

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

Tiya A. Miles, associate professor of American culture, with tenure, associate professor of Afroamerican and African studies, with tenure, and associate professor of history, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of American culture, with tenure, professor of Afroamerican and African studies, with tenure, and professor of history, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2000	University of Minnesota
M.A.	1995	Emory University
B.A.	1992	Harvard University

Professional Record:

2008 – present	Associate Professor, Program in American Culture, Center for Afroamerican and African Studies (CAAS), and Department of History, University of Michigan
2007 – 2008	Associate Professor, Program in American Culture and CAAS, University of Michigan
2003 – 2007	Assistant Professor, Program in American Culture and CAAS, University of Michigan
2000–2002	Assistant Professor, Department of Ethnic Studies, University of California, Berkeley

Summary of Evaluations:

Teaching – Professor Miles is an exceptional teacher who provides students with powerful learning experiences. Her courses include undergraduate lectures and seminars, and graduate seminars. Her syllabi are well-conceived and provide varied contexts for learning, immersing students in the reading of historical texts and documents, as well as fiction, memoir, and cultural criticism, offering firsthand engagement with historical sites and museums, and setting a range of challenging writing assignments. Since promotion to tenure, she has continued to build a strong record of mentoring undergraduate and graduate students. She has served on eleven doctoral committees.

Research – Professor Miles is a leading member of the cohort that studies African American-American Indian relations, and she has stood at the top of that cohort since the publication of *Ties That Bind* (University of California Press, the “Crossroads” series) that won major prizes from the American Studies Association, the Organization of American Historians, and the Dallas Institute of Humanities and Culture. Her superb first book has been rapidly followed by another that is at least its equal. *The House on Diamond Hill: A Cherokee Plantation Story* is published by the University of North Carolina Press, which has a storied list of publications in both early American and Southern history. It is a reconstruction of the history of the Vann plantation (1800-1839) through plantation records, missionary reports, and government observations. Professor Miles has also published a prize-winning article in the flagship journal of American Studies, *The American Quarterly*, another in a major journal of Women’s studies, and a third in an edited collection.

Recent and Significant Publications:

The House on Diamond Hill: A Cherokee Plantation Story, University of North Carolina Press, 2010.

“Taking leave, making lives: Creative quests for freedom in early Black and Native America,”
IndiVisible, African-Native American Lives in the Americas, G. Tayac (ed.), Smithsonian Institution, 2009.

“‘Circular reasoning’: Recentering Cherokee women in the Antiremoval Campaigns,” *American Quarterly*, 61(2), 2009, pp. 221-243.

“The narrative of Nancy, a Cherokee woman,” *Frontiers: A Journal of Women Studies*, Special Issue: Intermarriage and North American Indians, 29(2&3), 2008, pp. 59-80.

Service – Professor Miles has compiled a formidable record of service, including associate director of CAAS, director of Native American Studies, member of the CAAS Curriculum Committee and the American Culture Graduate Studies Committee, on promotion committees, and as a faculty mentor for assistant professors in her three units.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“She stands at the foremost edge of innovative scholarship and public education...her promotion would focus public and academic attention on a field of tremendous consequence to American cultural and political history. ...Dr. Miles certainly stands among the elite. ... Hers is the kind of mind, and person, we need today in academic and public life. I can easily see her achieving the level of influence of a Toni Morrison or a Maya Angelou. Promotion to professor is warranted, without condition.”

Reviewer (B)

“Miles second book, *The House on Diamond Hill: A Cherokee Plantation Story* is the work of a mature scholar. ... She should be an excellent asset to your graduate programs. I certainly would want to work with her as a co-advisor for dissertations. ...her varied interests and interdisciplinary gifts strengthen each of her specialties in a seamless manner. Miles’s recently published essays further displays her ingenuity and mastery of her craft. ... I rank her as one of the premier scholars of Native America in the early nineteenth century... She is at the forefront in showing others how to integrate Native American studies with African American and gender history.”

Reviewer (C)

“...I would emphatically state that Miles is one of the most holistically interdisciplinary scholars I can think of. ...she would definitely be worthy of promotion to professor at my own institution, where we look primarily for a substantial body of published material and a national reputation. ...*The House on Diamond Hill* has solidified her position as one of the most enterprising and influential scholars of American history and culture working today in the areas of race, African American history, and American Indian history.”

Reviewer (D)

“In comparison to others who have been working in the same field for about the same length of time, Miles ranks, in my view, at the top. ...her work will have a lasting impact on not only the field of Indian studies but African-American studies as well. That might not be said about some of the other scholars [in her cohort]. ... I believe that her work is of such extent and quality that she should receive promotion at the University of Michigan...”

Reviewer (E)

“While she is associated with a cohort of gifted scholars...who are engaged in new and crucial scholarship concerning the intersections between African American and Native American history, Professor Miles’s [sic] careful and innovative scholarship, her conceptual brilliance, and her narrative fluidity positions her at the pinnacle of her cohort. ... I believe that *The House on Diamond Hill* will stand as a conceptual model... ..it is perfectly clear to me that Miles has made and will continue to make contributions to Native American, African American, and 19th Century U.S. history that will definitively shape the work that comes in her wake. She will be a valuable and visible member of your faculty for years to come.”

Reviewer (F)

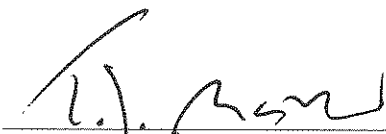
“Among the current generation of scholars working on the subject, Miles is the subtlest thinker and the finest writer. ...more than any other scholar, she has underscored the experiences of women who were Indian slaveholders and slaves to Indians. ... I admire her work...and expect that she will continue to remain at the top of her field. ... I strongly recommend that she be promoted to full professor at the University of Michigan.”

Reviewer (G)

“*House on Diamond Hill* is not only a good book about a particular milieu and moment in Cherokee history, but it is one of the most interesting books on U.S. Slavery that I have ever read. I would not hesitate to put it on a short list of indispensable books on the subject. ... Her work as a whole without a doubt establishes her as a major national scholar working in the fields of slavery, Native American history, African American history, and, most importantly, in the emerging intersections across these fields.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Miles is an established leader in her field who will continue to produce outstanding research over the course of a long career. 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 Tiya A. Miles be promoted to the rank of professor of American culture, with tenure, professor of Afroamerican and African studies, with tenure, and professor of history, 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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