

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

Maria Sarita See, assistant professor of American culture, and assistant professor of English language and literatures, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of American culture, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2001	Columbia University
M.A.	1994	Columbia University
B.A.	1991	University of California, Berkeley

Professional Record:

2002 – present	Assistant Professor, Program in American Culture and Department of English Language and Literature, University of Michigan
2000 – 2002	Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, English Department and American Studies Program, Williams College

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor See is an excellent instructor and mentor. She has taught three graduate courses and received excellent reviews. She is chair or co-chair of six dissertation committees, and she has seen two of these dissertations to completion and their authors to tenure-track jobs. She currently serves on eight additional dissertation committees. She is also an impressive undergraduate teacher, usually scoring well on student evaluations.

Research – Professor See’s body of work forms a superb example of contemporary Asian American studies. She is keenly interested in the ambiguity of being foreign while also being domestic. Her forthcoming book, *“Foreign in a Domestic Sense,”* is bold and original, offering a nuanced and transformative understanding of the cultural politics of contemporary expressive practices and genres. Her next project focuses on the representation of the Philippines and of the politics of representation in contemporary Filipino American historiography, theatre, and aesthetics. Professor See also has two articles, a co-authored article, and two book chapters in print.

Recent and Significant Publications:

*Foreign in a Domestic Sense: Filipino America’s Cultural Moment*, University of Minnesota Press, forthcoming in 2009.

“Southern postcoloniality and the improbability of Filipino American postcoloniality: Faulkner’s *Absalom, Absalom!* and Hagedorn’s *Dogeaters*,” *Mississippi Quarterly: The Journal of Southern Cultures*, 57(1), 2003-04, pp. 41-54.

“‘An open wound’: Colonial melancholia and contemporary Filipino/American texts,” in *Vestiges of War 1899-1999: The Philippine-American War and the Aftermath of an Imperial Dream*, A. Shaw and L. Francia (eds.), New York University Press, 2002, pp. 376-400.

Service – Professor See has a fine record of service in the Program in American Culture, including work on the Graduate Committee and on the Undergraduate Committee during a time of major curricular revision. She is a committed, core member of Asian/Pacific Islander American Studies Program and is a vital member of its intellectual community. In service to the University, she has served on a fellowship committee at the Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies. She has assisted the Korean Student Association and advises the Philippine Studies Graduate Student Association.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“Professor See is the first scholar to recognize and to argue for this group [of contemporary Filipino American artists] as a coherent social, political, and cultural formation... I think that *Foreign in a Domestic Sense* is a truly impressive, engaging, and original manuscript. I learned from it enormously. Indeed, it reads with a kind of intellectual maturity rarely evident in first books.”

Reviewer (B)

“...there has been an increasing amount of attention in Asian American and American Studies given to concerns that previously might have been dismissed as merely aesthetic. I believe that the volume See is co-editing...and her book on the essay (along with “*Foreign in a Domestic Sense*”) will place her at the forefront of this reemergence of interest in form. ... I recommend that she receive tenure and be promoted to the rank of associate professor.”

Reviewer (C)

“...Professor See’s manuscript is first-rate work that culminates the lines of inquiry we see in her earlier articles. It is a book that has cohesion on both intellectual and ethical levels, and represents the work of a scholar who has come up with some very important answers for postcolonial Asian American studies. ...See is a first-rate scholar whose work I will continue to look forward to reading and engaging [in] throughout what is sure to be a stellar career.”

Reviewer (D)

“Professor See’s body of work places her in the front rank of the scholars in her generation who’s investigations of these areas of inquiry have constituted the most vital interventions in the humanities and social sciences over the last thirty years. ... She has already offered a unique and enduring contribution to American intellectual life and I am eager to see the new work... ...I urge the University of Michigan to grant Professor See tenure. Any university in the country would be lucky to have her...”

Reviewer (E)

“You have in Professor See an impressive emerging scholar, and I am confident that in the years to come she will have established herself as a major presence in the fields of Diasporic and Filipino-American studies, and Cultural theory. ...the quality of her work is really quite stellar and assures her, in my evaluation, of promotion to Associate Professor with tenure.”

Reviewer (F)

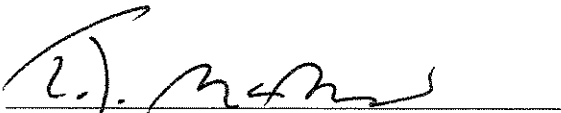
“...I concluded that Professor See was one of the best members of...[her] generation making important contributions to Asian American, American and postcolonial studies—fields now a crucial part of any literature and history curriculum in the contemporary university. ...See will be instrumental in introducing her undergraduate and graduate students to the rewards of this kind of archival research, so that they can discover that such investigation is...a way of making the present more understandable and *alive*.”

Reviewer (G)

“...what distinguishes her record is the consistently superior caliber of her work. I know of few scholars [of her generation] who write as eloquently, and with as much keenness of insight and theoretical acumen as Sarita does. ... What is most remarkable about Sarita See’s work...is the deeply historicized nature of her analyses. ... She provides a field of expertise that will become increasingly important not only in Asian American Studies but also in American Literature and Culture.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor See produced outstanding research. Her contributions to the teaching and service missions of the College have been substantial. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that assistant professor Maria Sarita See be promoted to the rank of associate professor of American culture, 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 2008