

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

Approved by the Regents  
May 20, 2010

Magdalena J. Zaborowska, associate professor of American culture, with tenure, and associate professor of Afroamerican and African studies, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of American culture, with tenure, and professor of Afroamerican and African studies, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1992	University of Oregon
M.A.	1987	University of Warsaw
B.A.	1985	University of Warsaw

Professional Record:

2007 – present	Associate Professor (with tenure), Program in American Culture and Center for Afroamerican and African Studies, University of Michigan
2001 – 2006	Associate Professor (without tenure), Program in American Culture and Center for Afroamerican and African Studies, University of Michigan
2000 – 2001	Visiting Associate Professor, Program in American Culture and Taubman School of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan
1999 – 2000	Research Fellow, Newcomb College Center for Research on Women, Tulane University, and, Research Fellow, Centre for Cultural Research, Aarhus University (time divided equally six months in each position)
1998 – 2000	Associate Professor, Department of English and American Studies, Aarhus University
1996 – 1997	Assistant Professor, Department of English and American Studies, Aarhus University, Denmark
1992 – 1996	Assistant Professor, Department of English, Furman University

Summary of Evaluations:

Teaching – Professor Zaborowska teaches a wide variety of classes, from introductory lecture courses to upper-division discussion courses to specialized graduate seminars. A curricular innovator in the Program in American Culture (AC), her teaching contributions to the Center for Afroamerican and African Studies (CAAS) have resulted largely from cross listings of courses in African American literature, gender, and place. Technologically proficient, highly professional in manner, and dedicated to excellence, she creates a generous atmosphere in the classroom. Her teaching contributions to the AC graduate program have been extraordinary and she has been a leader in the unit's curricular and admissions discussions. She has directed prize-winning graduate student research and provides excellent professional mentoring to both undergraduate and graduate students as well as to junior faculty.

Research – Professor Zaborowska investigates the relationships of place and space to gender, identity, and cultural production. This concern with the expression of cultural geographies marks her interests in immigration literature, the urban architecture of East-Central Europe in

1989, her recent and current work on James Baldwin, and her project in progress on Detroit and Seljny, Poland entitled *Racing Borderlands: Displacement, Difference, Dialogue, and American Cultural Traffic in the Second World*. Her innovative and revealing scholarship, represented most splendidly by *James Baldwin's Turkish Decade: The Erotics of Exile*, has caught the attention of the Modern Language Association, which awarded her a major prize, and *The New Yorker*, which reviewed her book in 2009. Drawing attention to an overlooked period in Baldwin's life, she also draws attention to some of his overlooked works, demonstrating the productive role of his exile in Istanbul and suggesting the place of Turkey in the literary imagination. Highly interdisciplinary in its mix of African-American literary criticism with American and transnational cultural studies, the book resonates strongly with the work of the AC and CAAS.

#### Recent and Significant Publications:

"From Istanbul to St. Paul-de-Vence: James Baldwin's *The Welcome Table*," in *James Baldwin: America and Beyond*, B. Schwartz and C. Kaplan, under advance contract at University of Michigan Press.

*James Baldwin's Turkish Decade: Erotics of Exile*, Duke University Press, 2009.

"Triangulating translation: On global feminisms and speaking in tongues," with J. M. Pas., special issue of *Feminist Studies*, 2009,

"'In the Same Boat': James Baldwin and the other Atlantic," *Historical Guide to James Baldwin*, D. Field (ed.), Oxford University Press, 2009, pp. 177-211.

Service – Professor Zaborowska has established an excellent record of service, particularly in AC, where she has served on two tenure review panels, as coordinator of the AC graduate student workshops, and as a member of Long Range Planning and External Review Committees. She served as chair of Graduate Admissions and did an exceptional job, which led to her three-term appointment as director of AC's Graduate Services. In CAAS, she has served on the Curriculum Committee and the Honors Committee. She has worked effectively with the International Institute, Institute on Research on Women and Gender, the Center for Russian and East European Studies, and the Global Feminisms Project.

#### External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

"...[*Baldwin's Turkish Decade*] is one of the most important books written on Baldwin to date. ...[*Racing Borderlands*] is quite ambitious, which, for me, indicates that Professor Zaborowska is already a senior scholar who takes on research that demands innovative analytics and methods."

Reviewer (B)

"...Professor Zaborowska provides an excellent record of academic achievement and great promise for the future. ...the particular interests and skills she has developed are especially valuable to the Program in American Culture and the Center for Afroamerican and African Studies, as they offer dynamic, comparative elements to enliven these fields. I believe Professor Zaborowska's abilities and achievements compare favourably with many leading scholars in the field."

Reviewer (C)

"Magdalena quite simply has become one of the leading current generation of Baldwin scholars. ... Her *James Baldwin's Turkish Decade* is the most impressive book on Baldwin to have been published in recent years. ... Magdalena is an accomplished scholar, an articulate and imaginative one, who will undoubtedly continue to produce important material in African-American and American Studies. ... I feel strongly that she deserves promotion..."

Reviewer (D)

"...she practices the kind of global American Studies, rooted in her investigations of African American cultural production that is often invoked in American Studies circles, but not always achieved. ... Professor Zaborowska is a resource absolutely essential to American Studies in the 21st century. She is a prolific writer, with great public presence, and there is every indication that her work will continue to follow its high-powered trajectory."

Reviewer (E)

"I was stunned by this work. ...*James Baldwin's Turkish Decade* is a 'once in a generation' achievement. Professor Zaborowska has done yeoman's work in the process of pushing...toward a true multinationalism. ... She is clearly becoming a quite prominent person in our profession. She may, in fact, come to be recognized as the premiere Baldwin scholar of her generation."

Reviewer (F)

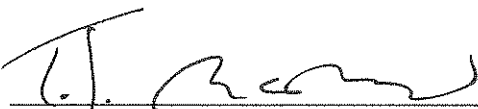
"Her level of productivity, the range of her fields, and the seriousness of her research and arguments put her into the league of a more advanced age group of accomplished full professor. ...Zaborowska meets and exceeds all of those standards for promotion to professor..."

Reviewer (G)

"...her scholarly range is rare, and one would have to look far and wide to recreate in one individual what she brings to the table."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Zaborowska is a leader in her field who continues to produce outstanding research. Her contribution to the teaching and service missions of the College has been substantial. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Magdalena J. Zaborowska be promoted to the rank of professor of American culture, with tenure, and professor of Afroamerican and African studies, 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

May 2010