

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

Ara Sanjian, associate professor of history, without tenure, Department of Social Sciences, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, is recommended for the granting of tenure to be held with his title of associate professor of history, Department of Social Sciences, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D. 1996	University of London, London
M.A. 1991	Yerevan State University

Professional Record:

2006 – present	Associate Professor (without tenure, and Director, Armenian Research Center
1996 – 2005	Assistant Professor and Chair, Departments of Armenian Studies, History and Political Science, Haigazian University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Sanjian's teaching is rated significantly capable. He has made important contributions to our curriculum. He has, in the brief period that he has been on campus, taught six different courses, two of which were new additions to the history curriculum. Though trained and experienced in the European model of pedagogy, Professor Sanjian has successfully made the transition to the American university classroom, a further testament to his teaching skills. He has worked very hard to adapt his teaching methods to his new academic environment and to employ digital resources to enhance student learning. Indeed, his students benefit greatly from his thorough and content rich C-Tools sites that stand as a model for effective use of the medium.

Research: Professor Sanjian research is rated excellent. His work is very impressive in its scope and he has developed a very strong reputation as an authority in the areas of the history of the modern Middle East, with a particular emphasis on the Armenians, both in their homeland and their Middle Eastern diasporas. He is also garnering much attention for his highly original approach to the study of the Cold War and its impact on both Arabs and (especially) Armenians. Professor Sanjian's research is original, ambitious, and meticulous and is both methodologically rigorous and insightful. His command of the literatures connected to his chosen research areas and his ability to frame his work to address important, and previously ignored questions, speaks further to his skills as a researcher and to the high quality of his mind. His external reviewers provided very strong supporting letters.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Sanjian, A., *Turkey and Her Arab Neighbours, 1953-1958: A Study in the Origins and Failure of the Baghdad Pact*. Slough, UK: Archive Editions, 2001, 283 pages.

Sanjian, A., "The Armenian Communities in the Arab Middle East" [in French], *Confluences Méditerranée*, Chrétiens d'Orient, No. 66, Été 2008, pp. 73-82. [with Nicola Migliorino].

Sanjian, A., "Homeland-Diaspora Relations under Khrushchev and Brezhnev: Soviet Embassy Reports from Beirut on the Armenian Community in Lebanon, 1959-1982 (A Preliminary Study)," In Michel Bruneau, Ioannis Hassiotis, Martine Hovanesian and Claire Mouradian (Eds.), *Arméniens et Grecs en diaspora: approches comparatives*, Athènes, 2007, pp. 273-282.

Sanjian, A., "The Rise and Decline of the Armenian Community in Lebanon" [in Russian], *Diaspori: Nezavisimii Nauchnii Zhurnal*, No. 1, 2004, pp. 121-146.

Sanjian, A., "The Armenian Church and Community in Jerusalem and the Holy Land (From their origins until the modern era)," In Anthony O'Mahony, ed., *The Christian Communities in the Holy Land: Studies in History, Religion, and Politics*, University of Wales Press, 2003, pp. 57-89.

Service: Professor Sanjian's service is rated excellent. His primary service has been as director of the Armenian Research Center. Under his leadership the Center has dramatically increased the size of its book collection and has significantly increased its periodical collection. Additionally, Professor Sanjian has made great progress in the effort to have the Center's 160 oral histories digitized and made available on line. He has also been responsible for organizing or co-organizing ten public lectures for the community and for securing the financial and other requirements to establish a separate archive in the space allocated the ARC. He is currently creating a Dearborn-based publication series in Armenian Studies.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "Dr. Sanjian is a historian who has published significant work; amassed linguistic and archival expertise that is impeccable; and has been producing new research that indicates that he will produce more work of increasing originality that has implications for our understanding of both the past century and also the next decade of the Middle East and of Armenians in it."

Reviewer B: "Dr. Sanjian brings to his scholarship an impressive command of Ottoman and modern Turkish, classical and modern Armenian, Russian and Arabic—indeed a rare and impressive combination of languages among scholars of the Middle East. His approach is analytical, sophisticated and even-handed. His objective approach, particularly when dealing with topics dealing with Armenians, Turks and Azeris, distinguishes him from the majority of scholars of Armenian origin dealing with these topics. This is one—among many other—attribute which has earned him the respect of scholars in his fields of interest."

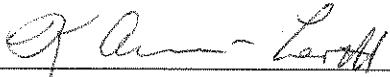
Reviewer C: "His major publication...*Turkey and Her Neighbours*, makes a significant contribution to the literature on the politics of the region. This book...is a meticulously researched work on a critical period in Turkish-Arab relations but with ramifications for the entire Middle East as well as for global politics."

Reviewer D: "Several of Ara's articles are devoted to the Armenians as a minority group in Arab lands. Ara is unique in having done any work on this group in English...his article on 'Homeland and Diaspora Relations in Soviet Times' is an excellent piece of work and remains unparalleled, I read it with great pleasure."

Reviewer E: "Perhaps the most salient attribute that sets Dr. Sanjian apart from his peers is his substantial scholarly reach – his deep knowledge and proven ability to publish original work on a variety of topics and issues that have been central to Armenia and Armenians in modern times. In view of the diverse political, cultural and geographical forces shaping modern Armenian history, it is important...that a modern Armenian historian possesses the flexibility, willingness and ability to reach beyond narrow topics and address multiple issues of socio-historical relevance. This is amply demonstrated by a quick review of some core topics discussed in Dr. Sanjian's publications."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Sanjian is a tremendous asset to the University of Michigan-Dearborn. His scholarship has gained him, and the campus, valuable recognition. The intelligence, clarity and cogency of his writing have drawn outstanding reviews. All of the reviewers comment upon the rigor and innovativeness of his work. Likewise, his teaching, whether it be in introductory courses in history, upper level topics courses, or upper level methods courses, shows a pattern of garnering improving positive reviews from students and from his colleagues as well. Equally as impressive, are Professor Sanjian's service contributions as director of the Armenian Research Center and to the broader metropolitan community. We are very pleased to recommend, with the strong support of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters Executive Committee, Ara Sanjian for the granting of tenure to be held with his title of associate professor of history, 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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