

May 14, 2009

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan-Dearborn
College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters
Department of Social Sciences

Camron M. Amin, associate professor of history, with tenure, Department of Social Sciences, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, is recommended for promotion to professor of history, with tenure, Department of Social Sciences, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.

Academic Degrees

Ph.D. 1996	University of Chicago
B.A. 1988	University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Professional Record

2003 - present	Associate Professor of History, Department of Social Sciences, University of Michigan-Dearborn
1997 - 2003	Assistant Professor of History, Department of Social Sciences, University of Michigan-Dearborn

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Amin is rated as an excellent teacher. He has developed and taught a variety of courses, ranging from Islamic Civilization I and II, Honors Western Civilization II, and Literature and History in 20th Century Iran to Women and Islam in Middle Eastern History, the United States in the Middle East, and the Study of History. These courses, all interdisciplinary in nature, have contributed significantly to college and campus wide academic programs, including Campus Honors, Women's Studies, and CASL First-Year Seminars. Student evaluations of his courses are consistently excellent. Students praise him for his enthusiasm for and knowledge of the subject matter, along with his great ability to communicate it and his willingness to address opposing viewpoints. Quantitative evaluations are similarly impressive, as student assessments of his effectiveness as an instructor indicate. His average score as an instructor in eleven courses taught from Winter semester 2006 through Fall semester 2007 is an excellent 4.55 (on a scale of 1-5, with 5 being the highest), while the average in the category instructor knowledge of course material is a superb 4.8. Based on classroom visitations and other peer assessment of his teaching, Professor Amin's colleagues readily concur with his students on his excellence in teaching.

Research: Professor Amin's research is rated excellent and he continues to do groundbreaking work on the history of the modern Middle East and Iran. It is no exaggeration to say that he is a pioneer in the field of Iranian cultural history, exploring what it means to be modern in Iran and the Middle East. Drawing upon memoirs, oral histories, newspaper articles, and personal interviews, he has shed brilliant light on the Iranian family, patriarchy and women in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries; the effects of globalization on Iranian identity, law, and culture; the development of a modern "beauty culture" in the United States and Iran; and the globalization by Iranian female leaders active as early as the 1930s of the debate on women's rights. In addition, Professor Amin has made a highly significant contribution to Iranian historiography in the form of his co-edited sourcebook of primary documents on the cultures,

religions, societies, and histories of the modern Middle East. Combined with his impressively high rate of productivity (as one outside evaluator commented, "Amin's pen has hardly run dry!"), he has developed a record of excellence in research.

Recent and Significant Publications:

- Amin, Camron M., Benjamin C. Fortna, and Elizabeth B. Frier (eds.). *The Modern Middle East: A Sourcebook for History* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2006).
- Amin, Camron M. "Globalizing Iranian Feminism, 1910-1950," *Journal of Middle East Women's Studies*, 4:1 (Winter 2008), 3-29.
- Amin, Camron M. "Blurring Public and Private Lives by Design: Isfahan University of Technology, 1977-2005," *Comparative Studies of South Africa, Africa and the Middle East*, 26: 2 (2006): 279-302.
- Amin, Camron M. "Importing 'Beauty Culture' into Iran in the 1920's and 1930's: Mass Marketing Individualism in an Age of Anti-Imperialist Sacrifice," *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*, 24: 1 (Spring/Summer 2004), 335-361
- Amin, Camron M. "Musassamah-I bud mujassamah-Inabud: The Image of the Safavids in 20th Century Iranian 'Popular' Historiography." *History and Historiography of Post-Mongol Central Asia and the Middle East: Studies in Honor of John E. Woods*. Edited by Judith Pfeiffer and Sholeh A. Quinn, in collaboration with Ernest Tucker. Wiesbaden: Harrassowitz Verlag, 2006.

Service: Professor Amin's service is rated excellent. He is a campus leader, contributing tirelessly to the life of the department, college, and university. Since August 2007 he has been an associate dean of CASL, responsible for course scheduling, graduate studies, curriculum development, assessment, and program reviews, among other important duties. In addition, he has served as the chair for the Arab-American Studies faculty search, History Discipline Representative to the Social Sciences Department Executive Committee, member of the Faculty Senate, chair of the Faculty Senate Task Force on Service, and member of the CASL Board of Advisors. All of these contributions to the campus, when taken together, constitute excellent service to the university.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "It is no exaggeration to call him a pioneer in the field. Amin's approach is innovative... Amin is innovative compared to other historians of [Iran] in his detailed attention to the economic dimensions of cultural policies... Amin's work impresses not only by its content but also by its style. I was also delighted to note that his translations and transliterations of Persian terms and names are always accurate. While some might argue that this has little direct impact on his scholarship, to me it is the sign of a disciplined mind."

Reviewer B: "Professor Amin has made important contributions to the study of what James Scott calls 'high modernism' in twentieth century Iran, and especially with regard to the position of women. The quality of his work is in my estimation quite high... Amin has distinguished himself in his scholarship by considering a wide range of primary sources in Persian that have not been used by previous historians. This book on globalization demonstrates that his scholarship is evolving to consider a wide range of new issues in the study of Iran beyond his

earlier concentration on a particular cohort of modern, educated women. Clearly, this is a case of a fine scholar who has mastered his materials and made a highly original contribution with deep resonances for his field. His productivity has been impressive.”

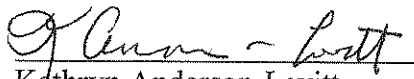
Reviewer C: “I remain impressed with Amin’s productivity rate... he is right on the mark in illustrating the three fundamental ways globalization has changed Iran. What impresses me most is Amin’s commitment to rooting his study in historical scholarship. He is fully in command of the historian’s craft and method as he describes and analyzes the myriad ways Iran has adjusted (comfortably and uncomfortably) to the forces of globalization. Amin holds his own quite well in comparisons with some of the top young Middle East historians in the United States. I am impressed with Amin the grantsman and especially with his large NEH grant for MMESP. He has definitely made his intellectual presence felt.”

Reviewer D: [Amin] “provides an exceptional window to the process of modernization and modernizing change from a variety of perspectives and contexts throughout the region from the 18th century to present day. Camron Amin’s works so far prove to be extremely significant in the study of modern Iran, gender, press and modernization. He combines scholarly investigation with impressive familiarity with Iranian history, society and culture. With his experience, and expanding horizons and scope of his work (both in terms of geography and disciplines), I am sure he will continue to provide the community of Middle East experts further in-depth studies and observations.”

Reviewer E: “Many of the characteristics of Professor Amin’s scholarship so well on display in his first book, including his questioning of received wisdom in the field and his creative juxtaposition of sources from the worlds of politics and culture, inform some of his more recent work. His conclusions, like those of so much of his work, contest prior scholarship in very interesting and persuasive ways. He is clearly in command of his arguments and his sources, and his revisionist approach will garner this book a wide reading. Professor Amin has made contributions of real quality to scholarship on the history of modern Iran.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Amin is a model teacher-scholar, whose service to the campus has been equally exemplary. We are pleased to recommend, with the strong support of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters Executive Committee, Camron M. Amin for promotion to professor of history, with tenure, Department of Social Sciences, 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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