

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

Adela N. Pinch, associate professor of English language and literature and women's studies, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of English language and literature and women's studies, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1990	Cornell University
M.A.	1987	Cornell University
B.A.	1982	Yale University

Professional Record:

1995 – present	Associate Professor, Department of English Language and Literature, University of Michigan
1996 – 1997	Visiting Associate Professor, Department of English, Rutgers University
1995 – 1996	Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of English, Rutgers University
1989 – 1995	Assistant Professor of English Language and Literature and Women's Studies, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – At a time when English and other humanities' departments are seeking new ways to attract students and maintain enrollments, Professor Pinch demonstrates a willingness to think creatively about her teaching interests in the context of the needs of a department. Her undergraduate course, "Jane Austen in Context," was originally designed as a small seminar. It has become one of the most popular courses in the department with an enrollment of more than 130 students. This has been due to Professor Pinch's efforts to re-calibrate the content and direction of the course, and to revise her own pedagogical style. She also teaches smaller courses and graduate-level courses to great effect, earning nearly impeccable responses in her course evaluations.

Research – Professor Pinch's first book, *Strange Fits of Passion: Epistemologies of Emotion, Hume to Austen*, is a landmark publication in her field. Her second book, *Thinking About Other People in Nineteenth-Century British Writing*, which was recently released from Cambridge University Press is already acknowledged as another path-breaking work. Between the releases of her first and second book, Professor Pinch has published six articles and a new edition of Jane Austen's *Emma*. Together, these works delineate her broad range of interests in "the long nineteenth century." Already a leading scholar in Romanticism, Professor Pinch has expanded her expertise into research in the later nineteenth century, effectively contributing in important and relevant ways to Victorian studies.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Thinking About Other People in Nineteenth-Century British Writing, Cambridge University Press, 2010.

“Love thinking,” *Victorian Studies*, 50(3), 2008, pp. 379-397.

“Transatlantic modern love,” in *The Traffic in Poems: Nineteenth-Century Poetry and Transatlantic Exchange*, M. L. McGill (ed.), Rutgers University Press, 2008, pp. 160-184.

Jane Austen’s *Emma* (with new introduction and notes), Oxford World Classics, 2003.

Service – Professor Pinch’s contributions to the community, academic and otherwise, are widely varied. She has served multiple terms on the department’s Executive Committee, chaired the Graduate Admissions Committee, and served on numerous search committees. Currently, she holds the position of chair of the women’s studies doctoral program, and, according to the Department of Women’s Studies’ chair, she serves as the key liaison with English for the joint Ph.D. program in English and women’s studies. Professor Pinch is also a co-founder of the Nineteenth-Century Forum which offers an opportunity for graduate students to present their dissertation chapters. This initiative has furthered the goal of collaboration beyond the English Department by engaging related disciplines such as art history, anthropology, American culture, comparative literature, history, musicology, and women’s studies into the work of the forum.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“Her work is strikingly original, it has been influential and productive of further work by others; its rigor is unquestionable and the elegance and concision of its expression is highly admirable. I have learned from both her earlier and her present work immensely; she is an exemplary scholar who has accomplished much and will doubtless go on to accomplish more. ...I judge her work to be excellent, thought-provoking, wide-ranging and in every sense the sort of scholarship that will advance learning in the field and ensure that those without the field continue to learn from it and to appreciate the significance as well as the beauty of the aesthetic works Pinch studies.”

Reviewer (B)

“The lively interest in the connection between the history of the emotions and the history of literature, which has swept through English departments during the last decade, is largely owing to Adela Pinch’s seminal book.”

Reviewer (C)

“Her publications are most distinguished...by the questions she poses, by the imagination at work prior to anything we actually see on the pages we read. ...I find myself more powerfully drawn to those more rare critics like Pinch who surprise me in their points of departure, who have perceived our shared objects of study freshly and discovered in those objects unnoticed peculiarities and profundities.”

Reviewer (D)

“Adela’s range of expertise is simply extraordinary: she is expert across nineteenth-century British literature, and a substantial chunk of its philosophy, and she has substantial expertise in the eighteenth century as well. She reads poetry and prose with equal brilliance. In short, she is two or three faculty members in one, a very rarely eclectic and wide-ranging nineteenth-century scholar.”

Reviewer (E)

“Without even factoring in her most recent achievement, I can also state flatly that she is already at the very top of her cohort of mid-career scholars in nineteenth-century British literature if only on the strength of her first book, *Strange Fits of Passion*...which is cited with extraordinary frequency both in studies of Romanticism, where it has achieved something close to canonical status, and across the discipline of English studies generally... ..Professor Pinch’s brilliant and important new book more than justifies promoting her to the rank of full professor...”

Reviewer (F)

“The chief proof to the world of this earned authority is *Thinking About Other People*: a versatile, infectiously engaging dividend.... ..it is a great attraction of Professor Pinch’s book to pick up a theme so obvious and yet handle it in quite refreshing ways. ...she adduces a number of (to me at least) new philosophical and institutional contexts for the aesthetics and ethics of this species of none-altruism, and in the process shows what a magnet otherly-thinking was for the still forming nineteenth-century disciplines of psychology, philosophy, and literary criticism.”

Reviewer (G)

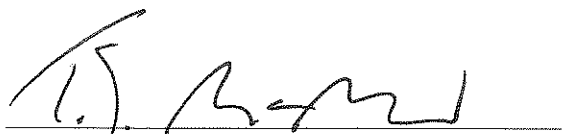
“She is a subtle scholar working in a complexly constituted field, and, I think, one of its most important practitioners. The strength of her work, and its originality (as well as its consistency), leave me no doubt that she is worthy of promotion to full professor.”

Reviewer (H)

“...Adela is one of the great teachers of her generation. And one of the great critics of her generation, in the realms beyond the seminar, the conversation and the lecture: her written work marks and makes her one of the keenest and most original thinkers of her generation. *Strange Fits of Passion*...*Thinking About Other People*...a broad collection of her articles: together, these works investigate in profoundly new ways how literary texts can light up the mysteries of our most intimate feelings.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Pinch continues to craft high-quality, widely admired works. The expanding enrollments of her courses attest to her popularity with students and her service at Michigan and beyond makes her an invaluable asset to the university community. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Adela N. Pinch be promoted to the rank of professor of English language and literature and women’s 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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