

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

Evelyn A. Alsultany, assistant professor of American culture, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of American culture, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2005	Stanford University
M.A.	1998	New School for Social Research
B.A.	1995	University of Michigan
I.B.	1991	United Nations International School

Professional Record:

2006 – present	Assistant Professor, Program in American Culture, University of Michigan
2005 – 2006	Research Investigator, Program in American Culture, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Alsultany is one of the top three instructors in the Program in American Culture, measured by consistently solid enrollments and consistently stellar teaching evaluations. Professor Alsultany is a reflective and introspective instructor, who focuses on what she can improve. She studies teaching literature and has worked closely with the University's Center for Research on Learning and Teaching. Professor Alsultany is also an active graduate student mentor. She currently has one advisee and has served or is serving on nine other examination or dissertation committees. She has advised four senior theses, and one Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program student. She has overseen fifteen independent studies or internships.

Research – Professor Alsultany has gained a high standing in the field of American studies through her strenuous research efforts. Her forthcoming book, Arabs and Muslims in the Media, offers an exciting, original, interdisciplinary project that contributes to Arab American studies, to proliferating studies of media representations within American studies, and to media studies itself. The publisher is New York University Press, a premier outlook for work on the media and an excellent venue in American studies. Professor Alsultany has also published (or has in press) versions of three of the chapters of her forthcoming book, one of which appeared in the flagship journal of the American Studies Association, *American Quarterly*. She co-authored two lengthy introductions to two edited collections, each collection also coedited by Professor Alsultany. Together these form a successful effort to build Arab American studies as a field.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Arabs and Muslims in the Media: Race and Representation After 9/11, New York University Press in the series, *Critical Cultural Communication*, K. Ono and S. Banet-Weiser (eds.), forthcoming 2012.

The Cultural Politics of the Middle East in the Americas, co-edited with E. Shohat, University of Michigan Press, forthcoming 2012.

“Selling American diversity and Muslim American identity through non-profit advertising post-9/11,” *American Quarterly*, 59(3), 2007, pp. 593-622. This special journal issue has been published as a book entitled Religion and Politics in the Contemporary United States, R. M. Griffith and M. McAlister (eds.), Johns Hopkins University Press, 2008, pp. 67-96.

“The prime time plight of Arab-Muslim-Americans after 9/11: Configurations of race and nation in TV dramas,” in Race and Arab Americans Before and After September 11th: From Invisible Citizens to Visible Subjects, N. Naber and A. Jamal (eds.), Syracuse University Press, 2007, pp. 204-228.

Service – Professor Alsultany has an impressive record of service in the Program in American Culture. She has advised Multi-Ethnic Student Affairs and Arab American student organizations, and collaborates extensively with the Arab American National Museum in Dearborn.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“I have no doubt that Alsultany’s book will make a significant contribution to various fields. Not only does her book contribute to Arab-American Studies, but it also intervenes in Ethnic Studies/American Studies. ...I can easily see Dr. Alsultany’s book project making a vital contribution...to the public arena concerning the long history of Orientalism in the U.S. ... Dr. Alsultany is the kind of colleague who makes many of us feel proud of our field, for she demonstrates that academic life can be made both intellectually stimulating and socially productive. ... She has already contributed exceptional work to the field.”

Reviewer (B)

“Dr. Alsultany’s work contributes to American Studies, media studies, and ethnic studies. She is an important scholar in each of those fields, and has played a particularly significant role in the development of feminist scholarship on race, Arab American studies, and the study of US perceptions of Islam. When her book is published, it will quickly become a standard work in the burgeoning field of scholarship that examines US-Middle East cultural relationships. ...Dr. Alsultany is an outstanding scholar. Certainly she would be easily tenured at [my university].”

Reviewer (C)

“Reading Alsultany’s pioneering work convinced me that...[she] is a brilliant and leading scholar in Arab American studies who has probably done more to develop the field of Arab American cultural studies, as a collective enterprise, than anyone in her generation of academics in the U.S. Alsultany’s expertise in cultural studies, ethnic studies, feminist studies, and American studies and her contributions to these overlapping areas of research are significant and innovative. ... I highly recommend Evelyn Alsultany for tenure and promotion to Associate Professor at the University of Michigan”

Reviewer (D)

“Dr. Alsultany’s scholarship echoes a new generation of Arab American scholars in her critical engagement with the dynamic process of racialization, the crucial role of new media technologies and the historical events within which identities are formed and transformed and produces a useful model for an understanding of power relations and the politics of

representation tout court. ...[she] has a strong record of highly valued publications qualifying her to be promoted to tenure at any research institution. ... As a scholar, she is a wonderful example of the diligent and engaged intellect that one hopes for in all colleagues.”

Reviewer (E)

“...I am impressed by the accessibility of her work... There has been a (long overdue) renaissance of sorts in the field of Arab-American and Arab-American feminist studies in recent years, and Professor Alsultany’s work ranks up with the highest in this growing body of work. ... *Arabs and Muslims in the U.S. Media*...will be a landmark study in this field, and will be used widely in classrooms and in scholarship.”

Reviewer (F)

“...Professor Alsultany is a rising, compelling public intellectual whose work (both in academe and the public at large) changes our ‘visioning’... I have no doubt that Alsultany’s work, fusing traditional scholarship with imaginative and compelling curatorial work in museums and online will contribute to a re-consideration of ‘the Arab’ in the space of the Americas.”

Reviewer (G)

“...it is clear to me that she will be an extremely high-profile scholar once her book is published, that the quality of her scholarship is superb, and that she shows much promise for an outstanding future career. ...the in-press book...is a *major* contribution to scholarship. ...[*Reclaiming Identity*...] single-handedly moves Arabs and Muslims into the conversation about U.S. race relations.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Alsultany produces outstanding research and is an established leader in her field. Her contributions to the teaching and service missions of the College have been substantial. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Evelyn A. Alsultany be promoted to the rank of associate professor of American culture, with tenure, 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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