

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

Katharine Miller Jenckes, assistant professor of Spanish, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of Spanish, with tenure, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2001	University of Oregon
M.A.	1995	University of Oregon
B.A.	1992	Reed College

Professional Record:

2005 – present	Assistant Professor, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, University of Michigan
2003 – 2005	Assistant Professor, Department of Hispanic Studies, Rice University
2002 – 2003	Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Spanish, Reed College
1999 – 2001	Visiting Lecturer, Department of Romance Studies, Duke University

Summary of Evaluations:

Teaching – Professor Jenckes has demonstrated excellent pedagogical skills in the classroom. She is responsible, rigorous, and demanding, and student response is very positive. She has taught a wide range of undergraduate and graduate courses on 20<sup>th</sup>-century literature and culture, including “Latin American Poetry” and “Latin America Narrative” (on Chile and Argentina), which she has successfully taught several times. Peer reviews by members of the promotion review panel conclude that her classes are well organized and she is a committed and enthusiastic instructor.

Research – Professor Jenckes is a scholar of modern and contemporary Latin American literary and cultural studies. She has an outstanding record of publications that cover a broad range of important topics. She has published ten articles and a major book, *Reading Borges After Benjamin: Allegory, After Life, and the Writing of History*. The book has been reviewed as a fundamental intervention in the field of Latin American literary studies and in comparative literature as well as in Borges studies. Professor Jenckes’ publications show a mature, intelligent, and well-informed scholar who will continue to be an important presence and will very soon become a leading figure in her field.

Recent and Significant Publications:

“Myopic witnessing and the intermittent possibilities of community in Sergio Chejfec’s *Los planetas* and *Boca de lobo*,” *Revista de estudios hispánicos*, 44, 2010, pp. 213-234.

*Reading Borges After Benjamin: Allegory, After Life, and the Writing of History*, SUNY Press, 2007.

“Heavy beasts and the garden of culture: Remembering *Eco*,” *Revista de la cultura de occidente*,” *The New Centennial Review*, 5(2), 2005, pp. 151-169.

“The ‘New Latin Americanism,’ or the end of regionalist thinking?” *The New Centennial Review*, 4(3), 2004, pp. 247-270.

Service – Professor Jenckes has had a full record of service in the department since her arrival in 2005. She has served as a member of the Executive Committee (2009-2011), the Graduate Committee (2006-2008), the Undergraduate Committee of Spanish, and the Keniston Lecture Committee (2006-2008, 2009-2010). In all her service appointments, she did an outstanding job, demonstrating excellent administration skills. She is a responsible colleague and a collaborative presence in the department.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“Prof. Jenckes’s [sic] elegant prose and persuasive argumentation enhanced by her sage use of theory, bodes extremely well for her academic future. Her sustained exploration of the allegorization of Southern Cone cultural and intellectual history is a promising critical endeavor that she clearly has the range to undertake. Prof. Jenckes is already a significant scholar who enjoys a solid formation as a comparativist and who has already secured standing among her peers. She is undoubtedly an excellent candidate for tenure and promotion at any important university in the country.”

Reviewer (B)

“The venues of publication are impressive. SUNY Press...is an important academic press in the field... Jenckes has published several articles in the *New Centennial Review*, a fine journal published at Michigan State University. The *Revista de Estudios Hispánicos*, *Latin American Literary Review* and *Journal of Latin American Cultural Studies* are all important Latin Americanist journals in the English-speaking world...”

Reviewer (C)

“This is a truly wonderful book—the kind of book that makes a career, really. It is intelligent, original, eloquent, and, at times, extremely moving. I would like to add that it is also interdisciplinary in the best sense of the word...”

Reviewer (D)

“If I were to suggest a book on Borges, I would definitely put Prof. Jenckes’ 2007 monograph at the top of my list. In this original study, she presents particularly illuminating discussions of several poems and prose texts that allow us to read him neither as an ivory-tower intellectual contemplating metaphysical complexities, nor as a criollo author attempting to reaffirm his origins, but a major thinker reflecting on historiography, writing, subjectivity, experience, cultural difference, colonization, and imaginary and discursive constructions of the nation in the context of social and political problems of the Americas in the past and the present.”

Reviewer (E)

“The monograph on Borges is the key piece of scholarly evidence in Jenckes[’] file, and in itself it demonstrates the establishment of a sophisticated research agenda and the ability to place her work in an important academic venue.”

Reviewer (F)

"This is important work, which I believe will ultimately prove fundamental for Borges studies. ...I admire the book because it marks a salutary turn toward philosophy and theory as *necessary* for reading Borges. ...I believe the kind of work that she is doing...is essential for what might be called the renovation of Hispanic studies."

Reviewer (G)

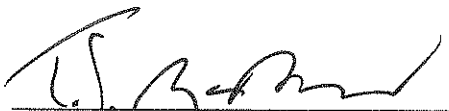
"Dr. Jenckes' overall intellectual project, in its originality, rigor, and uncompromising engagement with both literature and philosophy, with cultural studies and subaltern studies, with history and language, is not only breathtaking in its scope and promise, but it is actually the kind of work upon which the generational renewal of the intellectual field depends."

Reviewer (H)

"...it is clear that she is a consummate professional, an active and productive scholar, and an engaged intellectual. She has published in some of the most prestigious journals in the field, and has presented papers and organized panels at high profile national and international conferences. She has been invited to contribute to encyclopedia projects, is asked to review prominent books in the field, and has participated in significant symposia. All of this indicates her continuing productivity."

Summary of Recommendations:

Professor Jenckes has an outstanding international profile and is regarded as an excellent scholar in both Latin American studies and comparative literature. She is a committed teacher and an excellent colleague. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Katharine Miller Jenckes be promoted to the rank of associate professor of Spanish, with tenure, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, 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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