

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

Approved by the Regents
May 20, 2010

Kader Konuk, assistant professor of German, and assistant professor of comparative literature, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of German, with tenure, and associate professor of comparative literature, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

1999	Ph.D.	Universität Paderborn
1994	M.A.	University of Hull
1992	B.A.	Universität Köln

Professional Record:

2003 – present	Assistant Professor, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures and Department of Comparative Literature, and Affiliated Faculty, Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies, University of Michigan
2001 – 2003	Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures and Program in Comparative Literature, University of Michigan
2001	Research Fellow, Department of German Studies and Centre for Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies, Monash University
1999 – 2001	Postdoctoral Fellow, Graduiertenkolleg <i>Reiseliteratur und Kulturanthropologie</i> (Center for Travel Literature and Cultural Anthropology), Universität Paderborn

Summary of Evaluations:

Teaching – Professor Konuk is a dedicated teacher of graduate and undergraduate students. She has taught combination classes and has developed her own signature courses in both German and comparative literature. She received a grant from the European Union Center at Michigan to develop a course on Europe and Islam. Professor Konuk has served on seven dissertation committees and advised four undergraduate honors theses.

Research – Professor Konuk has developed into an outstanding transnational scholar, expanding the range of her inquiry to include German-Jewish and Turkish-Jewish relations. Combining archival research, literary theory, and cultural studies, her scholarship makes an important contribution to comparative literature, postcolonial studies, and the study of exile and migration. Her second book, *East West Mimesis*, is a masterful study of scholarship in exile. Forthcoming from Stanford University Press, *East West Mimesis* is already being considered for translation into German and Turkish. She is researching a new project on Ottoman-Australian encounters.

Recent and Significant Publications:

East West Mimesis: German-Jewish Exile and Secular Humanism in Turkey, Stanford University Press, forthcoming.

“Erich Auerbach and the Humanist reform to the Turkish education system,” *Comparative Literature Studies*, 45(1), 2008, pp. 74-89.

“Taking on German and Turkish history: Emine Sevgi Ozdamar’s *Seltsame Sterne*,” *Gegenwartsliteratur: German Studies Yearbook*, 6, 2007, pp 232-256.

“Ethnomasquerade in Ottoman-European encounters: Re-enacting Lady Mary Wortley Montague,” *Criticism*, 46(3), 2004, pp. 393-414.

Service – Professor Konuk has dedicated her time and energy to service in both of her departments. In Germanic Languages she served on the Executive Committee and the Curriculum Committee, among others. In Comparative Literature, she has been active on committees dealing with graduate student affairs. In addition, Professor Konuk has been active in Michigan’s Turkish-German Studies Group as coordinator and organizer of lecture series since 2001.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“I know of no other scholarly work that presents the ‘Turkish context’ as elegantly and insightfully as Prof. Konuk’s manuscript does. In other words, for the many who study Auerbach’s work—both for historical reasons and in order to develop the theoretical foundations of literary criticism—Prof. Konuk’s work is bound to become indispensable.”

Reviewer (B)

“Her articles and forthcoming book manuscript on this subject [German academic émigré community in Turkey in the 1930s and 40s] demonstrate a rigorous, well-documented study that is ambitious as it is engaging and instructive. ... I consider Professor Kader Konuk an important voice in German Studies and anticipate an excellent career for her as a scholar and teacher.”

Reviewer (C)

“...[*East West Mimesis*] is a most useful book in terms of the theoretical framework articulated by Professor Konuk and by virtue of the originality of her treatment of documents that have not circulated outside the archives to this point. The book is definitely a model of archive-based scholarly diligence and theoretically sophisticated critical insight. It also happens to be written in an eminently legible style whose narrative is as gripping as it is accessible.”

Reviewer (D)

“With seemingly effortless elegance and energy, Konuk demonstrates both the specificity of how German-Jewish migration to Turkey impacted on literary and intellectual production, and its connections with and differences from the literature of migration elsewhere. ... The book succeeds brilliantly in putting the history of German-Jewish migration to Turkey firmly on the agenda of diaspora and migration studies.”

Reviewer (E)

“...[Konuk] is an exceptionally bright, ambitious, and intellectually rigorous scholar. ... The international recognition she has received attests to her rising status as an important scholarly player in her chosen field. ...Konuk’s work displays an admirable expertise at deconstructing seemingly trivial symbols and extracting powerful cultural and political meanings. This finely

grained analytic ability adds tremendously to her work, enriching it and adding an important depth of vision and substance.”

Reviewer (F)

“...I am really impressed by the kinds of documents Konuk has unearthed. ... I learned a huge amount from reading this manuscript [*East West Mimesis*], and eagerly look forward to seeing it and her future work in print.”

Reviewer (G)

“Kader Konuk successfully not only defined her own academic profile as a leading expert but she also helped develop and draw attention to a whole new field, which...can be expected to grow in significance in the future. ...I have learned a lot from Professor Konuk’s thorough research, sensitive insights and strong arguments for putting the Turkish exile into the center of disciplinary history.”

Reviewer (H)

“This is one of the most impressive files at the assistant professor level I have read. From start to finish, Konuk’s work exudes a unique combination of intellectual seriousness, sustained analysis, and close attention to detail. ...she brilliantly brings divergent fields together in a productive relationship. ... She is...a truly original scholar.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Konuk is a cutting edge scholar of great accomplishments and far-reaching expertise, who is making significant contributions to the intellectual, pedagogical, and (inter)disciplinary mission of the departments and the university at large. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Kader Konuk be promoted to the rank of associate professor of German, with tenure, and associate professor of comparative literature, 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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