

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

Lawrence M. La Fountain-Stokes, assistant professor of American culture, and assistant professor of romance languages and literatures, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of American culture, with tenure, and associate professor of Romance languages and literatures, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1999	Columbia University
M.Phil.	1996	Columbia University
M.A.	1992	Columbia University
A.B.	1991	Harvard College

Professional Record:

2003 – present	Assistant Professor, Program in American Culture and Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, University of Michigan.
1999 – 2003	Assistant Professor, Department of Latino and Hispanic Caribbean Studies and Department of Spanish and Portuguese, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
1998 – 1999	Assistant Professor, Department of Spanish and Portuguese, The Ohio State University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor La Fountain-Stokes has an excellent record of interdisciplinary teaching. He has introduced undergraduates to research through the Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP), and he has brought artists and other cultural workers to campus in conjunction with his course. He was awarded the Michigan Campus Community Compact Award (2006) for academic outreach. He has directed a dissertation, served on eight examination committees, and currently serves on twelve dissertation committees across several departments and schools.

Research – Professor La Fountain-Stokes is a field-defining scholar, a creator of new domains of investigation, a thorough and careful researcher, and an established leader in his areas of study. His interdisciplinary first book and most of his work focus on the ways in which gender, race, ethnicity, and sexuality relate to the experience and cultural production of Puerto Ricans in the diaspora. He covers a broad range of art-forms, from literature (prose and poetry) to film, to dance, and he traces the historical evolution of sexuality-in-migration over the period in question. He establishes a new and important corpus of material, from the lesser known to the highly celebrated, and he maps out the field in aesthetic and critical terms. His prose is refreshingly clear and free of jargon. His second book project is already well under way and he received the Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship and several smaller awards in order to further this research.

Recent and Significant Publications:

- “Translocas: Migration, homosexuality, and transvestism in recent Puerto Rican performance,” in *Theatre & Performance in Latin America*, J. Lane (ed.), Routledge, forthcoming in 2009.
- “Queer diasporas, boricua lives: A meditation on sexile,” *Review: Literature and Arts of the Americas* 77 (Special issue on Immigration and Culture), 41(2), 2008, pp. 294-301.
- “Trans/bolero/drag/migration: Music, cultural translation, and diasporic Puerto Rican theatricalities,” *Women's Studies Quarterly* (Special issue on “Trans-”), 36(3-4), 2008, pp. 190-209.
- “Puerto Rican queer sexualities: Introduction,” with L. Aponte-Parés, et al., *Journal of the Center for Puerto Rican Studies*, 19(1), 2007, pp. 4-24.

Service – Professor La Fountain-Stokes has served generously in both of the units in which he holds appointments. For the University, he has provided advice to new Latino students through the “Assisting Latinos to Maximize Achievement” first-year student orientation, which led to his receipt of the 2006 Appreciation Award, and he has been a faculty mentor to students in the Rackham Summer Institute. He has been faculty advisor for the student-organized Latino Culture Show (2005 and 2008) and has actively reached out to the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender (LGBT) student organizations on campus. It is not surprising that he has won *both* the Lavender Graduation Award from the LGBT Office, and the coveted “Circle Award” at the 2008 Latina/o Graduation ceremony (La Celebración Latina).

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“...his CV highlights the voluminosity and heterogeneity of his scholarship and the urgency of his interventions in queer studies and Puerto Rican Studies. ... I foresee a positive reception for the book as well as for La Fountain’s second book project. Reading all of his work allowed me to see the growth and maturation of La Fountain... as an increasingly interdisciplinary scholar whose interests in the arts, literature and cultural politics of Puerto Ricans in the diaspora continue to become more complex with the years.”

Reviewer (B)

“...La Fountain-Stokes is an exceptionally well-rounded scholar/activist/creative writer, part of an exciting generation of scholars focusing on gender and migration issues, especially in the Caribbean... In Larry’s work, the reader has the sensation of being drawn into a conversation with a very smart colleague. He is deeply knowledgeable and passionate about his field, deft in his use of complex theory, and very aware of his potential audience. ...[he] has proven himself to be a valued member of our profession, with a consistent research profile of a quality similar to that of other top scholars in his area.”

Reviewer (C)

“Lawrence has definitely implemented his own research and is well known and respected among colleagues working on Puerto Rican culture and on performance studies. Both his books are significant and important contributions to this relatively new field. ... I believe he would be successful in applying for promotion to tenure in many leading universities...”

Reviewer (D)

"...La Fountain-Stokes has emerged as a rising star... He has written an extraordinary book that is under contract as a top university press and he has another book in progress. He has published many articles, most of which are quite separate from the book... This is a very clear case for tenure and Professor La Fountain-Stokes has a bright future ahead of him."

Reviewer (E)

"Given Professor LaFountain-Stokes's productivity thus far and the quality of his work, I have no doubt that he will continue to produce first rate scholarship, creative work, and, more importantly, continue to push the field in new directions. The kind of interventions that his scholarship has already made...is evidence that he is a rising star."

Reviewer (F)

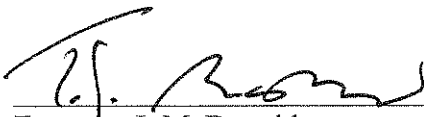
"His scholarship offers a necessary expertise in a number of areas... That he brings these areas of specialization together so elegantly and insightfully is a testament to the quality of his work. ... He has established himself as a leading scholar in a variety of fields and he has much to contribute to the study of American culture and Romance languages and literatures."

Reviewer (G)

"In many ways, this is truly ground-breaking work, as no other scholar to my knowledge has assembled such a vast archive. Professor La Fountain-Stokes is not simply one of the leading scholars in the field, but rather *the* leading scholar within this field. He writes extremely well in both Spanish and English, and he has produced a stunning amount of work..."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor La Fountain-Stokes is an emerging leader in his field. His contributions to the teaching and service missions of the College have been substantial. The Executive Committee and I recommend that Assistant Professor Lawrence M. La Fountain-Stokes be promoted to the rank of associate professor of American culture, with tenure, and associate professor of romance languages and literatures, 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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