

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

Genevieve Zubrzycki, assistant professor of sociology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of sociology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2002	University of Chicago
M.Sc.	1995	University of Montreal
B.A.	1992	McGill University

Professional Record:

2003 – present	Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Michigan
2002 – 2003	Postdoctoral Fellow, Center on Religion and Democracy, University of Virginia

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Nominated by her colleagues for an Excellence in Education award last year, Professor Zubrzycki is an outstanding teacher. Her courses are intelligently and carefully planned, intellectually demanding, and incorporate diverse pedagogical strategies designed to both create a supportive learning environment and foster critical thinking. Judging by student evaluations and comments, she is very successful. The same qualities that have led to her success in the classroom have also made her a highly valued mentor to a dozen graduate students on whose dissertation committees she serves and several undergraduates whose honors theses and research projects she has supervised.

Research – Professor Zubrzycki's book, *The Crosse of Auschwitz: Nationalism and Religion in Post Communist Poland*, is beautifully written, is based on fresh sources of data, and offers a strikingly original interpretation of the infamous "war of the crosses" that erupted in the summer of 1998 when ultra-nationalist Poles erected hundreds of small religious crosses on the sacred ground of the famous Nazi concentration camp, long associated with the Jewish holocaust. Winner of three major book awards and a finalist for two others, *The Crosses of Auschwitz* challenges conventional understandings of the relationship between religion and nationalism by advancing a more contingent theory of national identity in which the character and legitimacy of the state figures prominently. Her next major book project extends and deepens her argument about Polish nationalism by systematically comparing the role of Catholicism and national identity there and in Quebec.

Recent and Significant Publications:

The Crosses of Auschwitz: Nationalism and Religion in Post-Communist Poland, University of Chicago Press, 2006.

"'Poles-Catholics' and 'Symbolic Jews': Jewishness as social closure in Poland," *Studies in Contemporary Jewry*, 21, 2005, pp. 65-87.

“The classical opposition between civic and ethnic models of nationhood: Ideology, empirical reality and social scientific analysis,” *Polish Sociological Review*, 3, 2002, pp. 275-295.

“‘We, the Polish nation’: Ethnic and civic visions of nationhood in post-communist constitutional debates,” *Theory and Society*, 30(5), 2001, pp. 629-668.

Service – Professor Zubrzycki is a conscientious and constructive colleague with an excellent record of service in her Department, across campus, and within the national discipline. She is fair-minded, hard-working, and has a deep commitment to serving the “public good” as evidenced by her willingness to pitch in whenever the need arises. This rare and valued combination has landed her on several important committees in Sociology, the Center for Russian and Eastern European Studies, and the American Sociological Association. She is an exemplary academic citizen.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“Beyond the analysis of the Polish case, the book makes a significant contribution to the broader theoretical and comparative literature on the relation between religion and nationalism. This is an increasingly important issue in many parts of the world, and one that is only just beginning to get the attention it deserves. ... I have no hesitation in strongly endorsing her promotion.”

Reviewer (B)

“The quality of Professor Zubrzycki’s work is exceptional. I was impressed with the work at many levels. First, the research is rich with detail and description. ... Second she contributes to theory testing and theory building. The most obvious is her work on nationalism, but she also offers important insights on theories related to ethnicity and secularization.”

Reviewer (C)

“...Zubrzycki has met the standard for tenure at a top-tier institution such as Michigan. She has produced a first-rate stream of academic research, achieved visibility within the discipline and made substantial progress on a post-dissertation research project.”

Reviewer (D)

“She is the best amongst her generation, to the best of my knowledge. I do know several others in the field. None has a prize, nor is there any equivalent to her record of service, to her visibility and to her impact on the field. ... She is the real thing, brilliant, determined, productive, original, high powered, and with a powerful scholarly agenda for years to come which will impact several disciplines.”

Reviewer (E)

“...Zubrzycki is a brilliant scholar, engaged intellectual, active departmental citizen and teacher, and important leader – intellectually and organizationally – in the fields of historical sociology, cultural sociology, sociology of religion and studies of nation and nationalism. ...Zubrzycki stands at the very forefront of the...cohort of scholars [of her generation]...”

Reviewer (F)

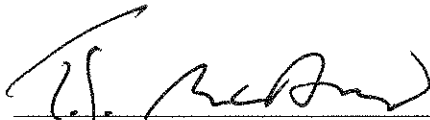
“...Zubrzycki is one of the ablest and most creative scholars [of her generation] working in one of the most interesting fields in contemporary sociology and politics, the interaction between the role of religion in national formation and the way this has been affected by major political and socio-economic change... Professor Zubrzycki is undoubtedly on the top 5 per cent of such people [working in the same area for a similar length of time].”

Reviewer (G)

“She exemplifies the best of the recent bumper crop of cultural and historical sociologists; her work ranks with the best in her field and cohort. A list of the leading books produced by this cohort would certainly include *The Crosses of Auschwitz*.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Zubrzycki is a creative and influential scholar, a highly skilled and effective teacher, and an excellent citizen. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Genevieve Zubrzycki be promoted to the rank of associate professor of sociology, 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

May 2009