

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

Alejandro Herrero-Olaizola, associate professor of Spanish, with tenure, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of Spanish, with tenure, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1994	University of Southern California
M.A.	1989	West Virginia University
Licenciatura	1987	Universidad de Valencia

Professional Record:

2003 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, University of Michigan
1997 – 2003	Assistant Professor, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, University of Michigan
1994 – 1997	Assistant Professor, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, University of Nebraska

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching - Professor Herrero-Olaizola has been a consistently effective teacher and his upper-division courses have become the mainstays of the Spanish concentration and minor. His students appreciate his enthusiasm in the classroom, his ability to present and explain difficult material effectively, and his success in engaging them in lively discussions on serious topics while speaking Spanish. He receives generally high student evaluations and is well-regarded as a mentor of graduate students.

Research – Professor Herrero-Olaizola has clearly established himself as a scholar of originality and high repute. He has received research fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Council of Learned Societies for his recently published second book, *The Censorship Files*. He has also edited two special issues of scholarly journals on topics closely related to his recent and current research. He is now working on a book on contemporary Latin American literature in the global cultural market, tentatively entitled *Latin America Across the Seas: Mapping Out Global Culture*.

Recent and Significant Publications:

The Censorship Files: Latin American Writers and Franco's Spain, SUNY Press, 2007.

“Nueva narrativa de América Latina” and “Se vende Colombia, un país de delirio: el mercado literario global y la narrativa colombiana reciente,” Special Issue of *Symposium: A Quarterly Journal in Modern Foreign Languages*, 61(1), 2007, pp. 3-8 and 43-56.

Market Matters, co-edited with C. Henseler, special section of the *Arizona Journal of Hispanic Cultural Studies*, 9, 2005, pp. 113-217.

“Narrativas híbridas: parodia y posmodernismo en la ficción contemporánea de las Américas,”
Editorial Verbum, 2000.

Service – Professor Herrero-Olaizola’s service contributions have centered on the Department of Romance Languages and Literatures and most particularly on its undergraduate programs in Spanish. He is very engaged in service activities devoted to undergraduate education. He has taken a leading role in undergraduate advising, particularly with respect to study abroad. As chair of the Spanish Curriculum Committee, he is most responsible for the administration of the undergraduate concentration and minor in Spanish, as well as for study abroad advising. He has served as a member of the Rackham Merit Fellowship Committee for the past two years, and is an affiliate of both the Atlantic Studies Initiative and the Program in Comparative Literature.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“I believe his book [*The Censorship Files*] will qualify as one of the most significant books on Latin American culture published in the last few years and on the basis of this I would recommend his promotion to the rank of Professor. I am confident that other universities will be eager to attract him as he has clearly shown his ability to create and sustain a new field of study.”

Reviewer (B)

“I strongly recommend Herrero for promotion to Professor. He is an active, productive, and mature scholar. He has a clear command of the field and confidently develops innovative approaches and topics. At the same time, there is every indication that he will continue to grow.”

Reviewer (C)

“Herrero-Olaizola has established a secure place in the profession through his solid contributions in the area of ‘market matters’—that is, the documentary and interpretive analysis of the Spanish-language book trade, especially as it relates to fiction. ... This [*The Censorship Files*] is the work of a leading scholarly mind, and I am pleased to endorse, without reservation, Herrero-Olaizola’s promotion to the rank of Professor.”

Reviewer (D)

“Prof. Herrero-Olaizola’s recent work on censorship and publishing shows extraordinary scholarly work in a wide range of archival and published sources. His new book, *The Censorship Files*, is a remarkable synthesis and interpretation of his findings. It represents an outstanding contribution to the growing field of transatlantic studies, especially notable because of its comprehensive nature.”

Reviewer (E)

“Professor Herrero-Olaizola is the first scholar to meticulously plough through these numerous documents, intelligently ponder their significance, and produce an interpretive account of their significance. ... This book will be received with great interest and admiration in a number of fields: Latin American literature, Transatlantic studies, the literatures of globalization, and in studies focused on the intersections between market forces and literature.”

Reviewer (F)

“Professor Herrero’s book on Franco’s censorship apparatus and the disposition of Latin American novels sponsored for publication by the Seix Barral publishing house tells a very important story based on original and seriously carried out archival research. . . . All this work is very good indeed.”

Reviewer (G)

“...Professor Herero-Olaizola is one of the few scholars I know of who can claim to do the kind of trans-Atlantic Hispanism that the field is now aspiring to... His solid scholarship and his capacity for insightful analysis put him on the cutting edge of scholars.....Herrero-Olaizola’s book, *The Censorship Files*...is an utterly original—and, now that we have it, essential—contribution to our understanding of these writers and the context in which they wrote, and rewrote, their novels.”

Reviewer (H)

“*The Censorship Files* is an excellent work of literary analysis and it is an extremely original work, based as it is on exhaustive primary research within Spanish archives. . . . In the course of this very well written and fascinating book, Professor Herrero also allows us, via his careful consideration of literary texts, to see the novels and the cultural production of the Boom in a new light.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Herrero-Olaizola has come to be recognized as a major scholarly voice in the interpretation of Latin American literature. He is an outstanding teacher and he makes important contributions to the educational mission of the Department. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Alejandro Herrero-Olaizola be promoted to the rank of professor of Spanish, with tenure, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, 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