

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

Approved by the Regents  
May 20, 2010

Mikhail Krutikov, assistant professor of Slavic languages and literatures, and assistant professor of Judaic studies, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of Slavic languages and literatures, with tenure, and associate professor of Judaic studies, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1998	Jewish Theological Seminary of America
M.F.A. equivalent	1991	Gorky Institute of Literature
B.Sc. equivalent	1979	Moscow State University

Professional Record:

2004 – present	Assistant Professor, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures and the Jean and Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, University of Michigan
2002 – 2003	Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of Michigan
1999 – 2002	Lecturer, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London
1996 – 2001	Lecturer, Oxford Institute for Yiddish Studies

Summary of Evaluations:

Teaching – Professor Krutikov is an excellent teacher, dedicated to imparting knowledge of Jewish cultural history to students at the undergraduate and graduate level, and equipping them with critical thinking, research, and writing skills. He has sound pedagogical instincts, relates well to all his students, and has worked consistently to inspire active student engagement with the wealth of materials he presents. His courses deal with literature, the arts, and culture broadly, within the context of major historical and political developments in Central Europe and Russia. He has been particularly successful in fostering undergraduate research and mentoring graduate students.

Research – Professor Krutikov has amassed an impressive publication record. His interdisciplinary research covers Yiddish culture in Central and Eastern Europe. Since arriving at the University of Michigan in 2004 he has written one monograph, *From Kabbalah to Class Struggle: Expression, Marxism and Yiddish Literature in the Life and Work of Meir Weiner*. In addition he has published seventeen articles in peer-reviewed publications, hundreds of book reviews and critiques in Yiddish, Russian, and English, and co-edited four volumes. As an editor of the *YIVO Encyclopedia of Jews in Eastern Europe*, he was responsible for the entire section on Yiddish literature and contributed nine entries as well as a masterful overview article on Yiddish literature in Eastern Europe after 1800. In each these genres, Professor Krutikov displays exceptional erudition, lucidity, and insight.

#### Recent and Significant Publications:

*From Kabbalah to Class Struggle: Expressionism, Marxism and Yiddish Literature in the Life and Work of Meir Wiener*, Stanford University Press, in press for 2010.

“Marxist intellectuals in search of an unusable past: Habsburg mythology in the memoirs of Béla Balázs and Meir Wiener,” in *Between Two Worlds: Yiddish- German Encounters*, J. C. Frakes and J. Dauber (eds.), Studia Rosenthaliana, 2009, pp. 111-139.

“Writing between the lines: 1905 in the Soviet Yiddish novel of the Stalinist period,” in *The Revolution of 1905 and Russia's Jews*, S. Hoffman and E. Mendelsohn (eds.), University of Pennsylvania Press, 2008, pp. 212-223.

“Narrating the Revolution: From ‘Tsugvintn’ to *Midas-hadin*,” in *David Bergelson: From Modernism to Socialist Realism*, J. Sherman and G. Estraiikh (eds.), Legenda, 2007, pp. 167-182.

Service – Professor Krutikov has been an exemplary member in both of his units. He generously serves as an unparalleled resource to his colleagues here and, indeed, throughout the world. For two consecutive years he participated actively in searches in Slavic Languages and Literatures. Similarly, he served as undergraduate advisor for two years in Judaic Studies. He participates regularly in the graduate admissions and fellowships process in Slavic and served admirably on the Judaic Studies’ Executive Committee for two years.

#### External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“The integrative cross-disciplinary powers Prof. Krutikov displays in this book are nothing short of extraordinary. He has done unprecedented archival work (not only in Yiddish, Russian and Ukrainian but also in German and Hebrew) with a historian’s keen eye; a historian’s sensibility is everywhere evident in the thick contextualization provided for each stage in Wiener’s career, carefully depicting the ideologically complex journey from Central European expressionism and symbolist-inspired Kabbalah to normative Soviet realism.”

Reviewer (B)

“Krutikov demonstrates in this, his second monograph, not only a deep engagement with Jewish culture and a depth of knowledge regarding the ideologies of Central Europe and Soviet intellectuals, but also that he is able to present novel and sophisticated analyses in a readable and fascinating monograph.”

Reviewer (C)

“The chapter on Wiener’s autobiography is an outstanding demonstration of Professor Krutikov’s ability to examine the specificity of Wiener’s writing in the broad cultural and historical contexts of the Soviet Union and the history of Yiddish literature.”

Reviewer (D)

“He brings to his research all the desired components of literary scholarship: vast erudition, detailed knowledge of several literatures in their original languages, a keen sense of and a thorough acquaintance with the historical, social and ideological contexts of literary developments, brilliant analytical insights into the single literary text closely read, a good understanding of up to date literary theory, particularly where it merges with cultural theory.”

Reviewer (E)

"The book reads as a skillful mix of intricately drawn intellectual biography, cultural history, and literary interpretation, which does not allow the hindsight of the destruction of Jewish life in Russia and Eastern Europe to detract from the exceptionally fine analysis of philosophical ideas and the development of Wiener's almost messianic belief, however misguided it may now seem to us, in a Marxist solution to the Jewish Question, which would preserve a Yiddish-speaking culture."

Reviewer (F)

"...he co-edited three very important volumes (on Yiddish and the Left, the shtetl and Yiddish in the contemporary world) which are often cited and quoted by scholars all over the world. ... Dr. Krutikov has been invited and delivered papers at numerous conferences in the USA, United Kingdom, Russia, Austria, Germany and Canada and was awarded various fellowships and awards by American, Israeli, British and German foundations and institutions which shows his international recognition."

Reviewer (G)

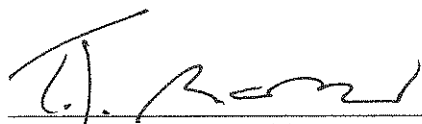
"The book is an extraordinary achievement at a number of levels."

Reviewer (H)

"I believe that Michael Krutikov is one of the most important scholars of Yiddish culture in the world today. He is the single most important scholar of Soviet Yiddish literature and his work is essential reading for any serious specialist."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Krutikov is an internationally recognized scholar, a dedicated teacher, and an excellent citizen. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Mikhail Krutikov be promoted to the rank of associate professor of the Slavic languages and literatures, with tenure, and associate professor of Judaic studies, with tenure, in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



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Terrance J. McDonald  
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor  
Professor of History and Dean  
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

May 2010