

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

Khaled A. Mattawa, assistant professor of English language and literature, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of English language and literature, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2009	Duke University
M.F.A./M.A.	1994	Indiana University
B.A./B.S.	1989	University of Tennessee, Chattanooga

Professional Record:

2004 – present	Assistant Professor, Department of English Language and Literature, University of Michigan
2000 – 2003	Assistant Professor, Department of English, University of Texas
1999 – 2000	Visiting Professor, Denison University
1999	Writer in Residence, Lynchburg College
1998	Lecturer, Department of African and Asian Languages and Literature, Duke University
1995 – 1996	Alfred Hodder Fellow, Humanities Center, Princeton University
1994 – 1997	Assistant Professor, Department of English, California State University

Summary of Evaluations:

Teaching – Professor Mattawa is a committed teacher of creative writing and literature on both the graduate and undergraduate levels. Since he joined the Department of English Language and Literature in the winter of 2004, approximately half his teaching has been devoted to poetry writing workshops, including the demanding Master of Fine Arts (MFA) thesis workshop offered in the fourth semester of the graduate program. He has taught a departmental gateway course, Introduction to Poetry, as well as honors courses on great works in literature, and has introduced two valuable expansions of our curriculum: an undergraduate course on Arab American literature and a graduate workshop on translation. He has supervised twenty-eight MFA poetry theses and has worked to enhance the clarity and coherence of his undergraduate courses.

Research – Since coming to Michigan, Professor Mattawa has published a third volume of original poems (with a fourth in press), three volumes of translation (with another forthcoming and a fifth under contract with Yale University Press), and a co-edited volume of contemporary Arab American fiction (with two further anthologies in press). This astonishing productivity has coincided with a steady increase in the author's poetic powers. Readers uniformly agree that his forthcoming book of poems, *Tocqueville*, is both his most ambitious and his strongest work to date. He is consistently recognized as one of the leading translators of poetry at work in America today. His labors as translator, editor, anthologist, essayist, and tireless advocate for international understanding constitute a distinguished contribution to both the University of Michigan and to the literary community at large.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Adonis: A Selection (poems in translation), Yale University Press, forthcoming 2011.

The Arab American Reader, L. S. Majaj and P. Kaldas (co-eds.), Rutgers University Press, forthcoming 2011.

Tocqueville (poems), New Issues Press, forthcoming 2010.

Dinarzad's Children II: Anthology of Contemporary Arab American Fiction, P. Kaldas (co-ed.), University of Arkansas Press, 2009.

Amorisco (poems), Ausable Press, 2008.

Service – Professor Mattawa has been a member of the MFA Admissions Committee since his first year in the program. He helped to write and administer the newly-instituted MFA examination in poetry, which is taken by students at the end of their first year. He has served on one search committee, has hosted a number of poets in the Visiting Writers Series, and has served on the Academic Advisory Board at the Arab American Studies Center at UM Dearborn. Nationally, he is president of the Radius of Arab American Writers (RAWI). Internationally, he has served on the Arab Fund for Arts and Cultures Board of Directors (2006-08) and is president of the Cultural Resource Center in Cairo. He also serves on the editorial boards of *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *Banipal* (London), and *Rattapallax*.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“...Khaled is also one of the best, most inventive, lyrical and intellectually challenging American poets of his generation... And he is also one of the best translators of poetry working today, from Arabic but ‘in general’ as well... I can think of very few if any American writers in the university system who have his qualifications.”

Reviewer (B)

“...Mattawa is a poet working quite independently of any aesthetic or literary school or movement. ... If there is such a thing as a ‘lyric political culture’—and I believe there is—I would place Khaled Mattawa as one of its major presences.”

Reviewer (C)

“He seems to me one of the principal figures of the emerging generation of American poets... As a translator from the Arabic... I’d liken [sic] his contribution to what Gregory Rabassa did for modern Spanish literature, or what William Weaver has done for modern Italian writing.”

Reviewer (D)

“...Tocqueville is the real thing, strong crafted and completely engaged, passionately and unromantically, and very politically-- with our historical moment. ... This may be quite an important book, and it is certainly a powerful and vivid collection of poems. ...Khaled has the kind of rigorous, thirsty, demanding critical intelligence which makes a particular scholar or poet significant over a lifetime.”

Reviewer (E)

"The forthcoming *Toqueville* is Mattawa's most formally experimental (and gripping) book. ...I will be assigning it to all my MFA students. ... His stance is rare and, frankly, broader and deeper than that of most multicultural poetry critics."

Reviewer (F)

"It would be an error to characterize Professor Mattawa's expertise as being purely or even largely in poetry about the Arab/American experience or in Arabic-language literature and translation... For these are not poems meant to communicate a fixed and defined 'identity' in the sense of 'identity politics' or, perhaps, 'identity poetics'; rather, they are meant to discover and allow both speaker and reader to inhabit and experience that fluid, unfixed, indefinable thing that is actual, lived identity."

Reviewer (G)

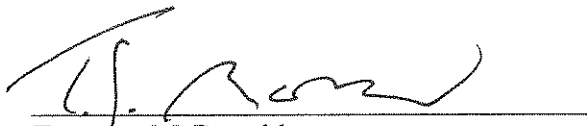
"Mattawa's unrepressed attraction to something like an epic statement drives the long sequences both in this book [*Zodiac of Echoes*] and the next, *Amorisco*, and they succeed most happily when he takes complete control of what is also the division that dogs him, eats at him: he is a high lyric poet trying to figure out how to register his place on earth."

Reviewer (H)

"...Mattawa's achievements are truly remarkable. His books of poems—published by the best small trade publishers—are widely and critically acclaimed. ... His award-winning books of translations are the best translations of poetry from Arabic into English yet to be written. His forthcoming selection of translations of poems by Adonis...will become a classic in American poetry's canon of translated works. ...[his] prose writings...are also masterful."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Mattawa has an increasingly notable body of original poetry as well as a remarkable array of translations and edited anthologies. He is a strong teacher and plays a very active role in service activities at all levels. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Khaled A. Mattawa be promoted to the rank of associate professor of English language and literature, with tenure, in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



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

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