

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

Approved by the Regents
May 20, 2010

Yopie Prins, associate professor of English language and literature, with tenure, and associate professor of comparative literature, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of English language and literature, with tenure, and professor of comparative literature, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1991	Princeton University
M.A.	1983	Cambridge University
B.A.	1981	Swarthmore College

Professional Record:

2008 – present	Chair, Department of Comparative Literature, University of Michigan
1998 – present	Associate Professor, Departments of English and Comparative Literature, University of Michigan
1994 – 1998	Assistant Professor, Department of English Language and Literature and the Comparative Literature Program, University of Michigan
1991 – 1994	Assistant Professor, Department of English, Oberlin College

Summary of Evaluations:

Teaching – Professor Prins' commitment to teaching is exemplary and it has ranged widely across topic and kind of student. In her undergraduate classes she revises her syllabi in response to student feedback, at the same time challenging them to pursue ever more advanced inquiry. At the graduate level she engages in a good deal of informal teaching or mentoring to prepare her students to take up successful careers. Since 1998 she has mentored 42 graduate students through to their Ph.D. and is currently working with six graduate students. Her nomination for the John D'Arms Distinguished Teaching Award is the second such honor she has received; in 2002, she won the Henry Russel Award for Research and Teaching. Professor Prins also addresses departmental needs in her teaching: upon request she developed a general introduction to feminist literary criticism and theory.

Research – Through her publications, conference presentations, lectures, and collaborative initiatives, Professor Prins has established herself as a leader in numerous overlapping fields, including Victorian literature, classical reception studies, historical poetics, and gender studies. Her interdisciplinary work, which brings together literature, music, performance, and pedagogy, has earned her eminent distinction on both sides of the Atlantic, and a very wide and appreciative audience. In her second book, *Ladies' Greek*, Professor Prins has developed brilliantly beyond her first book, expanding her theoretical depth and nuance, demonstrating extraordinary skills as a classicist and as a reader of poetry and Victorian literature. She has also written most of her third book, *Voice Inverse*, co-edited a special issue of the journal *Cultural Critique* (forthcoming January 2010), and has embarked on a co-edited anthology on the theory of lyric poetry (under contract from Hopkins).

Recent and Significant Publications:

Lyric Theory Reader, with V. Jackson (co-ed.), Johns Hopkins University press, forthcoming 2011.

Classical Reception and the Political, a co-edited special issue of *Cultural Critique*, forthcoming winter 2010.

Ladies' Greek, Princeton University Press, forthcoming 2010.

"Historical poetics, dysprosody, and the science of the English verse," *Proceedings of the Modern Language Association*, 123(1), 2008, pp. 229-234.

Service – Professor Prins has carried a heavy service load for many years. In English she has served on the Executive Committee, departmental search committees, Graduate Admissions Committee, Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, and on the Awards Committee. Currently she is chair of Comparative Literature where she has also been undergraduate concentration advisor, graduate advisor, founding member of Contexts for Classics, faculty liaison for the Dutch Writer in Residence Program, and member of multiple search committees. Under her leadership, the current "Year of Translation" has arisen alongside new Comparative Literature courses like "Translating World Literatures." She has set in motion a review of graduate and undergraduate instruction that aims for a more innovative, user friendly, and internationalized curriculum in line with the needs of department, discipline, and the larger university initiatives. She has served on national advisory boards in her fields and on the Executive Committee of the Modern Language Association Division on the Victorian Period.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

"Yopie's ongoing ability to raise new questions and open major literary issues to fuller archival and theoretical analysis is, I think, typical of her work. ...the time has definitely come to promote Yopie to full professor. ... The University of Michigan is to be praised for having nurtured such a dedicated and brilliant colleague."

Reviewer (B)

"She will continue to be at the forefront of studies in poetry of the nineteenth century, deposing assumptions about meter, about the 'voice' of the poet, and about specific poetic careers and works. In short, the profile of her career is magnificent, inspiring."

Reviewer (C)

"In sum, you have an active and accomplished critic, who is very much engaged in the forefront of debates in the field of poetics, a major player in the area of historical prosody and an advocate for transatlantic thinking about poetry and poetics. She is well known in the field and certainly deserves to be promoted to the rank of professor."

Reviewer (D)

"The case seems to me open and shut. Professor Prins is one of the best known scholars working in the field of Victorian Studies, a super-star specifically in the crucial area of the interface of classical learning and Victorian culture, and one of the few truly distinguished figures to work on Victorian poetry with real flair and insight. ... *Of course*, you should promote her, instantly and with gratitude that you can keep her."

Reviewer (E)

"I have always argued that the most groundbreaking practitioners of interdisciplinarity are the ones who can demonstrate not only the knowledge, but the utmost care as to the singular disciplinarity of their multiple epistemological positions. This is the aspiration – the project – of Comparative Literature as a *discipline*. The best scholars manage this in two, or rarely three, domains, often historically contiguous. Professor Prins is, in this respect, unique."

Reviewer (F)

"In both books, in her edited volumes, and in her articles, Yopie distinguishes herself through scrupulous close reading combined with an unusual knowledge of metrics and a keen ear for cross-linguistic allusions and references. Her scholarship is of the highest caliber."

Reviewer (G)

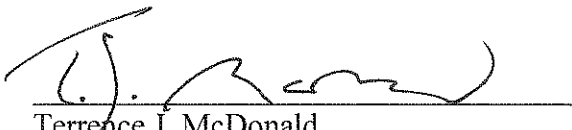
"...Prins is comparatist and scholar of the highest order. Her work deftly negotiates the demands of classical philology, literary studies, historiography, and critical theory with a sophistication and finesse all too rare among her peers. For her, interdisciplinarity is...a rigorous method for research and interpretation that has yielded stunning and frequently innovative results."

Reviewer (H)

"The lineaments and trajectory of her current and future work (books entitled *Ladies' Greek* [now substantially complete] and *Voice Inverse*) are already clear from an extensive series of published journal articles and lectures on both sides of the Atlantic, and establish her right to stand without question in this company."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Prins is an innovative scholar, a great teacher and mentor, and a tireless administrator. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Yopie Prins be promoted to the rank of professor of English language and literature, with tenure, and 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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