

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

Javier C. Sanjinés, associate professor of Spanish, with tenure, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of Spanish, with tenure, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1988	University of Minnesota
Diplôme de Maîtrise	1974	Université de Paris III
B.A.	1971	Universidad Mayor de San Andrés

Professional Record:

2003 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, University of Michigan
1997 – 2003	Assistant Professor, Departments of Romance Languages and Literatures University of Michigan
1994 – 1997	Professor, Post-graduate Studies in the Social Sciences, CIDES-Universidad Mayor de San Andrés, and School of Communication, Catholic University of Bolivia
1988 – 1994	Assistant Professor, Department of Spanish and Portuguese, University of Maryland, College Park

Summary of Evaluations:

Teaching - Professor Sanjinés has a strong record of teaching in Latin American literary and cultural studies. He has taught a wide range of undergraduate and graduate courses on nineteenth- and twentieth-century literature and culture, including “Introduction to Latin American Literature,” which he has taught seven times since his last review. Peer reviews by the two members of the promotion review panel found his classes to be well-organized, engaging, coherent, and a good environment for learning. He is a very responsible teacher, rigorous and demanding of students, and committed to them as well.

Research – Professor Sanjinés has an exceptional record of publication, with works written and published in three languages that range over a variety of topics in Latin American literary and cultural studies, especially of the Andean region. Since his promotion to associate professor in 2003, he has published two major books, both of which have appeared in two languages: *Mestizaje Upside Down* (Pittsburgh, 2004) appeared in Spanish in 2005, and *Conflits culturels dans les sociétés post-coloniales* (Paris, 2010) appeared in Spanish in 2009. This latter book, the centerpiece of the case, is cited by all reviewers for its importance, its topicality and timeliness, its originality and boldness, its seminal quality. It is by all accounts a major intervention in the field of Latin American cultural studies, informed by a deep knowledge of philosophy, history, politics, literature, and the law.

Recent and Significant Publications:

*Rescolds del pasado. Conflictos culturales en sociedades postcoloniales*, PIEB, 2009.

“Retórica, movimientos sociales y Asamblea Constituyente en Bolivia” in *Cutura y cambio social en América Latina*, M. Moraña (ed.), Iberoamericana-Vervuert, 2008, pp. 73-89.

“National contradiction and cultural conflict” in *La Dialectique du Dialogue: la quete del'interculturalité*, Académie de la latinité, 2008, pp. 147-175.

“Anthropology, pedagogy, and the various modulations of indigenismo: *Amauta*, Tamayo, Arguedas, Sabogal, Bonfil Batalla,” in *Blackwell Companions to Latin American Literature and Culture*, S. Castro-Klarén (ed.), Blackwell Publishing, 2008, pp. 397-409.

Service – Professor Sanjinés has had a full record of service to the Department, particularly in the past two years when he took on some major tasks and carried them out brilliantly. In 2008-2009 he served as chair of the Spanish curriculum committee with responsibility for the enormous undergraduate curriculum in Spanish, and as a member of the Graduate Committee. In fall term 2009 he agreed to serve as acting graduate chair. Professor Sanjinés did an outstanding job, handling everything with attention, care, and efficiency, including teaching his courses. He also served on a search committee in Spanish that term.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“...[Professor Sanjinés] is a candidate who has an impressive list of publications and one who, I would argue, is laying the basis for a timely and radically new evaluation of Bolivian society and culture. ...I think Michigan [is] fortunate...[to have] such a unique scholar. ...I cannot think of anyone else who has such a unique combination of situated scholarship and intellectual courage...[as] Professor Sanjinés. ...I am not usually this effusive but then it is rare to combine evaluation with discovery.”

Reviewer (B)

“...[*Mestizaje Upside Down*] advances the very intriguing idea...of opening up the state to heterogeneous forms of history (for example indigenous historicities that do not correspond to the Western narrative of modernity and progress). ... It goes without saying that this issue is as immediate as today’s headlines, and that this line of thought represents the kind of contribution the humanities can make to questions of politics and public policy. ...Professor Sanjinés’s promotion to the rank of Full Professor with tenure at Michigan, which I support in the strongest possible terms, is not only warranted, but in some ways overdue.”

Reviewer (C)

“...Professor Sanjinés is, quite simply, one of the very best and brightest of his generation, and one of the topmost cultural critics in the world. ... Seldom if ever have I been exposed to such a rich, thorough, body of work. The University of Michigan must feel extremely proud to have in its ranks an individual who promises to become one of the foremost Latin American cultural critics, and perhaps one of the best ever in the world at large, in a relatively short term.”

Reviewer (D)

“I regard [Professor Sanjinés’s scholarship]...to be of the highest quality in the field. It is always based on sound historical research, thorough theoretical grounding, intense and

appropriate research, clear mode of exposition and almost always, completely original and brilliant... On the whole, his research meets very high standards...[and] sets the path for future inquiry on the part of...[junior as] well as older scholars.”

Reviewer (E)

“Professor Sanjinés has had the privilege of partaking of three major centers of education for his training, Bolivia, Paris and [the] United States. ...[this] accounts for his substantial production of 4 books—in three different languages and published by three prestigious presses; his 2 co-edited books with major Bolivian scholars...his 2 edited books, and numerous publications in books and scholarly journals. ...Sanjinés has done everything to deserve promotion to the rank of full professor.”

Reviewer (F)


“...Latin American scholarship has become a very interesting and competitive field in which Javier Sanjinés has taken a full and remarkable place. I certainly would put him on a list of the few...who contribute in an original way to this renewal.”

Reviewer (G)

“In my opinion, Dr. Sanjinés is one of the most important Andeanists in the field of Latin American studies. Over recent years, he has concentrated his accumulated expertise...on literary and cultural studies, particularly, visual studies (of art and film). ... This perspective on things has enabled him to extend and generalize his findings productively across different Latin American nations, for example Mexico, problematizing them as cultural and political formations. With his growing list of publication...Sanjinés’s scholarly approach to Andean culture is producing an important...*oeuvre* which deserves the recognition the promotion to full Professor involves.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Sanjinés has an outstanding international profile. He is a rigorous and committed teacher who has also shown himself to be an excellent administrator. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Javier C. Sanjinés be promoted to the rank of professor of Spanish, with tenure, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



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

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