

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

Approved by the Regents
May 20, 2010

Scott Spector, associate professor of Germanic languages and literatures, with tenure, associate professor of history, with tenure, and associate professor of Judaic studies, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of Germanic languages and literatures, with tenure, professor of history, with tenure, and professor of Judaic studies, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1994	The Johns Hopkins University
M.A.	1989	The Johns Hopkins University
B.A.	1981	Clark University

Professional Record:

2008 – present	Associate Professor, Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, University of Michigan
2000 – present	Associate Professor, Departments of Germanic Languages and Literatures and History, University of Michigan
1994 – 2000	Assistant Professor, Departments of Germanic Languages and Literatures and History, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluations:

Teaching – Professor Spector’s teaching at both undergraduate and graduate levels is highly valued in each of his units. As a teacher of undergraduates, he provides courses in modern German and European cultural and intellectual history that include a range of topical areas. One of his primary commitments is to “The Origins of Nazism” (German/History 322), an avowedly interdisciplinary, co-taught, high-enrollment lecture course; another is to the freshly established team-taught lecture course on the “History of Sexuality” which ranges across the grand sweep of the past. With this undergraduate portfolio, Professor Spector anchors both German’s historical interests and History’s cultural ones. He is similarly vital to the graduate program of each unit, making Michigan one of the most exciting centers for central European cultural studies, modern European cultural and intellectual history, and the history of sexuality.

Research – Professor Spector is a scholar of great international distinction, one of the several most talented European cultural and intellectual historians of his generation. He is second to none in his immediate field of German-speaking Central Europe. His new book, *Violent Sensations: Sexuality, Crime, and Utopia in Vienna and Berlin, 1860-1900*, confirms his standing in his field. Together with his forthcoming co-edited volume, *After the History of Sexuality: German Interventions*, and his planned book on *German-Jewish Subjects and Histories*, his scholarship commands the highest respect. He is a true pioneer, whose work marks out exciting new conceptual space for research and debate about Central European culture.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Violent Sensations: Sexuality, Crime, and Utopia in Vienna and Berlin, 1860-1900, University of Chicago Press, forthcoming 2010.

"Modernism without Jews: A counter-historical argument," *Modernism/modernity*, 13(4), 2006, pp. 615-633.

"Was the Third Reich movie-made? Interdisciplinarity and the reframing of 'ideology'," *American Historical Review*, 106 (2), 2001, pp. 460-484.

"Marginalizations: Politics and culture beyond *Fin-de-Siècle* Vienna," *Rethinking Vienna 1900*, S. Beller (ed.), Berg, 2001, pp. 132-53.

Service – Professor Spector has done essential service inside his units as well as for the Department of Women's Studies. He has served on the Executive Committees of German (several times), History, and Judaic Studies while chairing and serving on search committees, tenure committees, and third-year review panels, and other forms of service in all three units. In the wider professional world he has been on the editorial board of *Jewish Social Studies* since 2008, and on the Board of the Conference Group for Central European History of the American Historical Association since 2007.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

"I was simply bowled over by the originality and boldness of this piece [Edith Stein's *Passing Gestures*], the subtle liminal ways in which Spector was able to locate the problematic and indeed constitutive relevance of Jewish identity in Stein's conversion to Catholicism and its relation to wider discourses of the period."

Reviewer (B)

"...all the components that made *Prague Territories* such an important work are again in play in his new book [*Violent Sensations*]. Original, bold and impressively broad in scope, this book returns to Central Europe and to the fin de Siècle to examine...both the Habsburg and German empires as scenes of significant phenomenon..."

Reviewer (C)

"Since publishing *Prague Territories*, Spector has carved out an area of expertise that is remarkable for both its breadth and its complexity. Trained as an intellectual historian, he continues to demonstrate virtuosity as a reader and interpreter of literary, philosophic, and lately, low cultural texts. He has, however, considerably expanded the frames of intellectual history by adopting the conceptual tools of cultural studies and gender studies to address questions of power, ideology, sexuality, and collective identity absent from the concerns of traditional intellectual historians. ... He is essentially a pioneer, whose work has helped constitute new theoretical spaces for research and debate about Central European culture."

Reviewer (D)

"The combination of thematic approaches on display here [in *Violent Sensations*] is absolutely convincing... the book is very well-structured and thought through. ...[he] is an admirably productive scholar with an amazing range of expertise and knowledge. He is perfectly suited for a dual appointment in a German and a history department."

Reviewer (E)

"Scott's command of central European literary and cultural history in the late 19th and early 20th century is genuinely impressive. ... I can think of no American intellectual historian who can match his intimate knowledge of the cultural life of Mitteleuropa during this turbulent era. ...he combines the close reading skills of a literary critic with the contextual acumen of an intellectual historian. He is equally at home in cinema and the social scientific discourses of the era as in literary texts..."

Reviewer (F)

"...Spector's work contributes to histories of nationalism, of sexuality, of the construction of public life. Most importantly...Spector engages the complex relations between ideologies and cultural practices. This is why his work, although situated more in a broader history of ideas, is nonetheless crucial to historians like myself who write more about politics, social movements, and society."

Reviewer (G)

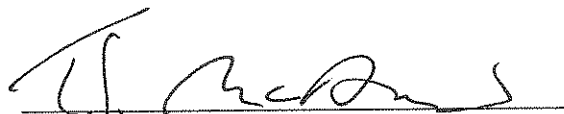
"...I am very impressed by his publication record and the quality of his scholarship. Scott has no doubt become a widely renowned expert on questions of German-Jewish modernity and Central European cultural history and a major contributor to an area where culture, history, and literature intersect. ... He is not averse to taking a stance vis-à-vis his peers in History as he emphasizes the cultural dimension in our dealings with the past, while he will also insist on the historical dimension of cultural works when facing his peers in Literature. He seems to embody and 'perform' his joint/split appointment between the departments of history and German literature."

Reviewer (H)

"Scott is clearly one of the leading intellectual and cultural historians of his age cohort... [*Violent Sensations*] is a masterful formulation of an interlocking set of problems drawing from both elite and popular culture. ... He is an attentive listener, an excellent reader, and an impressive intellectual presence. His work places him in the very forefront of his cohort."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Spector is an excellent scholar, an engaged and challenging teacher, and a very active citizen. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Scott Spector be promoted to the rank of professor of Germanic languages and literatures, with tenure, professor of history, with tenure, and professor of Judaic studies, without 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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