

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

Michael Makin, associate professor of Slavic languages and literatures, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of Slavic languages and literatures, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

D. Phil.	1985	Oxford University
M.A.	1983	Oxford University
B.A.	1980	Oxford University

Professional Record:

1991 — present	Associate Professor, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of Michigan
1985 — 1991	Assistant Professor, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching — Professor Makin is an innovative and dedicated teacher, whose courses have been wide ranging: graduate seminars on topics in Russian literature, undergraduate upper-level courses surveying 19th- and 20th-century Russian literature, courses on Dostoevsky and Chekhov (among others), first-year seminars, courses on folklore, and seminars taught in Russian for concentrators. He consistently emphasizes critical thinking and cogent writing, both in English and in Russian. Professor Makin has chaired seven dissertation committees in Slavic and directed two honors theses in Russian. He has been a leader in designing the undergraduate curriculum and in developing an “alternative spring break” service-learning course in a provincial town in northern Russia for undergraduates and graduate students, the only one of its kind.

Research — Professor Makin published his second book on a major Russian poet, Nikolai Klyuev, as well as articles on the poet in leading journals in England and the United States, and articles in Russian published in Russian journals. His book investigates the complex structure of the poet’s combination of modernism, Old Believer religion, and the peasant culture of northern Russia. It also unravels the relationship between the poet’s actual biography and the mythic one created by himself and his admirers. The book includes a thorough analysis of unfinished later works discovered in KGB archives and confiscated from the poet in the years preceding his execution in 1937. Professor Makin is at work on a new book on the shifting textuality of works of Russian literature, affected by the existence of published but censored and unpublished manuscript variants.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Nikolai Klyuev: Time and Text, Place and Poet, Northwestern University Press, 2010.

“Paradoksy ‘Kremlia’” (“Paradoxes of ‘The Kremlin’”), in *Narymskaya poema N. Klyuev “Kreml” : interpretatsii i kontekst (N. Klyuev’s Narym poem “The Kremlin” : Interpretations and context)*, V.A. Domanskii (ed.), Tomsk State University, Tomsk, 2008, pp. 147-180.

“Whose Klyuev, who is Klyuev: Polemics of identity and poetry,” *Slavonic and East European Review*, 85(2), 2007, pp. 231-270.

“Nikolai Kliuev—prophet of loss,” *Slavic and East European Journal*, 49(4), 2005, pp. 591-611.

Service — Professor Makin has served as the undergraduate concentration advisor in Slavic for over a decade, counseling prospective majors and minors, directing honors theses, and organizing the annual essay-prize competition for undergraduates. He has served on various departmental and university committees. Nationally, he has reviewed articles for the *Slavic and East European Journal*.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“The idiosyncrasies of Klyuev’s writing...and the complex publishing history of his works, ranging from shifts in the makeup of his collections from one edition to the next to the suppression of his late works by the authorities, have further added to the challenges facing those wishing to study his writing. ... Professor Makin has clearly carried out this task, and, at this point, is certainly the leading Western scholar working on Klyuev and no doubt has only a handful of equals in Russia...”

Reviewer (B)

“His most important publications are the books published by Oxford University Press, Northwestern University Press, and the articles in *Slavonic and East European Review* and *Slavic and East European Journal*. The books belong in the canon of major studies of Tsvetaeva and Klyuev...on a list of the most significant publications in the field.”

Reviewer (C)

“There is clear scholarly trajectory from Makin’s book on Tsvetaeva to his recent book on Klyuev, which displays the same qualities: meticulous research, presented in a lucid and accessible style; an ability to write both for the experts in the field and for those seeking a first introduction to the subject; painstaking attention to detail communicated in a way that engages imagination and sympathy for this most ‘difficult’ of poets.”

Reviewer (D)

“...Dr. Makin’s book on Klyuev is a mature, thoughtful, and highly informative presentation of the poet’s life and work; it truly crowns the work in the articles and extends far beyond them. ... I am impressed that Dr. Makin has chosen to work on this author in such depth... Pursuing this interest has allowed him to reach the most resonant questions raised by Klyuev’s writing, biography, and subsequent reputation.”

Reviewer (E)

"...Makin moves along the path of comprehensive analysis of the text: distinguishing the verbal nests belong[ing] to various strata of the language, carrying out a versological analysis, designating the more proximate and the more distant contexts and completing the interpretation of the fundamental meaning of the work. Such are the basic traits of his methodology, which allows him to comprehend deeply the oeuvre of one of the most complex poets of the 20th century."

Reviewer (F)

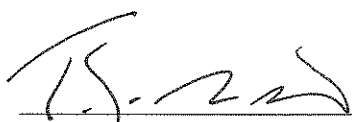
"In connection with his research on Kliuev Professor Makin has spent quite possibly more time in the Russian provinces than any English-speaking Russianist. He has developed invaluable contacts and has parlayed his experiences into pedagogical...opportunities for University of Michigan students. This linkage with the northern Russian provinces could easily become a signature element of the Slavic program."

Reviewer (G)

"It is clear that Makin has an international reputation as an expert on Klyuev (and, of course Tsvetaeva) and his new book is a major contribution to Russian literary studies. He has tackled a difficult poet with brilliant success and his newer research proposal will take him in yet another important direction."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Makin is one of the foremost scholars in his field. He has very strong teaching and service records. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Michael Makin be promoted to the rank of professor of Slavic 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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