

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

Gareth Williams, associate professor of romance languages and literatures, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of Spanish and Latin American and Caribbean studies, with tenure, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1992	University of California, Davis
M.A.	1987	University of Georgia
B.A.	1985	University of Liverpool

Professional Record:

2005 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, University of Michigan
2002 – 2005	Assistant Professor, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, University of Michigan
1997 – 2002	Assistant Professor, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, Wesleyan University
1996 – 1997	Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, Wesleyan University
1993 – 1996	Assistant Professor, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, North Carolina State University
1992 – 1993	Assistant Professor, Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, University of Alabama, Birmingham

Summary of Evaluations:

Teaching – Professor Williams has a very strong record of teaching in Latin American literary and cultural studies. He has taught a wide range of undergraduate and graduate courses, including basic courses on Latin American literature and culture for concentrators and minors, innovative special topics courses for the most advanced undergraduates, and a varied set of graduate seminars. Students regard him as an engaging, committed, and demanding teacher. In his introductory courses, he generally receives higher evaluation ratings from students than others who teach the same courses. His contribution as a director of Ph.D. dissertations has been outstanding: he has chaired eight completed dissertations and is currently advising an additional seven.

Research – Professor Williams is a specialist in modern Latin American literature and culture. Since 2005 he has published seven articles and he has a major book on modern Mexico in press. The forthcoming book is specifically focused on twentieth- and early twenty-first-century Mexico. It is cited by the external reviewers for its deep learning, the theoretical sophistication and expository clarity of its arguments, and its status as a major intervention in debates of the significance of modern Latin American culture. His articles treat a much wider geographical

range of Latin American literature, including the Chilean novelists Roberto Bolaño and Daniela Eltit and the Peruvian novelist and essayist José María Arguedas.

Recent and Significant Publications:

The Mexican Exception: Sovereignty, Police, Democracy, Palgrave Macmillan Press, forthcoming 2011.

The Other Side of the Popular: Neoliberalism and Subalternity in Latin America, Duke University Press, 2002.

“Sovereignty and melancholic paralysis in Roberto Bolaño,” *Journal of Latin American Cultural Studies*, 18, 2009, pp. 125-140.

“Disciplinary hybridism and practice,” in *Decentering Latin American Studies*, S. Alvarez and A. Arias (eds.), University of Pittsburgh Press, 2008.

Service – Professor Williams has had a substantial record of service in his department, including acting graduate chair and several terms on the Graduate and Executive committees. In addition, he has been very active in search committees, review committees, and in the mentoring of junior faculty. He is currently serving a three-year term as a member of the Michigan Faculty Senate Assembly.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“As in his first book, Professor Williams digs deep into history, drawing on a vast archive of documents, writings on political philosophy and readings of literature, film, and photography. He has an extraordinary grasp of detail.... There is no doubt that, on the basis of his scholarly writing, Gareth Williams merits promotion to full professor with tenure.”

Reviewer (B)

“As with the previous book, the originality of this achievement and its authoritativeness place Williams at the top of the important and readable scholarship being done in the disciplines of Latin American and what is now known as trans-hemispheric studies.”

Reviewer (C)

“I think it is clear that my opinion of Williams’s [sic] two books would lead me to rank them highly in any list of important must read texts on Latin America. They are not easy texts but they deal with essential subjects and reward the effort to come to terms with their complex and nuanced arguments. ...I would personally rank him among a pretty distinguished group.”

Reviewer (D)

“In my opinion, Professor Williams has fulfilled what is required of scholars promoted to the topmost rank in a major institution. He evidences all the traits of an excellent career and brings important recognition to your department. ...in reading Professor Williams’s [sic] output of the last 5 years, I have been exposed to a rich, thorough body of work.”

Reviewer (E)

“...Williams mobilizes his material and his argument with sophistication and force. There are moments of great insight and lucidity. I have no doubt then that the book, when it appears, will

garner much attention, discussion, and almost certainly debate, especially in the field of Mexican studies, but not only there, since the nature of its argument involves a much broader reflection on the State, social movements, hegemony, sovereignty, formal and informal politics.”

Reviewer (F)

“*The Mexican Exception* is a text of great complexity and interpretative richness and no brief commentary can do justice to it. I think that its publication will be a major event in the field, gauging its importance in terms of the ways it could be used to generate debates and discussions.”

Reviewer (G)

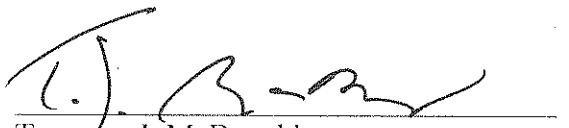
“If I had to draw up a list of the best and most dynamic Latin Americanists in the USA, professor [sic] Williams would undoubtedly be among the top three. Indeed, he is one of just a handful of scholars (at all levels and in all age groups) who has shaped the field and trained...upcoming scholars in ways that are not only impressive (some of his students now occupy junior positions in some of the major universities of this country, including but not limited to Princeton University, the University of Arizona, Dartmouth College, Indiana University, and Colorado College) but also standard-setting.”

Reviewer (H)

“Mr. Williams is an outstanding, dedicated teacher, viewed in the field as one of the leaders of the current generation, and an eloquent writer—few people in the humanities are his equal and perhaps none is superior to him.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Williams is increasingly regarded as a scholarly leader in his field. He has also become a central figure in the teaching of Latin American literature and culture at the University of Michigan. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Gareth Williams be promoted to the rank of professor of Spanish and Latin American and Caribbean studies, with tenure, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, 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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