

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

Krisztina E. Fehérváry, 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.	2005	University of Chicago
M.A.	1989	St. John's College
B.A.	1984	Brown University

Professional Record:

2007 – present	Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan
2006 – 2007	Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Cultural Anthropology, Duke University
2005, 2006	Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Fehérváry receives strong evaluations from her students. She has developed five new undergraduate courses since joining the faculty in Anthropology: two fulfill requirements for Anthropology's new undergraduate concentrators, one serves the undergraduate minor in medical anthropology, and another is cross-listed with the departments of History, Sociology, Political Science, and Slavic Languages and Literatures, as well as with the Center for Russian and East European Studies (CREES). Professor Fehérváry has worked closely with eighteen undergraduate students from eight different departments as advisor, thesis supervisor, and on independent studies. She is also currently serving on 31 Ph.D. committees as a member (two as co-chair).

Research – Professor Fehérváry is a social cultural anthropologist who specializes in East European studies and focuses on the new materiality studies. Her first book will be appearing in the "New Anthropologies of Europe" series from Indiana University Press. She also has eight peer reviewed publications with five appearing since joining the department. Professor Fehérváry's new research expands her comparative range beyond the former Soviet bloc, and asks empirical questions about relations among bodies, socially encouraged character types, and their economic contexts.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Politics in Color and Concrete: Socialist Materialities and Middle-class Citizenship in Hungary, Indiana University Press, in press (expected 2013).

"From Socialist Modern to Super-Natural Organicism: Cosmological transformations through the material aesthetics of the home," *Cultural Anthropology*, 27(4), 2012, pp. 615-641.

"The materiality of the new family house: Postsocialist fad or middle-class ideal?" *City and Society*, 23(1), 2011, pp. 18-41.

"Goods and states: The political logic of state socialist material culture," *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 51(2), 2009, pp. 426-259.

Service – Professor Fehérváry has participated in a number of committees in Anthropology, the Interdisciplinary Program in Anthropology and History, and in CREES. She also rebuilt the socio-cultural colloquium and workshop. She has served her profession reviewing grant applications and manuscripts, and by co-organizing an important annual meeting.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A)

“She has embarked on new research since finishing her dissertation. Selling Smiles is related to her work and expertise on Hungary but goes beyond the region and initiates a comparative study of sorts on the comportment of bodies and the commercialization of medicine in Hungary and the US. ...what she produces is really solid and needed in academia, and everything she does has a certain quality.”

Reviewer (B)

“...she is leading the field in new, more productive, and certainly more interesting, directions by engaging with emerging debates on capitalism and in design studies. ...I would definitely rate all of Professor Fehervary’s publications, but especially her book, her *Ethnos* article, and her *CSSH* piece as among the most significant publications in the field in the past five years.”

Reviewer (C)

“I could rhapsodize about...[Politics in Color and Concrete] for quite a while... The achievement of the book is to show us how we as anthropologists could be making the material world speak more articulately of history and experience.”

Reviewer (D)

“The rich conceptual core of Dr. Fehervary’s project is contained in her 2009 article for *Comparative Studies in Society and History*... The result is an insightful account of the embodied experience of consumption, revelatory in making it plain how state socialism fostered as well as frustrated consumerism.”

Reviewer (E)

“I read her work because it is among the leading directions of research; I teach it regularly. Fehervary has always been an independent thinker. She has become the most creative and original theorist of the post-communist world since Verdery.”

Reviewer (F)

“I am impressed by her innovative use of the Hungarian materials to analyze central issues in the East European transformation from various epochs of socialism into the neoliberal post-socialist world. ... She appears to be at a very creative and expansive stage in her research career and I do not hesitate to recommend her for tenure.”

Reviewer (G)

“On so many levels...[‘Goods and States...’] works as a powerful statement, an almost unique statement both theoretically and empirically, so that I must go back almost 20 years to find a statement of equivalent power, scope and detail. ... Fehervary’s work on socialist material culture has broad theoretical relevance far beyond socialism. Her work develops the potentialities of

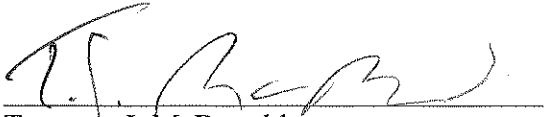
socialist material culture to provide an alternate modernity from whose perspective we can see again Western capitalist culture in all its semiotic strangeness, as well as return a comparative dimension to the semiotics of basic categories like product and commodity.”

Reviewer (H)

“The writing is always clear and unpretentious, making its original and substantive points through scholarship rather than empty rhetoric.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Fehérváry’s research is gaining considerable visibility and influence, and her ongoing projects are evidence of an upward career trajectory. She is a strong teacher and has contributed to her department and to its interdisciplinary ties to other units. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Krisztina E. Fehérváry be promoted to the rank of associate professor of anthropology, 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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