

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

Maki Fukuoka, assistant professor of Asian languages and cultures, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of Asian languages and cultures, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2006	University of Chicago
M.A.	1997	University of Chicago
B.A.	1995	University of Arizona

Professional Record:

2006 – present Assistant Professor, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures,
University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Fukuoka has taught a range of courses introducing students to Japanese civilization and the study of Asian cultures more generally, freshman seminars on images of Tokyo, upper-level undergraduate and graduate seminars on Japanese photography, art history, and critical ways of seeing. She is currently the only trained art historian in the department. Professor Fukuoka has introduced a sequence of innovative new courses in critical modes of seeing, in Asian visual studies, Professor Fukuoka has also re-envisioned old courses, such as the introduction to Japanese Civilization.

Research – Professor Fukuoka’s research area is Japanese visual culture, with a focus on the history of photography. Her book, The Premise of Fidelity: Science, Visuality, and Representing the Real in Nineteenth-Century Japan, is a highly original contribution to the field. It is theoretically sophisticated and notable for the depth and range of the archival research. She has also published six articles in peer-reviewed journals and edited volumes in Japanese and English. She was awarded the prestigious Robert and Lisa Sainsbury Fellowship (2008-2009). She is currently working on a new book, Shaping a Likeness: Practices and Concepts in Portrait Photography.

Recent and Significant Publications:

The Premise of Fidelity: Science, Visuality, and Representing the Real in Nineteenth-Century Japan, Stanford University Press, forthcoming 2012.

“Selling portrait photographs: Early photographic business in Asakusa, Japan,” *History of Photography*, 35(4), 2011, pp. 355-373.

“Contextualizing the peep-box in Tokugawa Japan,” *Early Popular Visual Culture*, 3(1), 2005, pp. 17-42

Service – Professor Fukuoka has served on several committees in her department and organized the peer-mentoring meetings for assistant professors in Asian Languages and in the Center for Japanese Studies, where she also reviewed award applications. Her service to the

broader community included acting as a referee for a prominent journal and was co-organizer of an interdisciplinary workshop.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A)

“I believe Fukuoka’s study will be widely read and cited...whether in the context of Science and Technology Studies or post-colonial/comparative modernity studies. ... In its sophistication, this book already ranks with works done by much senior scholars. ... She is an immensely impressive scholar [of her generation]...”

Reviewer (B)

“If Fukuoka’s first book shows, in startlingly original fashion, that *shashin* in Japan had an important history that predated the introduction of Western photographic technology then her new book project has already begun to explore what happened next. ... This is precisely the kind of work the field has been lacking.”

Reviewer (C)

“Fukuoka’s work is never limited by her topic, but always explores larger cultural issues. She is a careful researcher, but she is also an imaginative one, asking new and important questions and interrogating her material for it[s] implications.”

Reviewer (D)

“Most of her research takes photography as its main focus, but her approach is broadly grounded in issues of visuality rather than being a narrow history of the medium. ... Fukuoka’s work is both fresh and far-reaching... There is simply no publication that can match the ambitious depth and scope of Fukuoka’s The Premise of Fidelity. It is the kind of book that will find a place on many reading lists because it defies disciplinary boundaries in highly productive ways.”

Reviewer (E)

“Rethinking the roots of Japanese modernity is an especially important strategy for anyone working on the history of Japanese photography, a field generally characterized by antiquated, uninteresting, and theoretically uninformed scholarship... Professor Fukuoka’s approaches...are cutting edge in every respect. ... I have no hesitation recommending Professor Fukuoka for promotion to Associate Professor with tenure.”

Reviewer (F)

“Her ability to explain in fascinating detail how artists create their art and why their creations became part of popular culture makes her writings of interest and accessible to a wide scholarly audience today. ... Dr. Fukuoka’s monograph is in a class of its own; there are no competing works.”

Reviewer (G)

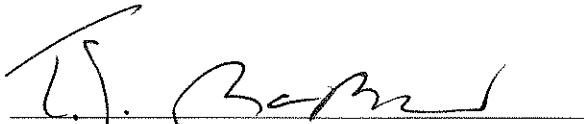
“Her work intersects with that of several scholars working in English and in Japanese, but carves out a distinctive theoretical and methodological niche and successfully challenges the perspective of some existing studies. Her writing is generally strong, her arguments clear and incisive, and her primary research substantial.”

Reviewer (H)

“The book crosses the fields of the history of thought, or art and of photography. There is a danger of attempting so much that no one constituency will feel itself to be fully examined. But such is not the case with the MS I have received. It is an excellent piece of work that will not only open up for discussion strands of connection that have not previously been thought of, but will also put Maki herself more firmly on the map as one of our leading and most original experts of the visual culture of the nineteenth century.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Fukuoka is a fine scholar of visual culture. She is a good teacher and has provided excellent service. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Maki Fukuoka be promoted to the rank of associate professor of Asian languages and cultures, 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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