

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

Mikhail Krutikov, associate professor of Slavic languages and literatures, with tenure, and associate professor of Judaic studies, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of Slavic languages and literatures, with tenure, and professor of Judaic studies, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1998	Jewish Theological Seminary of America
M.A.	1991	Gorky Institute of Literature
B.A.	1979	Moscow State University

Professional Record:

2010 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures and the Jean and Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, University of Michigan
2004 – 2010	Assistant Professor, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures and the Jean and Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies, University of Michigan
2002 – 2003	Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of Michigan
1999 – 2002	Lecturer, School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London
1996 – 2001	Lecturer, Oxford Institute for Yiddish Studies

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Krutikov has played an important role in course development in both units; for example, he recently introduced courses on the cultures of Ukraine and on Yiddish literature and culture in New York City. Active in team-teaching across disciplines, he has provided specialized courses for upper-level undergraduate and graduate students. He has also worked with students in their earlier years, teaching First Year seminars and Yiddish language courses. Most of Professor Krutikov's teaching evaluations are excellent. Student praise of his erudition and passion as a teacher is high. As a graduate student mentor, Professor Krutikov has played an exceptionally important role in both units. His willingness to go out of his way to help students with intertextual references, understanding of complex historical contexts, and bibliographical and archival sources is clearly evident in both units. In his capacity as graduate advisor in the Slavic department, he meets with graduate students regularly, holding annual assessment meetings and evaluating their successes and goals each year. He is also a key member of dissertation committees in Slavic and chair of the committee for those students working on Russian Jewish literature.

Research – In the past four years, Professor Krutikov has emerged as a leading figure in the field of Yiddish literature, encouraging ever-widening circles of scholars writing in English, German, and Russian to recognize the significance of Yiddish writers. The quality and breadth of his work is outstanding. He has two books published by Stanford University Press, the most recent one the winner of a very prestigious prize. A third book is well under way and some work on a fourth book has begun as well. He has six co-edited volumes which have resulted in a significant

expansion of the field, thirty substantial scholarly articles, numerous book reviews, prefaces to edited volumes, shorter works of literary scholarship, and over one thousand reviews and pieces of cultural criticism.

Recent and Significant Publications:

“Cityscapes of *yidishkayt*: Opatoshu’s New York trilogy,” in Joseph Opatoshu: A Yiddish Writer between Europe and America, S. Koller and G. Estraiikh (eds.), Legenda, 2013, pp. 160-171.

Translating Sholem Aleichem: History Politics and Art, co-edited with G. Estraiikh, et al., Legenda, 2012.

“Unkind mirrors: Berlin in three Yiddish novels of the 1930s,” in Yiddish in Weimar Berlin, G. Estraiikh and M. Krutikov (eds.), Legenda, 2010, pp. 239-262.

“Learning Stalin’s Yiddish: Two debates on literary theory at the Kiev Institute for Jewish Proletarian Culture in the spring of 1932,” in The Politics of Yiddish, S. Berger (ed.), Menasseh ben Israel Institute, 2010, pp. 7-30.

Service – Professor Krutikov’s service is outstanding. He has twice been elected for terms as a member of the executive committees of the Slavic department and the Judaic Studies center. He has served as undergraduate advisor in Judaic Studies and graduate advisor in the Slavic department. He has also been a member of many tenure-review panels, lecturer review committees, and third-year review committees for junior faculty.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A)

“Professor Krutikov’s publications in his several fields of interest - interdisciplinary approaches to modern Yiddish literature; the culture of Jewish life more broadly in Eastern and Central Europe, and in the diaspora; contemporary Russian Jewish literature - are numerous and impressive. ... He has produced erudite and far-reaching assessments of individual writers as well as comprehensive studies of major cultural trends.”

Reviewer (B)

“He is one of the very few literary scholars active today who has created a new field, namely, Russian-Jewish studies... Let me put this another way: the current revival of scholarly interest in Yiddish (in the US, Germany, Russia, and elsewhere) is in large part due to Professor Krutikov’s multilingual and interdisciplinary research, lecturing, editing, and teaching.”

Reviewer (C)

“His real fluency in Russian, Yiddish, Hebrew, German, and English, and his evident familiarity with the literary canons and the scholarship in those five languages, give his work a historical sensitivity and a theoretical sophistication that few can match. ... No one else, of his generation or any other, has his breadth. Michigan is lucky to have him.”

Reviewer (D)

“Prof[.] Krutikov belongs to the upper crust of scholars in the field of Modern Yiddish Studies and Eastern European Jewish culture. His erudition is impressive and his publications are of the highest level and are already seminal for any further study of Modern Yiddish literature.”

Reviewer (E)

"The quantity of Krutikov's publications is impressive – two major monographs (the latter an outstanding accomplishment), several edited volumes, dozens of book chapters, and prodigious professional service in the form of bibliographic essays, book reviews and articles for *The Yiddish Daily Forward*. I believe that Krutikov merits promotion to the rank of full professor and eagerly await the completion of his next book, a study of the city in modern Yiddish fiction that may prove to be his magnum opus."

Reviewer (F)

"Not only does he possess the linguistic knowledge and literary erudition which are called for, he also evinces the theoretical and conceptual subtlety which is every bit as essential."

Reviewer (G)

"Krutikov's range of all-but inexhaustible knowledge (well beyond the Jewish sphere, certainly), his acute analytical capacity, and his astonishing stamina (rarely does he cite any source in translation, and his linguistic arsenal is very impressive) sets him apart in Jewish studies writ-large."

Reviewer (H)

"...the University of Michigan is fortunate in having Mikhail Krutikov as a member of its faculty."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Krutikov has played a key role in expanding the field of Jewish studies through his prodigious scholarly work and as an organizer of important conferences, while at the same time making excellent contributions to the teaching programs in Judaic studies and Slavic. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Mikhail Krutikov be promoted to the rank of professor of Slavic languages and literatures, with tenure, and professor of Judaic studies, 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

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