

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

Karla Mallette, associate professor of Italian, with tenure, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, and associate professor of Near Eastern studies, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of Italian, with tenure, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, and professor of Near Eastern studies, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1998	University of Toronto
M.A.	1988	Stanford University
B.A.	1985	Hampshire College

Professional Record:

2009 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures and Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of Michigan
2005 – 2009	Assistant Professor, Department of French and Italian, Miami University
2004 – 2005	Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of French and Italian, Northwestern University
2001 – 2004	Assistant Professor, American University of Beirut
1999 – 2000	Acting Assistant Professor, Department of French and Italian, Stanford University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Mallette excels as a teacher as well as a dedicated advisor and mentor of undergraduate and graduate students. Her teaching record is solid and she offers a large variety of courses in Italian culture and literature, as well as in Great Books and in the Department of Near Eastern Studies. Professor Mallette has been actively involved in mentoring graduate students and in less formal reading groups, which attests to her open commitment to pedagogy and mentoring at all levels. She has been active in promoting interdisciplinary values in her teaching and including her scholarship in her courses.

Research – Professor Mallette has become a major figure in Italian Medieval studies and Mediterranean studies. Her research has greatly helped to shape the new emerging field of Mediterranean Studies and her work is an indispensable resource. Professor Mallette has a strong record of publications and participation in international conferences. Her published work to date and in progress are milestones, and her advocacy of a non-nationalist philology for exploring the Mediterranean is broadly admired. She is currently working on a third book manuscript, titled Lingua franca in the Mediterranean. This book studies the strategies languages use to transcend the boundaries that language creates. Several articles from this project are already forthcoming and scholars in her field have situated them as path breaking work.

Recent and Significant Publications:

A Sea of Languages: Rethinking the Arabic Roll in Medieval Literary History, S. Akbari (co-ed.), University of Toronto Press, forthcoming.

European Modernity and the Arab Mediterranean: Toward a New Philology and a Counter-Orientalism, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2010.

"I nostri Saracini: Writing the history of the Arabs of Sicily," *California Italian Studies*, 1, 2009-2010, http://escholarship.or/uc/ismrg_cisj.

"Beyond Mimesis: Aristotle's *Poetics* in the Medieval Mediterranean," *PMLA*, 124, 2009, pp. 583-591.

Service – Professor Mallette has an excellent record of important service at the university, including associate director for the Center for Middle Eastern and North Africa Studies and interim director for the Center for European Studies.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A)

"Most scholarship in the area of medieval Mediterranean Studies is either historical, or, when it does focus on literature, is primarily concerned with documenting cases of contact and potential influence. In *European Modernity and the Arab Mediterranean*, however, Mallette has undertaken something that is quite a bit more sophisticated and intriguing. When other scholars are 'doing' philology, Mallette has set out (successfully in my opinion) to demonstrate that philology, particularly Arabic philology, has played a significant role in helping to formulate the etiological narratives of modern European national identities. This is a new and very exciting claim."

Reviewer (B)

"I am confident that the publication of *Lingua franca in the Mediterranean* will be a major milestone in the development of a literary history and historiography of the medieval Mediterranean, a field which, judging from job ads over the last few years, is very much in the ascendant."

Reviewer (C)

"Prof. Mallette is at the forefront of Mediterranean studies, and is one of the most exciting and original scholars working in medieval/early modern studies today. Her range is truly astounding, and she approaches her material with a powerful combination of philological and theoretical approaches."

Reviewer (D)

"The range and variety of the materials treated in [*European Modernity and the Arab Mediterranean*]...is impressive, as is the overall cohesiveness of the whole despite its many and varied component parts. As Mallette states...the work is intended as a picaresque and not an epic. ... I was extremely impressed by the scholarly range... I was also taken by the flair and force of her writing."

Reviewer (E)

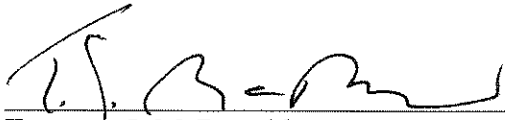
"Let me start by saying that the book is a pleasure to read and that Karla is a beautiful writer. I am not very engaged with literary history and yet she kept my interest from beginning to end. Her research program, the larger project which animates all of her work, is an extremely important one, which is the project of situating European letters in a global perspective."

Reviewer (F)

"I would say first and foremost that the kind of interdisciplinarity that K. Mallette practices seems to me especially successful. The way in which she brings together philological reflection, literary research, and textual history, literary theory and history, is seamless and pertinent, and put in the service of a personal, confident approach and an investigation which is at once subtle, well grounded, and bold."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Mallette is an excellent scholar of medieval Italian and Mediterranean studies. She is truly committed to the teaching mission at Michigan. She also contributes valuable service. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Karla Mallette be promoted to the rank of professor of Italian, with tenure, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, and professor of Near Eastern studies, without 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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