

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

Joshua L. Miller, assistant professor of English language and literature, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of English language and literature, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

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| Ph.D. | 2001 | Columbia University |
| M. Phil. | 1997 | Columbia University |
| A.M. | 1995 | Columbia University |
| A.B. | 1993 | University of Chicago |

Professional Record:

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| 2002 – present | Assistant Professor, Department of English Language and Literature, and Faculty Associate, Program in American Culture and the Jean and Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, University of Michigan |
| 2001 – 2002 | Adjunct Assistant Professor, English and Comparative Literature Department, Columbia University |

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Miller shows a commendable range of teaching in topic, level, and format, and he has been very successful in the classroom. Evaluations are consistently high and students frequently share enthusiastic comments about his courses. His innovations in the American literature curriculum bring the insights of his scholarly research into the classroom. He is also a valued advisor for a growing number of graduate students. In 2003 he initiated the department-wide Digital Archive Project, which is dedicated to creating shared teaching materials, and he continues to direct this project.

Research – Professor Miller is a scholar of twentieth-century American literature whose research focuses on literary modernism. He has substantially revised and extended his dissertation work in *Say Something American If You Dare: The Mixed Languages of U. S. Modernism*, which is forthcoming from Oxford University Press. The project is an historical and interpretive study of language politics and literature in the United States between 1898 and 1945. This is an exciting book and is expected to make a substantial impact in his field. Professor Miller has also published five essays, each independent of his dissertation and book.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Say Something American If You Dare: The Mixed Languages of U.S. Modernism, Oxford University Press, forthcoming 2008.

“The ‘Gorgeous laughter’ of Filipino modernity: Carlos Bulosan’s *The Laughter of My Father*,” in *Bad Modernisms*, D. Mao and R. Walkowitz (eds.), Duke University Press, 2006, pp. 238-268.

“The Transamerican trail to *Cerca del Cielo*: John Sayles and the aesthetics of multilingual cinema,” in *Bilingual Games*, D. Sommer (ed.), Palgrave/St. Martin’s Press, 2003, pp. 121-148.

“A striking addiction to irreality’: *Nothing Personal* and the legacy of image-text collaborations,” (with photographs by Richard Avedon, Walker Evans, and Jacob Rüs) in *Re-Viewing James Baldwin: Things Not Seen*, D. Q. Miller (ed.), Temple University Press, 2000, pp. 154-189.

Service – Professor Miller has been an energetic contributor to the governance activities and intellectual life of the Department of English. He has served as a selector for the Honors Program, as coordinator of graduate student placement, and as an elected member of the Executive Committee. He has also actively participated in the Program in American Culture and the Center for Judaic Studies. Nationally, he has been a reviewer for two prominent journals, given many conference papers and a number of invited talks, served on the Executive Board for the Modern Language Association’s discussion group on the literature of the U.S. in languages other than English, and continues to moderate the” listserv” for those scholars.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“...I am certain that Miller’s forthcoming book will make a significant contribution to a wide range of fields, including U.S. literary history, cultural history, modernist studies, ethnic studies, and American studies. ... This study should be greeted with enthusiasm.”

Reviewer (B)

“...Miller’s review file is one of the strongest I’ve seen. The breadth, quality, and quantity of his contributions to the fields of English, American Studies, Transnational Studies, and African American Studies is most impressive. Miller’s interdisciplinary...work is, without a doubt, a valuable asset to any English department—and to the field as a whole. What is most remarkable about Miller’s critical work is the dexterity with which he is able to work his research across a variety of genres and generations, and yet he maintains a unified theory about the relationship between the image and the written text.”

Reviewer (C)

“In short, Professor Miller displays all the qualities of a rigorous and productive scholar, who will continue to make his mark, as he is already doing, in the field of American literary and cultural study. Judging from the past and from his current trajectory, he has a significant future in the reshaping of the field.”

Reviewer (D)

“Thoughtful, beautifully written, and well conceived as an organic study rather than a loose set of chapters, *Say Something American If You Dare* is written with a confidence and authority that indicates how far it is from being a lightly revised dissertation... Its careful attention to ferreting out archival evidence as disparate as personal correspondence, institutional records, and visual images also set it apart from less accomplished studies.”

Reviewer (E)

“Miller combines interdisciplinary openness and sophisticated textual interpretation. I believe that his field of multilingual American literature will be central to American literary study in the years and decades to come...”

Reviewer (F)

“Each of Professor Miller’s essays manifests the same commitment to both cultural history and textual analysis that makes the book so rich, but the essays also display his unusually wide range of interests and areas of expertise. ... On the basis of his impressive scholarly achievement, Professor Miller would have no trouble being promoted to the rank of associate professor with tenure in my own department.”

Reviewer (G)

“It is an outstanding book, absolutely stellar... I can say with great confidence that Joshua Miller has made a serious contribution to an exciting new field, that he is a superb research and excellent reader of texts, and that his work touches on many fields in the humanities. He has demonstrated originality, versatility, and scope...”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Miller is an excellent teacher and scholar who brings an important and innovative perspective on American literature to the Department of English. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science and the Arts and I recommend that Joshua L. Miller be promoted to the rank of associate professor of English language and literature, 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

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