

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

Petra Kuppers, associate professor of English language and literature, with tenure, associate professor of women's studies, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, associate professor of art, without tenure, School of Art and Design, and associate professor of theatre and drama, without tenure, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, is recommended for promotion to professor of English language and literature, with tenure, professor of women's studies, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, professor of art and design, without tenure, School of Art and Design, and professor of theatre and drama, without tenure, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1999	University College Falmouth
Diploma	1998	Open University
M.A.	1994	University of Cologne
M.A.	1993	University of Warwick

Professional Record:

2010 – present	Associate Professor, School of Art and Design, University of Michigan
2009 – present	Associate Faculty, Low-residency MFA in Interdisciplinary Arts, Goddard College,
2007 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Women's Studies and School of Music, Theatre & Dance
2006 – present	Associate Professor, Department of English Language and Literature, University of Michigan
2005 – 2006	Associate Professor, Media and Performance Studies, Bryant University
2001 – 2005	Assistant Professor, Media and Performance Studies, Bryant University
1998 – 2001	Fellow, Department of Contemporary Arts, Manchester Metropolitan University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Kuppers has taught a wide range of undergraduate and graduate courses, including disability studies, contemporary poetry and drama, and junior and senior seminars. She has brought a consistent pedagogical vision to each class and students consistently give her high praise in the evaluation process. Through field trips to art museums, botanical gardens, the UM Cancer Research Center, and Eloise State Hospital, she raises her students' awareness of the vast possibilities for educational experience, and heightens their understanding of what life-long learning can mean. Professor Kuppers has received wide recognition for her unique teaching style, and she has been invited worldwide to speak about her experiences as an instructor of community performance.

Research – Professor Kuppers is a prolific scholar, producing numerous books and articles. In The Scar of Visibility, she argues that we can only know our world by being embodied within it. Her next book, Community Performance: An Introduction, suggests that community performance rests in process rather than product. Her most recent monograph, Disability Culture and Community Performance, develops this inquiry into community performance, seeing it as a kind of laboratory of disability culture. Professor Kuppers is also the author of a staggering number of important articles and is a creative force as producer, director, and performer. Of particular notes is her collaborative

performance project, The Anarcha Project, which was designed as a memorial to three slave women who were used as subjects of medical experimentation in the 1840's. Developed out of two years of archival research, the performance is a multi-media extravaganza fusing dance, poetry, theater, music, and imagery.

#### Recent and Significant Publications

Disability Culture and Community Performance: Find a Strange and Twisted Shape, Palgrave, 2011.  
The Scar of Visibility: Medical Performance and Contemporary Art, University of Minnesota Press, 2007.

"The rhetoric of the wheelchair," *The Drama Review*, 51(4), 2007, pp. 80-88.

Community Performance: An Introduction, Routledge, 2003.

Service – Professor Kuppers has served her departments in a wide variety of venues, including service on important committees. She is co-founder of the Poetry and Poetics Seminar, convener of the performance study reading group, and faculty advisor to the non-MFA poetry-writing workshop. At the university level and for the community at large, she has served as lead faculty for the Arts on Earth event and for the performance segment of the Arts and Bodies event. She is acting chair of the University of Michigan Initiative in Disability Studies and she conducted a workshop for the National College Poetry Slam competition. Professor Kuppers has also served as a reviewer for the Michigan Society of Fellows.

#### External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A)

"Kuppers is in conversation with new media studies, performance studies and literary theory as well as disability studies, and she knows how to bring others into that conversation. She is the leading scholar in forming the field of disability performance studies internationally."

Reviewer (B)

"I have the greatest respect for Professor Kuppers's [sic] scholarship and would count her among the...most important scholars publishing in the field of disability studies in the United States today. Her scholarly and artistic output is astonishing...disability studies would not be the same field without her contributions."

Reviewer (C)

"Even as she developed the field of disability studies, Kuppers, quite incredibly, has sustained a varied career as a community performance practitioner. ...her curriculum vita is unusual for the wide variety of sites in which she has created projects, exhibitions, performances, and videos in artist residencies throughout the world."

Reviewer (D)

"Kuppers has produced an outstanding body of work, and by every indication, will continue to produce literary materials, educational experiences, and artistic encounters of seminal importance to the fields, at least, of Dance Studies, Disability Studies, Women's and Gender Studies, and Performance Studies."

Reviewer (E)

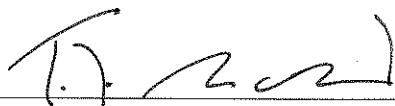
"Professor Kuppers is...internationally known for her work in the field of disability studies and performance, and her large and diverse repertoire of publication and artistic work testifies to an engaged and imaginative involvement in scholarship and teaching."

Reviewer (F)

“The book Disability Culture and Community Performance is the most inspiring, exciting, interesting, and academically ground-breaking book I have read in some time. I can think of no scholar who has so successfully integrated participatory workshop-base[d]...interaction that might be called ethnographic...community art practice, therapeutic movement, and scholarly writing.”

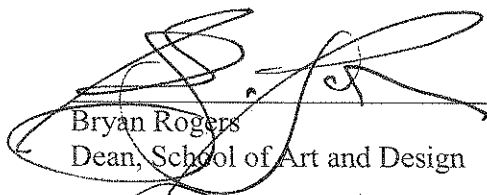
Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Kupperts has been a prolific scholar, an excellent teacher, and a valued member of her departments and schools. The Executive Committees of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, the School of Art and Design, and the School of Music, Theatre & Dance and we recommend that Associate Professor Petra Kupperts be promoted to the rank of professor of English language and literature, with tenure, professor of women’s studies, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, professor of art and design, without tenure, School of Art and Design, and professor of theatre and drama, without tenure, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.



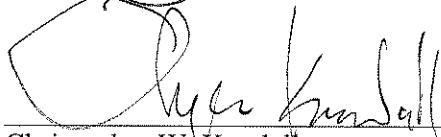
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Terrence J. McDonald  
Arthur F. Thurnau Professor,  
Professor of History and Dean  
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts



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Bryan Rogers  
Dean, School of Art and Design



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Christopher W. Kendall  
Paul Boylan Collegiate Professor of Music, and  
Dean, School of Music, Theatre & Dance

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