

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

Matthew Hull, assistant professor of anthropology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of anthropology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2003	University of Chicago
A.M.	1995	University of Chicago
B.A.	1991	Princeton University

Professional Record:

2007 – present	Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan
2004 – 2007	Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
2003 – 2005	Fellow, Michigan Society of Fellows, University of Michigan
2003 – 2004	Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Hull has taught 13 classes and currently advises 20 graduate students (six from other departments or programs), including service as co-chair of three dissertation committees. In addition to area studies courses, Professor Hull has created new theoretical courses for graduate students and advanced undergraduates. His large undergraduate lecture course fulfills a university writing requirement, and includes many students outside the major. He has developed new ways of grading that more clearly distinguish between good style and effective argumentation for the multiple drafts that students submit in this class.

Research – Professor Hull is both an area specialist in South Asian studies and a contributor to contemporary social and cultural theory. His forthcoming book, Government of Paper: Materiality and Urban Bureaucracy in Pakistan (in the final publication stages), and his articles are based on ethnographic and archival sources in Pakistan. This work is rapidly placing him in a prominent position in the study of organizations, the workings of nation-states and local governments, and everyday technologies. His next project has resulted in two articles so far. A third project, on the ethnography and history of corporations, is in development and is based on foundations that are being laid out in his regular course on this subject.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Government of Paper: Materiality and Urban Bureaucracy in Pakistan, University of California Press, in press for 2012.

“Communities of place, not kind: American technologies of neighborhood in Post-Colonial Delhi,” *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 53(4), 2011, pp. 757-790.

“Democratic technologies of speech: From WWII America to Post-colonial Delhi,” *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology*, 20(2), 2010, pp. 257-282.

“Ruled by records: The appropriation of land and the misappropriation of lists in Islamabad,”
American Ethnologist, 34(4), 2008, pp. 501-518.

Service – Professor Hull has served on numerous departmental committees and the Colloquium Committee of the Science, Technology, and Society Program (2007-2008). He has also been a vital contributor to departmental ties to the Interdisciplinary Program in Anthropology and History and the Center for South and Southeast Asian Studies. He has also been involved in trustee work for the American Institute of Pakistani Studies and the American Institute of Indian Studies, and as manuscript reviewer for journals in socio-cultural and linguistic anthropology.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“...[Government of Paper] is a tour de force as an examination of the bureaucratic practices of a state which could be uniquely described as having found success in the heart of failure, even to the present day. ...the intellectual, scholarly and regional strengths of the book are more than sufficient to warrant promotion to tenure.”

Reviewer (B)

“A significant part of what makes Matt’s research so compelling is the innovativeness and ingenuity of his research method. ... As I read through his work, I find myself thinking over and over again, ‘this man is a terrific field worker, to get that bureaucrat or land developer or squatter or Islamic functionary to tell him such revealing stuff!’ ... I consider Matthew Hull to be a scholar of exceptional quality and promise, certainly among the very best of his cohort.”

Reviewer (C)

“I consider Matt one of the more original and distinct scholars of planning and the modern state in anthropology. ... [his] contribution is distinct, theoretically focused and very innovative in its methodology and ethnographic accomplishments. ... I am convinced that a scholar as versatile, imaginative and accomplished as him [sic] will be a valuable addition to the Department of Anthropology and the university more broadly.”

Reviewer (D)

“Hull’s standing is very high indeed... ..his work is truly field-defining; while he is not the only significant figure wrestling with such complex intersections, he is a leader beyond his professional years. ‘The file’ is, in my view, already a real classic, and the forthcoming book will be exceptionally influential and highly regarded within and beyond anthropology.”

Reviewer (E)

“In my view, the most important characteristic of Matthew Hull’s work is his far-reaching and sophisticated scholarly vision that allows him to draw on methods and approaches from a variety of fields in a way not found among other scholars of his generation in order to address questions of much broader concern than those approached by most of his peers at a similar stage of career. He has a keen sense of big conceptual issues and therefore his work has a profound impact well beyond his regional South Asia specialty, and also beyond the specific issues of bureaucracy and semiotic technology that his dissertation research was mainly concerned with.”

Reviewer (F)

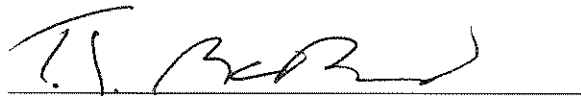
“I have no direct knowledge of Dr. Hull’s teaching. I must admit, however, that - unusually for this genre – his ‘teaching statement’ makes arresting reading. I learned a great deal from it, and plan to apply some of these ideas to my own classroom encounters. I think that this is a ‘first’ among the many tenure evaluations I have conducted!”

Reviewer (G)

“Hull’s work is of very high quality and originality. It is based on outstanding, long-term, meticulous research. It requires real competence in several field languages. It is well written, with clarity of expression, originality of thought, and ethnographic verve. ...I believe he should be promoted at the University of Michigan.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Hull’s research provides evidence of a strong, upward career trajectory. He is an excellent teacher, a conscientious mentor, and has an impressive service record. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Matthew Hull be promoted to the rank of associate professor of anthropology, 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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