

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

Paulina L. Alberto, assistant professor of history, and assistant professor of Spanish, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of history, with tenure, and associate professor of Spanish, with tenure, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D. 2005 University of Pennsylvania
B.A. 1997 University of Pennsylvania

Professional Record:

2005 – present Assistant Professor, Department of History and Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Alberto has been a valuable contributor to the teaching mission at the undergraduate and graduate levels in each of her departments. She integrates diverse pedagogical methods into all of her courses, which range from the standard service courses to creatively-designed seminars conducted entirely in Spanish or Portuguese. Professor Alberto contributed to History’s restructuring of its undergraduate curriculum, where she helped shape the design of the new gateway courses. In Romance Languages and Literatures she has developed a graduate course aimed at students interested in comparative racial formations and transnational approaches to the Atlantic world. In History’s graduate program she has worked through readings courses, while mentoring numerous students and serving on preliminary and dissertation committees.

Research – Professor Alberto’s scholarship is characterized by a transnational range and a careful deployment of theory. Her monograph, Terms of Inclusion: Black Intellectuals in Twentieth-Century Brazil, and her articles will have a powerful impact in Brazilian and Latin American history and in the comparative study of race and racial formations, especially in their cultural dimensions. The proposed co-edited volume, Beyond Whiteness: Rethinking Race in Modern Argentina, the forthcoming articles, and the emergent second major project taken together represents a substantial contribution to the next wave of scholarship on the history of race in South America. In her future work she intends bringing similar histories under critical review in the profoundly different societal context of Argentina.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Terms of Inclusion: Black Intellectuals in Twentieth-Century Brazil, University of North Carolina Press, 2011.

“When Rio was *Black*: Soul music, national culture, and the politics of racial comparison in 1970s Brazil,” *Hispanic American Historical Review*, 89(1), 2009, pp. 3-39.

“*Para Africano Ver: African-Bahian exchanges in the reinvention of Brazil’s racial democracy, 1961-63*,” *Luso-Brazilian Review*, 45(1), 2008, pp. 78-117.

“Of sentiment, science, and myth: Changing metaphors of racial inclusion in twentieth-century Brazil,” *Social History*, submitted 2010.

Service – Professor Alberto has assembled a diverse and impressive record of service in the Departments of History and Romance Languages and Literatures.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“The book [Terms of Inclusion] is absolutely masterful and one of the most impressive professional debuts that I have ever seen in the field of Latin American history... I found myself thinking that this was probably the strongest case for tenure that I have every reviewed. ... She would certainly be awarded tenure in my own department; indeed, we would be thrilled to have her.”

Reviewer (B)

“Terms of Inclusion... is one of the most important books of the last decade on the topic of race in Latin America. ... Alberto could have done this book as a national-level study, simply amalgating the changing trends over time in Brazil. But her book is particularly valuable and innovative in its attention to regional nuance. She explains the different demographic, economic, and cultural contexts that produced varying activist strategies and intellectual positions among [B]lack Brazilians in three different states, demonstrating the falsity of facile generalizations too often made about race and racism in Brazil as a whole.”

Reviewer (C)

“Her article ‘When Rio was *Black*’... is the strongest and most sophisticated work on racial mobilization in Brazil during the 1970s, a critically understudied period, and her book Terms of Inclusion is a comprehensive study of twentieth-century Afro-Brazilian political mobilization that should long serve as a basic reference for scholars of race relations in Brazil. ... There truly is no comparable study, in either the United States or Brazil, that focuses so effectively on the broad currents of racial politics in Brazil.”

Reviewer (D)

“This is, in some sense, an intellectual and literary history, one that tracks movements and influence, and that respects the importance of key figures and analyzes their work in the way that the best of literary studies do. But it also takes very seriously cultural forms such as music and religion, incorporating them into the story on equal terms and with a sophisticated understanding of how they operate in their own realms while intersecting with broader currents.”

Reviewer (E)

“It is rare, in such a charged intellectual atmosphere, to find a historian willing to take a critical historical look at all sides of these explosive debates. But this is precisely what Professor Alberto does. ... The result is a fascinating, subtle, dialectical history of Black racial thought, which is able to explain the rise and the decline of Brazil’s distinctive ideologies of *mestiçagem* even as it offers pioneering insights into the history of black [sic] consciousness and activism.”

Reviewer (F)

“It would have been easy for Dr. Alberto to ask only traditional questions. Instead she uses a comparative regional model and changes the conventional chronology so that inclusion is linked to the twentieth century rather than abolition. Dr. Alberto’s approach thus helps to provide new paradigms for thinking about Latin America.”

Reviewer (G)

“In the last decade there was a boom of historical research on citizenship and Black activism in Brazil, but the work of Paulina Alberto stands out. She makes a difference when she builds her work as an intellectual history, when she stresses the role of regional differences in Black activism in Brazil, and when she...[links] the national and global historical contexts. ...Terms of Inclusion...is with no doubt one of the best in this recent boom about the history of Brazilian twentieth-century Black Activism, including the Brazilian research.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Alberto’s scholarship is absolutely first-rate. She is a dedicated and challenging teacher and has assembled a solid record of service. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Paulina L. Alberto be promoted to the rank of associate professor of history, with tenure, and associate professor of Spanish, with tenure, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, in the 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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