

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

Julia C. Hell, associate professor of German, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of Germanic languages and literatures, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1989	University of Wisconsin, Madison
M.A.	1983	University of Wisconsin, Madison
B.A.	1981	University of Wisconsin, Madison

Professional Record:

1997 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, University of Michigan
1997	Associate Professor, Department of Germanic Languages and Literature, Duke University
1994 – 1997	Adjunct Professor, Graduate Program in Literature, Duke University
1989 – 1996	Assistant Professor, Department of Germanic Languages and Literature, Duke University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Hell’s pedagogy mirrors her research and writings, fusing a knowledge of literature with mastery of relevant theories of politics, society, and culture. She has offered a wide variety of courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels. Her undergraduate offerings, including first-year seminars, are taught in English and in German. Her graduate courses include a number of co-taught interdisciplinary seminars. She has been a dedicated graduate mentor, advising a wide range of dissertations and serving on many other committees.

Research – Professor Hell is a productive and esteemed scholar in the field of German studies, with a particular focus on postwar German literature and cultural politics. She has completed a major book-length manuscript, Ruingazing: The Third Reich and the Fall of Rome, and co-edited a weighty collection of related essays, Ruins of Modernity. She has also published 24 articles and chapters on post-Holocaust authorship, aspects of political thought in the twentieth century, and the cultural consequences of German unification, especially with respect to the German Democratic Republic (GDR).

Recent and Significant Publications:

Ruins of Modernity, co-edited with A. Schoenle, Duke University Press, 2010.

“Modernity and the Holocaust or listening to Eurydice,” *Theory Culture & Society*, 27(6), 2010, pp. 125-154.

“*Katechon*: Carl Schmitt’s imperial theology and the ruins of the future,” *The Germanic Review*, 84(4), 2009, pp. 283-326.

“Eyes wide shut, or German Post-Holocaust authorship,” *New German Critique*, 88, 2004, pp. 9-36.

Service – Professor Hell has made significant contributions to the department, including her term as chair (2008-2010). She authored long-range plans and served on important committees. She also served on various boards across the university. Professor Hell is highly active in the most prominent national venues of German studies, serving on advisory boards of key book series and journals. Since 2005, she brought *The Germanic Review*, a leading journal in the field, to Michigan and served as its editor.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“Professor Hell is unquestionably at the international forefront of German Studies. ... Through numerous articles and highly visible participation at national and international conferences, Prof. Hell has long acquired much admiration for her penetrating mind, exquisite knowledge of philosophy, literary theory, literature, and the visual arts as well as for her commitment to the field of German Studies.”

Reviewer (B)

“What immediately impressed me about Professor Hell’s work is its range and ambition. Although she writes extensively about literary figures...she also has made important interventions in debates about political theory, the visual arts, and contemporary political events. ...she has expanded her interests to include the classical world and Europe as a whole. ... She takes theory seriously, but is also a very industrious researcher, whose mastery of primary sources and secondary literature is clearly evident.”

Reviewer (C)

“...[Ruingazing] is an unabashedly transdisciplinary, transhistorical, transgeographic book... It is extremely hard to compare this book to anything in the field of German studies, simply because there are so few scholars who are capable of creating arguments that are cogently synoptic and fundamentally transformative of the historiography. I imagine this book having a massive impact on numerous fields... It’s hard to find superlatives that adequately convey the originality, significance, and thoughtfulness of this book.”

Reviewer (D)

“...Professor Hell’s accomplishments are many. They sometimes set, other times strongly reinforce the terms of analysis and argument in our discipline. I think almost everything she writes is a ‘must read’ for people in the field of postwar German Studies and for those interested in the outlines and commitments of the discipline as a whole. She is clearly a leader...”

Reviewer (E)

“...Julia Hell is a unique presence among Germanists; her work is of interest...for scholars in Cultural Studies and the humanities at large. ...I know few scholars whose endeavors so dynamically draw on such a wide range of texts and impulses and do so with such analytical clarity, methodological sophistication, and theoretical astuteness. Hell’s manuscript on ruins will certainly become a book from which scholars in a number of fields will profit.”

Reviewer (F)

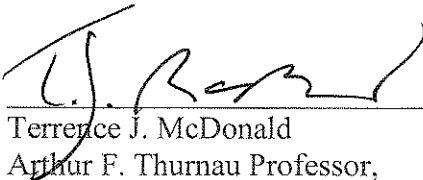
“Professor Hell’s publications over the past ten years or so shows her indefatigable engagement with central issues of scholarship in German studies today. Above all, it demonstrates her intellectual growth as she moves...to a broader and more challenging range of texts and authors. Her new manuscript shows her working in a new chronological depth as she reaches back to ancient Rome and forward to the theories of the Nazi period and beyond.”

Reviewer (G)

“So: a brilliant historian of ideas, theorist of culture and of vision, explicator of difficult political and psychoanalytic theory, and an inspired exegete of difficult literature: absolutely. A master of the dense conceptually driven essay: yes!...Julia is and was a brilliant critic, writer and historian.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Hell is by all accounts a leader in her field. She has been an active teacher and has performed substantial service to her department and the profession at large. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Julia C. Hell be promoted to the rank of professor of Germanic languages and literatures, 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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