

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

Juli A. Highfill, associate professor of Spanish, with tenure, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of Spanish, with tenure, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1993	University of Kansas
M.A.	1982	University of Missouri
B.S.	1976	University of Kansas

Professional Record:

1999 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, University of Michigan
1999 – 1993	Assistant Professor, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Highfill is a strong teacher as well as a dedicated advisor and mentor. Her teaching record shows great versatility in the variety of courses she offers at all levels. Student evaluations are strong and individual comments offer praises for her passion, dedication, and engagement in the classroom. Professor Highfill was a pivotal figure in re-designing and implementing changes to the Spanish undergraduate curriculum. She significantly expanded course offerings while working in tandem with the Honors Program, the Latino/a association ALAS, and the CGIS-funded initiative for incorporating a study abroad component as part of on-campus courses. Since her last promotion, she has directed or co-directed eight dissertations and served as a reader in thirteen additional dissertations.

Research – Professor Highfill is a specialist in 19<sup>th</sup>- and 20<sup>th</sup>-century Spain with great credentials and reputation in the field. Her latest book manuscript, Modernism and Its Merchandise, demonstrates a multi-layered and interdisciplinary approach to early 20<sup>th</sup>-century Spain. In it she expands beyond the field of Spanish Peninsular studies and adds to the current debate about today's infatuation with newness, materiality, and technology. Professor Highfill has also published thirteen articles, two book chapters, and six book reviews. She edited "Economies of Cultural Production" and is working on a new book project entitled Taking Sides: War, Crisis, and Polarization of the Spanish Avant-Garde (1921-1936) for which she was awarded the Michigan Humanities Award.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Modernism and Its Merchandise: The Spanish Avant-Garde and Material Culture, 1918-1931, Pennsylvania State University Press, under review.

“War-likeness: The pugilist in Francisco Ayala’s *Vanguardist Narratives*,” special issue, *España en armas: Cultures of War in the Iberian Penninsula*, Vanderbilt E-Journal of Luso-Hispanic Studies, 5, 2009, pp. 114-133.

“Metafiction and beyond: Collective consciousness in Misericordia,” *Revista de Estudios Hispánicos*, 40, 2006, pp. 265-282.

“Economies of Cultural Production,” introduction for special issue of the *Journal for Interdisciplinary Literary Studies*, 9(1-2), 2003, pp. 1-20.

Service – Professor Highfill has an excellent record of service. She is a leading voice in curricular reforms and held a variety of administrative posts. Beyond the department, she served in the University Faculty Senate and as a Great Lakes delegate to the General Assembly of the Modern Language Association. Professor Highfill has been a reviewer for several university presses and is currently a member of the advisory board for an important journal in her field.

#### External Reviews:

##### Reviewer (A)

“Her wide sweep of expertise and her interdisciplinary approach is exactly the kind of combination that departments need at this time as the interests of our students expand...”

##### Reviewer (B)

“...Highfill’s manuscript reflects the work of a well-read, thoughtful, and mature scholar. ... I believe that her book will become a canonical critical text for those studying the avant-garde in Spain. This of course will stand as an outstanding achievement, and one not reached by many scholars with fine reputations in the field.”

##### Reviewer (C)

“...all her published work is of the same high quality: impeccably researched and argued. ... [Modernism and Its Merchandise] combines Professor Highfill’s talent for close reading with an excellent theoretical understanding of the cultural dynamics of the modern market economy. Her theoretical understanding allows her to see the connections between politics, the market, and literature, without being pretentious; on the contrary, she writes with a quiet confidence that is entirely persuasive (and clear).”

##### Reviewer (D)

“... [Modernism and Its Merchandise] is a *tour de force*, and I have no doubt it will become the standard work of reference, or jumping-off point for further research, for this period in Spanish culture. ...many of the authors and artists considered in Modernism and Its Merchandise have never received such fruitful scrutiny as she gives them, and they are undervalued for that very reason.”

##### Reviewer (E)

“In her writing, Prof. Highfill displays a remarkable understanding of literary and cultural—in addition to scientific, economic, or philosophical—theory, as well as the capacity to make insightful connections and communicate them clearly to readers. Her prose is clear and direct, distant from the density that often obscures academic texts.”

Reviewer (F)

“...‘Modernism and It’s Merchandise’...represents a highly original and important contribution to the field. The book manuscript brings together and builds on much of the research sketched out in her articles, masterfully weaving those readings and others into a tapestry resplendent with innumerable brilliant and illuminating insights about objects and commerce in Spain from World War I to the Spanish Civil War.”

Reviewer (G)

“It seems to me that, right from the beginning and starting with her first book, Professor Highfill is asking the right questions. ...she is ambitious and daring enough to tackle important issues, such as the subject (in Portraits of Excess...), things and its various cultural representations (Modernism and Its Merchandise...), and historical circumstance (‘Taking Sides...’).”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Highfill is an excellent scholar with an international reputation. She is a dedicated and committed teacher with an active service record. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Juli A. Highfill be promoted to the rank of professor of Spanish, with tenure, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



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Terrence J. McDonald  
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor,  
Professor of History and Dean,  
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

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