

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

Victoria Johnson, assistant professor of organizational studies, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of organizational studies, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

2002	Ph.D.	Columbia University
1991	B.A.	Yale University

Professional Record:

2005 – present	Assistant Professor, Organizational Studies Program and Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Michigan
2002 – 2005	Fellow, Society of Scholars, Stephen M. Ross School of Business, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluations:

Teaching – Professor Johnson has successfully taught both of the Organizational Studies Program’s challenging core courses and routinely offers two exceptionally popular special topics seminars, one on non-profit organizations and one on social entrepreneurship. Student reviews have been very strong, which is particularly impressive given the deep and challenging material she presents. Professor Johnson also stands out in undergraduate research mentorship. For the last three years she has secured funding to allow teams of undergraduate students to travel with her as she conducts archival and field research. Her research classes blend innovative and intensive teaching with cutting-edge research to offer students a unique learning experience that serves as a capstone for their undergraduate careers.

Research – Professor Johnson is a cultural and historical sociologist who uses the archival methods of social history in concert with the field research techniques of sociology to address problems of interest to organizational scholars. She is fundamentally concerned with processes of social reproduction and change in organizations and institutions. Her signature work is the book, *Backstage at the Revolution*, which is an exemplary and imaginative work of historical sociology that has received very strong reviews. She also has three peer reviewed articles, an edited volume, and two chapters.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Backstage at the Revolution: How the Royal Paris Opera Survived the End of the Old Regime, University of Chicago Press, 2008.

“Bourdieu and organizational analysis,” with M. Emirbayer, *Theory & Society*, 37, 2008, pp. 1-44.

Opera and Society in Italy and France from Monteverdi to Bourdieu, J. Fulcher and T. Ertman (eds.), Cambridge University Press, 2007.

“What is organizational imprinting? Cultural entrepreneurship in the founding of the Paris opera,” *American Journal of Sociology*, 113(1), 2007, pp. 97-127.

Service – Professor Johnson has been a valuable member on the Program’s most challenging committees, including Admissions, Recruitment, and Curriculum, and was recently elected to a two-year term on its Advisory Committee. She very successfully served as co-chair of a joint search committee with the Department of History. At the field level she has done extensive reviewing as well as organizing of panels and symposia at national and international meetings. She also served as an elected officer (secretary-treasurer) of the Comparative Historical Section of the American Sociological Association. In 2008, Professor Johnson was invited to become a consulting editor for the *American Journal of Sociology*. This is a prestigious board and one to which junior faculty are rarely recruited.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“She is, in my view, one of the two or three best comparative historical sociologists of her [generation] cohort, and certainly the one with the most interesting research agenda at the intersection of culture, history, and institutions. ... Given Victoria’s record to date, I think she would be a very solid candidate for promotion to tenure at the most competitive sociology departments in the country.”

Reviewer (B)

“Johnson has produced a first book which combines rich empirical analysis and original argument to a well articulated question in a densely populated theoretical field. ... From her teaching statement...I am also persuaded that she is an exceptional asset to the Organizational Studies program as both a teacher and a colleague. It is clear that she...works effectively to link her unusual choices of empirical problems to core issues in organizational research and undergraduate training.”

Reviewer (C)

“I have long considered Victoria a terrific scholar, and having this opportunity to review her work as a whole...has only strengthened me in that conviction. ...Johnson is in my view an exceptionally strong candidate for tenure. Her research, teaching, and collegiality are all very strong. She will make a terrific permanent addition to your university.”

Reviewer (D)

“There is much to like about her work: her scholarship, her interdisciplinary perspective, her theoretical nuance, and her clean prose. Professor Johnson is a thoughtful and precise thinker, and a talented historian.”

Reviewer (E)

“I believe she has the volume of work necessary for tenure and...the quality of her work appears to be excellent. Professor Johnson has been very productive in her professional life, and I believe she will continue to make important contributions to organizational theory in the future.”

Reviewer (F)

“Making sense of organizations from the materials that present themselves to researchers is difficult, even for a relatively brief span. Doing so for more than a century is a major

achievement, placing this volume [*Backstage at the Revolution*] at the forefront of the historical sociology of organizations... ”

Reviewer (G)

“...I see Victoria Johnson as a scholar unique in her ability to combine a strong theoretical perspective and grounding in the organizations literature with archival research skills equal to those of any historian. I am sure she will be productive at the highest level for decades to come...”

Reviewer (H)

“...her accomplishments as a researcher and her exceptional efforts as a teacher and mentor make for a very compelling case.”

Reviewer (I)

“She is a person who seems to know not only those elements of organizational studies that allow her to bring a fresh perspective to the questions she poses, but who is not afraid to engage archives directly to get the material she will need to pursue her theses. ...her personal statement about her teaching is about as fine a statement as I have been privileged to examine.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Johnson is a leader in her field with a record of scholarship that is highly visible in multiple disciplines. She has done exceptional teaching and has a consistent record of high-quality service. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Victoria Johnson be promoted to the rank of associate professor of organizational studies, with tenure, 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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