

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

Gayle S. Rubin, assistant professor of anthropology, assistant professor of women's studies, and assistant professor of comparative literature, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of anthropology, with tenure, associate professor of women's studies, with tenure, and associate professor of comparative literature, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1994	University of Michigan
M.A.	1974	University of Michigan
B.A.	1972	University of Michigan

Professional Record:

2006 – present	Assistant Professor, Women's Studies Program (2006-2007), Department of Women's Studies (2007-present), University of Michigan
2005 – present	Assistant Professor, Program in Comparative Literature (2005-2007), Department of Comparative Literature (2007-present)
2003 – present	Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan
2002 – 2003	Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan
2002	Visiting Professor, San Francisco Art Institute
2001	Norman Freehling Visiting Professor of Humanities, Institute for the Humanities, University of Michigan
1996 – 1998	Lecturer, Women's Studies Program, University of California, Santa Cruz
1994	Lecturer, Department of Sociology, University of California, Berkeley

Summary of Evaluations:

Teaching – Professor Rubin is an excellent classroom teacher, who is very effective with both upper-level undergraduates and graduate students. She is reflective, insightful, and demanding of herself as a classroom instructor; her course offerings greatly enrich the curricula of both anthropology and women's studies. She has been very responsive to the teaching needs of the programs to which she contributes, and to the mentoring needs of both undergraduate and graduate students. Professor Rubin's teaching portfolio includes eighteen courses since fall 2003 in three separate units; eight of these are different courses.

Research – Professor Rubin is widely recognized as one of the founding scholars of the fields of feminist and gender studies, queer studies, and sexuality within and beyond anthropology and women's studies. Since joining the faculty at Michigan she has continued to make theoretical and empirical contributions to her areas of research. Her publications are distinguished by her theoretical originality, the range and depth of her knowledge and engagement across disciplines in the social sciences and the humanities, and the care and richness of her ethnographic and historical research. Her current research projects – on the debate among feminists known as the "sex wars" and on the historical anthropology of racial categories – will broaden the scope of her scholarship still further.

### Recent and Significant Publications:

*Deviations: Sex, Gender, and Politics*, Duke University Press, in press.

"Blood under the bridge: Reflections on 'thinking sex'," *GLQ: A Journal of Gay and Lesbian Studies*; "Rethinking Sex," special issue edited by H. Love, et al., 17(1), 2010.

"A little humility," in *Gay Shame*, D. Halperin and V. Traub (eds.), University of Chicago Press, 2009, pp. 369-373.

"Studying sexual subcultures: The ethnography of gay communities in urban North America," in *Out in Theory: The Emergence of Lesbian and Gay Anthropology*, E. Lewin and W. Leap (eds.), University of Illinois Press, 2002, pp. 17-67.

Service – Professor Rubin has served on a range of committees in Anthropology (notably Graduate Admissions), the Residential College (notably the Social Sciences Committee), and in Women's Studies (notably the LGBTQ Certificate Advisory Committee). Nationally, she is recognized as an important institutional builder for gay and lesbian scholarship. Her central contribution has been to create an extraordinary archive of research materials, which is now one of the largest and most varied collections of documents, material, and folk art focusing on gays and lesbians in the country. Professor Rubin has been a central force in the movement to create community-based archival institutions. As one of the nation's most prominent scholars of gay cultures, she has also been an important institutional builder through her work on key journals in the field.

### External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

"Her work has been foundational to studies of sexuality in a way that almost no other scholar's has been, certainly among those trained in anthropology. ...*Valley of the Kings* is a major achievement. ... *Deviations*...will be greeted, I predict, as an absolutely foundational text."

Reviewer (B)

"Gayle Rubin is a towering figure in sexualities studies... ..a central figure whose work is very widely cited, has been influential for 35 years, and continues to be agenda-setting. ...there are few scholars in the world of sexuality studies who are as successful as Rubin in combining theoretical vision with a minute, scrupulous, and painstaking attention to empirical detail, drawing on a deep knowledge of the history and the methods of the social sciences."

Reviewer (C)

"...she certainly deserves promotion with tenure based on the quality, impact, and range of her interdisciplinary scholarship. ...Rubin is a brave, as well as bold, scholar. She has never been afraid to speak or write her mind, to find flaws in the going wisdom...and to connect the historical and the political. ... She is an original thinker..."

Reviewer (D)

"Her scholarship has had an enormous impact on the legal academy because it offers a powerful theoretical framework with which to address the complex role of the state in the regulation of sexuality and gender. ...it is impossible not to notice the superlatives used by legal scholars in describing the importance of Rubin's work. ...as 'classic.' Other terms used include 'foundational,' 'seminal,' 'compelling,' 'groundbreaking,' 'prescient,' and 'canonical.'"

Reviewer (E)

"...I easily count Rubin among the handful of key scholars in feminist, lesbian, gay and, more recently, queer studies. Her work has been broadly influential, much cited and emulated."

Reviewer (F)

"*Deviations* is an exceptional collection, one that I predict will be on the list of the most significant publications of the last ten years. ... The second book, *Valley of the Kings*, is as exciting as *Deviations*, if not more so. ...it too will be added to the list of most significant publications in queer studies. ... She has been productive of internationally recognized scholarship for almost 40 years with every indication that this pattern will continue. Much of her work has been ground breaking..."

Reviewer (G)

"...she is a scholar for whom I have enormous respect. ...her writings have had a formative influence on several generations of feminists and scholars of gender and sexuality... Rubin's work is so central to feminist thought and to gender and sexuality studies that [it] is redundant to remind anyone of its importance. ....Rubin continues to contribute – in clear-headed and trenchant ways – to debates about gender and sexuality, and to discussions about the history of feminism in the United States."

Reviewer (H)

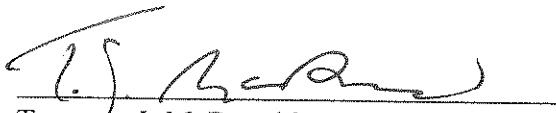
"Her work is truly interdisciplinary... ... She has contributed both to theory and to ethnography in Anthropology and made ethnographic approaches to the study of sexuality more broadly known outside our discipline. ... She has a national and international reputation, and she will continue to enrich the curriculum in both Departments. Her current interest on preserving and passing on the rich history of sexual studies...is crucial to the continued vitality of Anthropology and Women's Studies."

Reviewer (I)

"...Gayle Rubin is a unique scholar with an influence that radiates far beyond the academic rank she has so far achieved..."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Rubin has published groundbreaking research. She is an extraordinary teacher and a valuable citizen. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Gayle S. Rubin be promoted to the rank of associate professor of anthropology, with tenure, associate professor of women's studies, with tenure, and associate professor of comparative literature, without 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

May 2011