

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

Joshua H. Cole, associate professor of history, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Art, is recommended for promotion to professor of history, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1991	University of California, Berkeley
M.A.	1986	University of California, Berkeley
B.A.	1983	Brown University

Professional Record:

2014	Acting Director, Weiser Center for Europe and Eurasia, University of Michigan
2012 – present	Director, Center for European Studies, University of Michigan
2004 – present	Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Michigan
2000 – 2004	Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Georgia
1993 – 2000	Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of Georgia
1992 – 1993	Post-doctoral Research Fellow, Centre de Recherches d'Histoire des Mouvements Sociaux et du Syndicalisme, Paris
1991 – 1992	Post-doctoral Research Fellow, Pembroke College, Cambridge University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Cole is an accomplished teacher at all levels. He is a master of the venerable lecture style, deftly moving between interpretive narrative and analysis, and combining the best of the old and the new. Students routinely give him highly favorable reviews colored only by their observations about the heavy workload and high expectations of their writing. Professor Cole's courses are a staple of History's undergraduate offerings: he not only shoulders responsibility for lower-division survey courses year after year, but continually rethinks them through the use of new teaching technologies and incorporating primary documents and on-line video clips. He has enjoyed similar success in his graduate teaching of modern European and French history, incorporating global dimensions into his graduate course on modern France. He recently developed a new core graduate course on Europe in the world for students preparing preliminary exams, a course that is now required for the new graduate certificate in European Studies.

Research – Professor Cole has established an international reputation as an expert in the history of modern France and French colonialism. He is at the forefront of the expanding field of French colonial studies. Since 2004, he has published three book chapters and five articles in peer-reviewed journals, and he has completed five of seven chapters of his book manuscript, A Riot in France: Violence and Colonial Reform in Algeria, 1919-1940. While the book chapters and articles up to 2010 offered highly innovative and original analyses of public memory of colonial violence in France during the 1960s, his current project shifts attention to the history of colonial

practices and the politics of difference and belonging among Muslim Algerians, Jews, and Europeans in Algeria during the 1930s.

Recent and Significant Publications:

A Riot in France: Violence and Colonial Reform in Algeria, 1919-1940, book manuscript in progress.

“Constantine before the riots of August 1934: Civil status, anti-semitism and the politics of assimilation in interwar French Algeria,” *The Journal of North African Studies*, 17(5), 2012, pp. 839-861.

“Anti-semitism and the Colonial situation in interwar Algeria: The anti-Jewish riots in Constantine, August 1934,” in *The French Colonial Mind*, M. Thomas (ed.), University of Nebraska Press, 2012, pp. 77-111.

“Massacres and their historians: Recent histories of state violence in France and Algeria in the 20th century,” *French Politics, Culture & Society*, 28(1), 2010, pp.106-126.

Service – Professor Cole has served the profession and the university community with a high level of success. He is currently director of the Center for European Studies (2012-2015) and is a member of the Steering Committee of the International Institute. He has served on the executive committees of the Department of History and the Program in Anthropology and History, and on the Steering Committee of the Islamic Studies Initiative at Michigan. He is currently serving as European caucus leader and member of the Graduate Committee in History. His service to the profession is wide-ranging and generous, encompassing the organization of international conferences as well as referee for university presses, the leading journals in his field, and prestigious fellowship competitions.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A)

“Cole’s new project seems to me a truly excellent one, and...it already constitutes an important addition to the literature on France and the French empire in the interwar period. ... Using the techniques of microhistory [sic], Cole has gone about reconstructing the events of 1934 in meticulous detail, and setting it within the larger context of ethnic relations in interwar Algeria. He has done an enormously impressive job of research within both French and Algerian archives.”

Reviewer (B)

“The topic he is working on is a particularly sensitive aspect of Colonial Algerian history: the Constantine Riots of August 1934. He is the first historian to propose such an ambitious analysis, combining political history and cultural history. Therefore, the articles he has published are already considered authoritative in this field, notably his article published (in French) in *Vingtieme Siecle*. His book will definitely be eagerly awaited.”

Reviewer (C)

“The work on violence in 1961 demonstrated two classic elements of Mr. Cole’s work which now help to define his project on interwar Algerian. First, he showed a superb grasp of the Algerian political situation. And second, he aimed not only to narrate moments of extreme

tension in Franco-Algerian relations, but also to use them as conduits for interrogating our fundamental analytic frameworks as historians. His work is genuinely critical in this sense.”

Reviewer (D)

“The chapters he’s written are deft, wide-ranging, and packed with information. But this is not simply a book that fills in a previously ignored chapter in French colonial history. Rather, it offers a way of thinking about how to write the history of a universalist state...”

Reviewer (E)

“His particular contributions to this field are numerous...I would point to his impressive mastery of the theoretical, methodological, and historical bases of the field, his continual questioning of the categories – whether racial, ethnic, or religious, or some combination of these – long taken for granted in the study of empire, and his insistence on the importance of understanding events simultaneously in multiple registers...local and global.”

Reviewer (F)

“...Cole’s work is embedded in a range of interrelated historiographies not just of France and its colonies but of empire more generally. These historiographies are well-spelled out in the introduction to the manuscript—an introduction...that could be recommended to graduate students as encompassing all that is both old and new in the history of colonization and empire.”

Reviewer (G)

“Looking beyond published scholarship and work-in-progress, it is clear that Cole is uniquely visible as a public intellectual and writer deeply invested in the history and legacy of French colonialism. ...he has managed to remain a meticulous and thoughtful historian whilst taking the time to show readers within and outside his fields all the ways in which the history with which he is engaged lives—and matters.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Cole is a leading scholar of modern France and the French empire. He is a highly successful teacher and valued citizen. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Joshua H. Cole be promoted to the rank of professor of history, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



Susan A. Gelman
Heinz Werner Distinguished University Professor,
Professor of Psychology and Interim Dean
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

May 2014