

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

Tatjana Aleksić, assistant professor of Slavic languages and literatures, and assistant professor of comparative literature, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of Slavic languages and literatures, with tenure, and associate professor of comparative literature, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2007	Rutgers University
M.A.	2004	Rutgers University
M.A.	2002	University of Niš
B.A.	1993	University of Niš

Professional Record:

2007 – present      Assistant Professor, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures and  
Department of Comparative Literature, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Aleksić is an energetic and dynamic teacher who is committed to critical thinking, reading, and writing at all levels of the curriculum. She has played a key role in curricular development in her departments, designing innovative new courses and participating in the establishment of new programs. She encourages students to explore questions of gender, race, and ethnicity through the study of literature and film from different traditions and cultures. She frequently teaches undergraduate courses that fulfill the First Year Writing Requirement, and she has developed a popular LSA First Year Seminar called “Welcome to the Twentieth Century.” She has taught senior seminars and graduate seminars in postcolonial theory, post-modern fiction, and literature written by exiles from the former Yugoslavia. She has been a key player in the development of a new minor in Bosnian, Croatian, and Serbian language and literature. She also works actively in advising graduate students across both units.

Research – Professor Aleksić has made significant contributions to the fields of Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian literature, Modern Greek literature, and comparative literature, as well as to the emerging field of Balkan studies, where her work is ground-breaking. She is the editor of an essay collection entitled Mythistory and the Narratives of Nation in the Balkans (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2007). Her current monograph has been accepted for publication by the University of Pittsburgh Press, a leading publisher in the field of Slavic studies. Here she examines the 20<sup>th</sup> century relevance of an ancient myth of the sacrifice of a woman in several Balkan cultures and the ways that its recurrence and transformation underscores the relationship between patriarchy and recent ethnic conflicts.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Sacrificed Body: Balkan Community Building and the Limits of Freedom, University of Pittsburgh Press, forthcoming 2013.

“National definition through postmodern fragmentation: Milorad Pavić's Dictionary of the Khazars,” *Slavic and East European Journal*, 53(1), 2009, pp. 86-104.

“The sacrificed subject of Rhea Galanaki's Ismail Ferik Pasha,” *Journal of Modern Greek Studies*, 27(1), 2009, pp. 31-54.

“Extricating the self from history: Bait by David Albahari,” *Midwest Modern Language Association Journal*, 39(2), 2006, pp. 54-70.

Service – Professor Aleksić has served on important committees in both units where she is appointed. She has also organized two film series on the Yugoslav cinema. At the college level, she served on the Fulbright interviewing committee and the fellowships review committee for the International Institute.

#### External Reviewers:

##### Reviewer (A)

“...Balkan Studies is now opening to the broader terrain of transnational or post-colonial studies within and in the periphery of European Studies as a whole. Not only does Professor Aleksić's work belong to this new formation, but, without exaggeration, it is helping shape this new formation. In terms of its impact in this rapidly regenerating field, her forthcoming book The Sacrificed Body: Balkan Community Building and Limits of Freedom will likely take the mantle from the exemplary and pioneering texts of the field's initial phase...”

##### Reviewer (B)

“Overall, I feel that Professor Aleksić has produced an important body of work, and that in terms of output, quality, and future productivity she has demonstrated a strong potential as a scholar. I am therefore pleased to be able to recommend her for tenure and promotion at the University of Michigan.”

##### Reviewer (C)

“This work is important for the development of both the Slavic and the Comparative Literature academic field, since it moves the discussion of culture away from the narrowly focused debate regarding the national literary canons in the region to the political mechanisms that have confronted the development of war and conflict. In comparison to her peers, Professor Aleksić has demonstrated a mature development of ideas conceived by her academic elders and found ways to research South Slavic literatures and cultures with excellence.”

##### Reviewer (D)

“I would definitely include Sacrificed Body...on my reading list as well as my students' reading list[s]. Her critique of feminist reductionism...is groundbreaking in Balkan studies. Her textual and comparative analysis of literary works is exceptional and has great pedagogical value. Her critique of Yugoslav *Black Wave* cinema is unconventional, brave and on the point, which again positions her outside the conventional perspective.”

##### Reviewer (E)

“...Aleksić is a rare literary scholar who is able to compare the various literary traditions in the Balkans. At the same time, she conducts a dialogue between literature, on the hand, and cultural, and political discourses, on the other, situating literary texts in a stage of social conflict.”

Reviewer (F)

“The main line of research and inquiry is interesting and innovative. ... The book is well-written and brings a novel focus into our understanding of this material.”

Reviewer (G)

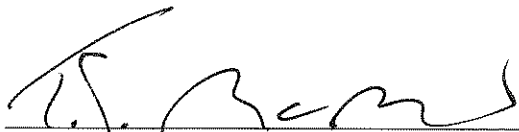
“Aleksić strikes me as a vigorous and capable scholar. Her research is ambitious and her writing is distinguished by a strong voice and a healthy dose of theoretical creativity. Focused on the literature, arts, and culture of Southeast Europe...[her] work engages an eclectic mixture of methodologies: gender and queer theories; post-colonial studies; close textual analysis; psychoanalysis; political and cultural anthropology; and more.”

Reviewer (H)

“Dr. Aleksić’s most important work is the book that is now accepted by the University of Pittsburgh Press. This will, in my judgment, be well received and accepted as a study comparable to those of the scholars I have mentioned, and advancing the fields beyond those works, since Dr. Aleksić is not bound as closely as were those earlier scholars to explaining the Yugoslav wars of the 1990s.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Aleksić is an important voice in the field of Balkan studies. She is also a valuable teacher and active citizen in her two units. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Tatjana Aleksić be promoted to the rank of associate professor of Slavic languages and literatures, with tenure, and associate professor of comparative literature, with tenure, 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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