

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

Approved by the Regents
May 14, 2009

David Caron, associate professor of French, with tenure, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, and associate professor of women's studies, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of French, with tenure, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, and professor of women's studies, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1994	University of California at Irvine
M.A.	1989	West Virginia University
B.A.	1985	Université de Caen

Professional Record:

2008 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Women's Studies, University of Michigan
2001 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, University of Michigan
1995 – 2001	Assistant Professor, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, University of Michigan
1994 – 1995	Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Modern Languages, University of Nebraska at Lincoln

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Caron is a lively and engaging instructor who has an extensive record of teaching at the undergraduate and graduate levels. He has devised many upper-division undergraduate courses on modern and contemporary French literature and culture. These have earned him high marks with students, who appreciate his rigor, enthusiasm, sense of humor, and capacity to challenge. He has mentored a number of graduate students and holds them to high standards.

Research – Professor Caron is a recognized and respected scholar of modern and contemporary French cultural studies. His forthcoming book has received exceptionally enthusiastic praise. He is compared to major figures in the field, including some senior scholars. He has also published four articles, three related to the book, and a fifth article forthcoming. These are in highly visible and quality venues, including *Le Magazine littéraire*.

Recent and Significant Publications:

My Father and I: The Marais and the Queerness of Community, Cornell University Press, forthcoming 2009.

“The queerness of male group friendship,” *Entre hommes: French and Francophone Masculinities in Culture and Theory*, T. W. Reeser and L. C. Seifert (eds.), University of Delaware Press, 2008, pp. 251-266.

“La littérature du sida,” *Le magazine littéraire*, 426, 2003, pp. 53-55.

“AIDS/Holocaust: Metaphor and French Universalism,” *L’Esprit créateur*, 45(3), 2006, pp. 63-73.

Service – Professor Caron has made a real contribution to departmental and university service, including as graduate chair and chair of the French Curriculum Committee. He has done a considerable amount of undergraduate advising and has served on a number of departmental review committees. He has also served on several committees to review fellowship applications and is taking part in a proposal for a new undergraduate lecture course on global HIV/AIDS.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“...Caron’s recent work entitles him to be taken seriously in his field by any standard. ... Caron has written in a way that combines intellectual sophistication with a reader-friendly personal style, but he has not shirked controversial intellectual moves. ...Caron’s book seems to me remarkable both in its large gestures and in its significant details – well-informed, useful, accessible, profound, and controversial. ...the case for promotion to Professor seems utterly uncontroversial to me.”

Reviewer (B)

“...Professor Caron has achieved great distinction as a scholar in the interrelated fields of modern French literature and culture, cultural studies, sexuality studies, and queer theory. ... I view Professor Caron’s work as being at the top of the field of scholars who work in related areas. ... Caron’s book is a poignant, beautifully written, often fearless exploration... ..which stands out not only for its impeccable scholarship, but also for the skillful and often poignant (but never sentimental) personal voice that is woven throughout the book’s pages. I see it as a model of interdisciplinary scholarship...”

Reviewer (C)

“His work in this book [*AIDS in French Culture*], in journal and edited book contributions, and in the manuscript for *My Father and I*, is characterized by a unique combination of attention to detail and thoughtfulness... Each of these texts would unreservedly be included as essential reading in the specialty. ... The second book promises to make a fresh and important contribution to current debates around the nature of community...”

Reviewer (D)

“...in terms of quantity and choice of venues, there is little to fault David Caron with. This is an excellent record. ... We are dealing with a true research agenda at once diverse and unified, one driven by a sense of purpose and direction. ...it is a rare page of the manuscript where I have not underlined something provocative, trenchant, and original. ... Then there is the high quality of the writing, now poignant, now humorous... ..of such high quality it deserves to receive a prize from the profession.”

Reviewer (E)

“...the quality of the work, the venues of publication, the promise of continued active scholarship in the future, all these are telling attributes and speak most positively in the candidate’s favor.”

Reviewer (F)

“...Professor Caron’s achievements speak highly of his talent as a scholar, and of his competence in and commitment to French, Jewish, and Gender Studies. He is a multi-faceted scholar whose further developments in scholarship will continue to shape the field. He ranks in the top 1% of scholars at his level...”

Reviewer (G)

“...David Caron’s superb study uses the private as a template to analyze the public and theorize the private. ... The result is a critical tour de force. ...Caron not only is a superb critical thinker, but one of great range. This is a superb book and it demonstrates what an exemplary cultural studies approach should be.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Caron is an internationally respected scholar, a strong teacher, and has an active service record. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor David Caron be promoted to the rank of professor of French, with tenure, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, and professor of women’s studies, without tenure, 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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