culture, architecture, and the built environment one can also expect that her next big projects will be as different in terminology and approach as 'Baldwin's Turkish Decade' was from *How We Found America*. ...the quality and quantity of her work so far would probably make her a likely candidate for a full professorship at other major research universities."

Reviewer (D)

"...the quantity and quality of Professor Zaborowska's scholarship defies easy summary. Her work helps define the cutting edge in transnational American Studies and African American Studies... Because of the intricacies of her career pattern and the expanse of her projects, it is hard to make the comparisons to Professor Zaborowska's cohort... Such incompatibility is an altogether good thing."

Reviewer (E)

“Her approach to the study of American culture is multifaceted and multi-leveled... Her research and writing are thoroughly informed by the critical theories of the last two decades and by the most current research of the leading Americanists in this country and abroad. The range of knowledge and theoretical sophistication of her work in *Other Americans, Other Identities: The Politics and Poetics of Multiculturalism* and her recent essays are remarkable.”

Reviewer (F)

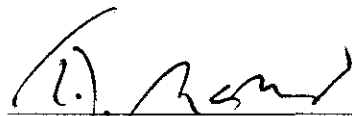
“Zaborowska’s work is important because it treats Baldwin from a completely original perspective and, as such, adds significantly to Baldwin scholarship. Her writing is thorough, well-written, and extremely perceptive. This is a fine scholar and, I would guess, an excellent teacher.”

Reviewer (G)

“Professor Zaborowska is a serious, prolific scholar, with a record of accomplishment that certainly warrants her being a successful candidate for tenure.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Zaborowska is a dedicated and valued faculty member who is demonstratively meritorious across the full spectrum of research, teaching, and service. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Magdalena J. Zaborowska be granted tenure to be held with her titles of associate professor of American culture and associate professor of Afroamerican and African studies 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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