

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

Jonathan E. Zwicker, assistant professor Asian languages and cultures, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of Asian languages and cultures, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2002	Columbia University
M.A.	1997	Columbia University
B.A.	1995	Columbia University

Professional Record:

2005 – present	Assistant Professor, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, University of Michigan
2002 – 2005	Fellow, Michigan Society of Fellows, University of Michigan

Summary Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Zwicker has quickly developed into an excellent teacher, demonstrating pedagogical skill, dedication, and innovation in both undergraduate and graduate teaching. In his first year in the department, he volunteered to design and teach a new gateway course for the Department that was required of all concentrators. Subsequently, he successfully taught the capstone seminar, also required of all concentrators, and the theory and method seminar that is required of all incoming graduate students. In addition, he taught a variety of courses in Japanese literature and received very strong evaluations. He has played a leading role in reshaping the curriculum and has served on eight dissertation committees, chairing or co-chairing three.

Research – Combining superb linguistic skills and acute analytical insights, Professor Zwicker has established himself as a leading figure in the field of Japanese literature, demonstrating his ability to cross boundaries with skill and insight. His first book, *Practices of the Sentimental Imagination*, quickly attracted the attention of the senior figures in the field. It called into question long-held assumptions about the development of the Japanese novel in the nineteenth century. He then received a National Endowment for the Humanities grant and began working on his second book on the milieu of the Japanese theatre, which promises to be an equally significant work.

Recent and Significant Publications:

“The Japanese novel,” in *The Blackwell Encyclopedia of the Novel and Novel Criticism*, P. Logan (ed.), Blackwell, forthcoming 2009.

“Playbills, ephemera, and the historical imagination in nineteenth-century Japan,” *Journal of Japanese Studies*, 35(1), 2009, pp. 37-59.

Practices of the Sentimental Imagination: Melodrama, the Novel, and the Social Imaginary in Nineteenth-Century Japan, Harvard Asia Center, 2006.

“The long nineteenth-century of the Japanese novel” in *The Novel*, F. Moretti, et al. (eds.), Princeton University Press, 2006, pp. 553-595. [Originally published as “Il lungo Ottocento del romanzo giapponese” in *Storia e geografia*, Vol. 3, pp. 441-447, *Il romanzo* 5 volumes, F. Moretti, et al. (eds.), Einaudi, 2002.]

Service – Professor Zwicker has been elected to the Executive Committees of the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures and of the Center for Japanese Studies. He also served on the departmental Curriculum Committee, and has played an active role in the evaluation of graduate applications and the recruitment of graduate students.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“...Jonathan Zwicker is the leading scholar of Japanese literature of his generation, by force of his intellectual range, by the originality of his arguments, and by his ability to travel—but with care and rigor—across methodological, disciplinary, and chronological lines.”

Reviewer (B)

“...he is one of the most exciting scholars working in the Japan field today, and someone who can be relied upon to continue re-shaping his chosen area of study in the years ahead. ...Zwicker is a highly original thinker, who uses his specialist skills and deep understanding of Japanese literary culture in the nineteenth century to engage big issues and broad concerns, stepping across commonplace barriers of period and discipline as he works.”

Reviewer (C)

“He has already established himself as one of the two or three most important Western specialists on nineteenth-century Japanese scholars, a subfield that has become central to the study of Japanese literature for the past few decades. ... With his continued presence at Michigan, I have no doubt that your Japanese literature program will continue to be one of the best in North America.”

Reviewer (D)

“I see Zwicker as one of the most important scholars—arguably the most important—of his generation in the field of Japanese literary studies, whether of the early modern or modern era.”

Reviewer (E)

“It is not easy to characterize Zwicker’s field of expertise as he crosses disciplinary and chronological boundaries, but I consider that to be one of his strengths as a scholar, to say nothing of his enhanced potential as a teacher.”

Reviewer (F)

“However one construes the disciplinary domains, his is a most interesting mix of intellectual interests, and its many interconnections and filiations reflect a breadth of scholarly training and an active and supple mind. ... I would place *Practices of the Sentimental Imagination* on a ‘short list’ of recent scholarly works that promise to shift our scholarly paradigms and raise the level of our critical discourse.”

Reviewer (G)

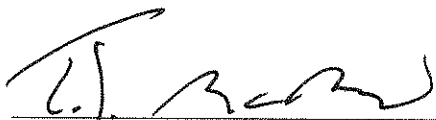
“His work, in particular his book and contributions to the Moretti Princeton volumes on the novel, signal him to be taking his place among the emerging leaders of the field. ... I believe that Prof. Zwicker’s scholarly work is rigorous and sound, reflecting solid grounding in the discipline and an ability to work with complex material in a refreshing new way.”

Reviewer (H)

“...Jonathan has found a unique way – at once entirely fresh and profoundly persuasive – to combine individual cases and serial research. A new way of writing literary history. ...Zwicker’s work shows a power of synthesis, and a formal elegance, which are rare in any scholar...they are truly a gift.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Zwicker is a leading figure in his field, an innovative instructor, and a good citizen. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Jonathan E. Zwicker be promoted to the rank of associate professor of Asian languages and cultures, 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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