

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION

The University of Michigan-Dearborn
College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters
Department of Humanities

Approved by the Regents

May 15, 2008

Elizabeth E. Rohan, assistant professor of rhetoric and composition, Department of Humanities, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of rhetoric and composition, with tenure, Department of Humanities, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D. 2002	University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
M.A. 1996	DePaul University
B.A. 1990	University of Michigan

Professional Record:

2002 - present	Assistant Professor of Rhetoric and Composition, University of Michigan-Dearborn
1998 - 2001	Teaching Assistant, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Rohan's teaching is rated as excellent. Since her hiring in 2002, she has taught nine different courses and developed or co-developed several new courses with various colleagues. She has proven her breadth as a teacher by a range of courses she has offered (including three sections taught in conjunction with freshman seminars). Students' evaluations express satisfaction with Professor Rohan's expectations, instructions, and feedback. In a recent observation of her classroom teaching, Dr. Margaret Willard-Traub, director of the Writing Program, observed her to be "an exceedingly thoughtful and engaging teacher who balances attention to the pragmatic concerns of learning to write with attention to students' development as critical thinkers, especially with regard to the analysis of history and popular culture, and to the use of historical archives in writing and research." The syllabi and thoughtful comments Professor Rohan provided in her reflections on individual courses and in her statement of teaching philosophy point to her enthusiasm for teaching, especially the teaching of writing. Her course materials, teaching statements, evaluations, and peer reviews are clear indicators of the very high quality of her teaching.

Research: Professor Rohan's research is rated as excellent. Her research centers on historical formulations of literacy, especially those related to what she terms "non-traditional or under-valued settings" involving women's authorship. Since joining the faculty of UM-Dearborn, she has published six journal articles, all in refereed journals, and has two additional articles and a book chapter accepted for publications pending editorial changes. The centerpiece of Professor Rohan's scholarship is the collection entitled *Labor of Love: Research as a Lived Process*, which she co-edited with Gesa Kirsch, and for which she co-wrote the introduction, and contributed an essay. This collection is under contract with Southern Illinois University Press and will be published in 2008. For her article "Material Pedagogy" Professor Rohan won the

2006 UM-Dearborn Women's Studies Award for Excellence in Scholarship. Together with her twelve papers presented at national and international conferences, this publication record shows a solid and progressive program of scholarship.

Summary of Recent and Significant Publications:

Elizabeth Rohan, "One woman's battle for God: literacy, modernity and the turn-of-the-Twentieth Century American woman's missionary movement." *Lefait Missions* 18 (2006): 47-62.

Elizabeth Rohan, "A material pedagogy: lessons from progressive-era domestic arts curricula." *Pedagogy*, 6:1 (2006): 79-101.

Elizabeth Rohan, "I Remember Mamma: Material rhetoric, mnemonic activity and one woman's turn-of-the-Twentieth-Century quilt," *Rhetoric Review* 23:4 (2004): 368-87.

Elizabeth Rohan, "Reveal codes: Revisiting and historicizing women's work literacy, the case of secretaries." *Computers and Composition* 20:3 (2003): 237-253.

Elizabeth Rohan, Beyond the archives: Research as a lived process. With co-editor Gesa Kirsch, Southern Illinois Press, Carbondale, IL, in press. (Scheduled for publication March 2008).

Service: Professor Rohan's service is rated as excellent. She has taken on numerous service responsibilities not only for the discipline of English language and literature but also for the college and university communities more broadly. Service to the English language and literature discipline included work on the curriculum committee, and on several professor search committees. Her services to the Writing Program and to college-wide programs are applauded by her discipline and department. Professor Rohan has served as mentor for the Partners for Academic Achievement Program, an initiative designed to improve the retention rate of African-American women students at UM-Dearborn, an important component of the campus' metropolitan vision. She continues to be involved in important services to her discipline, the Humanities Department, the College and the campus community.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "Given her publication record, her substantial effort to situate herself at the intersection of a whole range of scholarly fields, the quality of her work under contract, and her active participation in national and regional conferences in the last ten years, I have no doubt that Elizabeth Rohan will continue to publish in a variety of reputable and refereed special-topic journals while enabling the readers of those journals to broaden their sense of the relevance and importance of other areas of research and methods."

Reviewer B: "The materials I have examined are very impressive. Professor Rohan's publication record is stronger than those of many candidates for promotion that I have reviewed in the past, and the quality of the essays is very high."

Reviewer C: "Professor Rohan's research contributes to parallel and vibrant conversations in literacy studies and women's rhetoric. Her work marks the convergence of these lines of inquiry with archival research addressing the history of literacy education in the U.S."


Reviewer D: "[In *Labor of Love: Research as a Lived Process*] Drs. Rohan and Kirsch have chosen contributors who make the research process more transparent and who broaden the definition of what counts as an archive and as a text. Dr. Rohan's body chapter in this collection

explores the research she has conducted over the past ten years on the diaries of Janette Miller... With brute honesty, Dr. Rohan reveals the pitfalls and joys of research and how her work on Miller taught her as much about herself and the biases she harbored growing up in Detroit as it did about missionaries in the early twentieth century.”

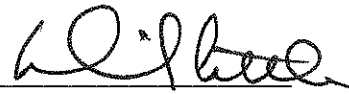
Reviewer E: “Professor Rohan’s scholarship is without question outstanding. She is a rigorous and careful scholar who explores, theorizes, and historicizes complex issues of gender, race, class, labor practices, technology, and rhetorical and literate practices with a keen analytical eye. She is also an engaging writer; her work is a joy to read.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Elizabeth Rohan has proven her commitment and skill in all three areas of academic performance. She is an engaging and energetic teacher who sets high standards for her students; a colleague who contributes to various committees across campus; and a scholar who has established an excellent record of research and publication with several major articles already published in first-rate journals. We are very pleased to recommend, with the strong support of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters Executive Committee, Elizabeth E. Rohan for promotion to associate professor of rhetoric and composition, with tenure, Department of Humanities, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.



Kathryn Anderson-Levitt
Dean
College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters



Daniel Little
Chancellor
University of Michigan-Dearborn

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