

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

Mira Seo, assistant professor of classical studies, and assistant professor of comparative literature, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of classical studies, with tenure, and associate professor of comparative literature, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2004	Princeton University
M.A.	2002	Princeton University
B.A.	1998	Christ Church College, Oxford University
B.A.	1995	Swarthmore College

Professional Record:

2007 – present	Assistant Professor, Department of Classical Studies and Department of Comparative Literature, University of Michigan
2005 – 2007	Assistant Professor, Department of Classical Studies and Program in Comparative Literature, University of Michigan
2004 – 2005	Visiting Assistant Professor, Swarthmore College

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Seo is a demanding and dedicated teacher of graduate and undergraduate students. She has distinguished herself in a required course for honors students with an enrollment of more than 400 students. Her task includes the mentoring and supervision of more than twenty graduate student instructors. She has proven herself to be an innovative and popular teacher in the Department of Comparative Literature, where she has also supervised three senior theses and served on six doctoral committees.

Research – Professor Seo is a scholar of unusual breadth. She has completed a book manuscript, Communicating Character: Reading Characterization in Roman Poetry, which is forthcoming with Oxford University Press. She has published seven articles and another is forthcoming. Two book projects are currently in progress: a collaborative edition and translation with an introduction and notes, and a monograph on Roman attitudes towards money and its reflection in the Roman poetry. While the forthcoming book exhibits her masterful command of Roman epic and poetry, philological expertise, and a thorough familiarity with the state of the field, the emerging work demonstrates the serious interdisciplinary commitment and wide range typical of scholars working in comparative literature.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Communicating Character: Reading Characterization in Roman Poetry, Oxford University Press, forthcoming 2012.

“Identifying authority: Juan Latino as African ex-slave, professor, and poet of Latin in 16th century Granada,” in African Athena, D. Orrells and T. Roynton (eds.), Oxford University Press, 2011.

“Lucan’s Cato and the poetics of exemplarity,” in Brill’s Companion to Lucan, P. Asso (ed.), Brill, 2011.

“Plagiarism and poetic identity in martial and others,” *American Journal of Philology*, 130(4), 2009, pp. 567-593.

Service – Professor Seo has contributed to a number of committees in both Classical Studies and Comparative Literature. She has also served on several national committees for the American Philological Association and the Teagle Foundation.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“...[Seo] is very smart and has the virtues of versatility across the range of Latin poetry and an accessible voice. ...she is certainly broad and polished in her professional output.”

Reviewer (B)

“In both quantity and quality, she has produced more than enough strong and interesting work to merit promotion. She demonstrates mastery of the tradition within Classics and beyond, has a stimulating and varied research program, and shows engagement with hot contemporary issues such as race and money. Her energy emanates from the page and I imagine her commitment and enthusiasm are catching in class.”

Reviewer (C)

“...Mira’s work describes the profile of an accomplished classicist: provided both with an excellent traditional education and a spontaneous familiarity with the more recent acquisitions of literary theory and criticism.”

Reviewer (D)

“The first and most obvious things about Seo’s file now, and about her field of professional expertise, is how wide-ranging her work is. She has an impressive array of interlocking interests. ... She is particularly valuable as a member of...Comparative Literature as well as Classics, because she is not just interested in several different literary periods, but also in how...literary works negotiate, and mediate upon, their own relationship with a literary past.”

Reviewer (E)

“...the book...Communicating Character, makes very intelligent and thoughtful use of the work of Roller and Levene. ... Where quality is concerned, she seems to me to be on an upward trajectory. ... Her book may well establish itself as a landmark study...”

Reviewer (F)

“The file of Joanne Mira Seo shows the breadth, depth and variety of interest to be expected in a candidate for tenure at Michigan. This is an extremely promising scholar who has already had a considerable impact upon the field, who is going the extra mile in extending her expertises [sic] both in research and teaching, who is in no danger of losing steam after tenure, and who has the capacity to be a defining figure in each of her home departments.”

Reviewer (G)

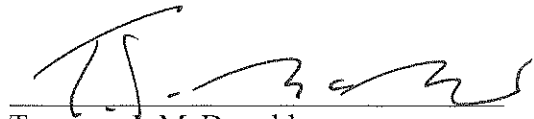
“...Mira Seo strikes me as a gifted, sophisticated and extraordinarily promising scholar [of her generation]. With two forthcoming books and a number of outstanding articles, she has already amassed a significant body of work that readily distinguishes her from many of her peers both in Classics and in Comparative Literature.”

Reviewer (H)

“Bridge-building seems to be not only one of Seo’s obvious strengths but also one of her most pressing intellectual preoccupations. ...Professor Seo’s portfolio of accomplishments, her prospects for future work, and her inclination to bridge divides should make her a most welcome addition to both the tenured ranks of the department and the larger community of the university.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Seo is a scholar of international repute who has produced a body of important work. She is an innovative and dedicated teacher, and has a strong service record. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Mira Seo be promoted to the rank of associate professor of classical studies, with tenure, and associate professor of comparative literature, 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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