

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

Douglas T. Northrop, associate professor of history, with tenure, and associate professor of Near Eastern studies, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of history, with tenure, and professor of Near Eastern studies, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1999	Stanford University
M.A.	1995	Emmanuel College, Cambridge University
M.A.	1993	Stanford University
B.A.	1991	Emmanuel College, Cambridge University
B.A.	1989	Williams College

Professional Record:

2008 – 2011	Director, Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies (CREES), University of Michigan
2006 – 2008	Associate Director, Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies (CMENAS), University of Michigan
2004 – present	Associate Professor, Department of History and Department of Near Eastern Studies, University of Michigan
2004 – 2011	Senior Research Fellow, Center for International Trade and Security, University of Georgia
1999 – 2004	Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of Georgia
1998 – 1999	Assistant Professor, Department of History, Pitzer College, The Claremont Colleges
1997 – 1998	Visiting Instructor, Pitzer College, The Claremont Colleges

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Northrop has demonstrated the highest quality, creativity, and energy in his teaching at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. His courses have two broad thematic foci: Central Asian history and world/global history. His teaching contribution is notable for the extraordinary innovation he has demonstrated in creating twelve entirely new courses and in advancing the pedagogical vision in both fields. Professor Northrop's undergraduate courses are popular and highly successful. He is also a distinguished and highly successful graduate teacher.

Research – Professor Northrop has established an international reputation as a pioneer in a second field, that of global and world history, while remaining a well-regarded and innovative scholar in Central Asian and Soviet history with a new focus on the environmental history of this region. His book project, Four Days that Shook the World: Earthquakes and Empire along the Eurasian Frontier, is an enormously promising book that will advance his reputation as the leading Central Asian historian in North America while also making his mark as a path-breaking scholar of global environmental history. Professor Northrop is also the author of an interpretive textbook, An Imperial World: Empires and Colonies, and the editor of a recent and field-defining

Blackwell Companion to World History. He received the Provost's Teaching Innovation Prize for "Zoom: Teaching Time, Space, and Approaches to Knowledge" in 2011, which is now the foundation of a co-authored book, and was one of three project directors of a Gilbert Whitaker Award (2009-2012) for course development in "Thinking and Teaching in Global Dimensions."

Recent and Significant Publications:

Four Days that Shook the World: Earthquakes and Empire on the Eurasian Frontier, Princeton University Press, invited for contract review.

Zoom: A History of Everything, with C. Gibelyou, Oxford University Press, book contract in process.

An Imperial World: Empires and Colonies since 1750, Pearson "Connections" Series in World History, 2013.

A Companion to World History, (edited volume), Wiley-Blackwell, 2012.

Veiled Empire: Gender and Power in Stalinist Central Asia, Cornell University Press, 2004.

Service – Professor Northrop has performed high levels of service in the Department of History and in the College of LSA. He has served as director of CREES and associate director of the Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies (CMENAS). He served on History's Executive Committee, on several search committees, and has been faculty supervisor for UM's Central Asian language program in the Department of Near Eastern Studies. To the wider community, Professor Northrop is highly active in the fields of Central Asian and world history, including serving as editor of a prestigious book series and as a member of boards and selection committees of national scholarly associations.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A)

"...in the past decade Northrop has established himself as one of the most wide-ranging and imaginative, emerging authors writing across several historical sub-fields and increasingly venturing into related disciplines. ... When completed, his current book project is very likely to both confirm his standing as a major scholar in his chosen fields of specialization and enhance his already considerable impact on the rapidly growing fields of world and comparative history."

Reviewer (B)

"...[Northrop] has made a major contribution to the step-by-step articulation of Soviet Central Asian history with the wider world of scholarship. I am confident he will keep working at the same level to pursue new directions of inquiry."

Reviewer (C)

"He is an outstanding scholar who has already made very important contributions to the fields of Soviet history and world history. His books are works of pioneering research, particularly in the areas of empire and gender, and they have made and will continue to make a major impact. ... Prof. Northrop is highly deserving of promotion, and I recommend him without qualification."

Reviewer (D)

"*Four Days that Shook the World* goes literally into the depths of Central Asia's larger history. What I find most fascinating is the methodological aspect of this investigation, the very concept

of 'seismic spaces,' the...potential of disaster that Professor Northrop is able to put into action. ... I can't wait to see this book finished."

Reviewer (E)

"The excerpts from *Four Days that Shook the World* were, for me, the highlight of the file. The whole idea of the book is wonderfully original, and I was impressed by the way Northrop takes us through the many advantages his topic offers..."

Reviewer (F)

"I view Prof. Northrop's professional advancement as a gift to the field of Central Asian history because he is in an excellent position to be the leading teacher of a new generation of historians of modern Central Asia. ... Prof. Northrop is now at the top of his game."

Reviewer (G)

"Doug has a singular ability to present the most difficult ideas in a manner that is at once crystal clear and gripping. An Imperial World shows that Doug has read and carefully assessed large bodies of scholarship, which he has then synthesized and conveyed in language that undergraduates can understand. ...a significant scholarly achievement – and a rare one."

Reviewer (H)

"*An Imperial World* offers a new narrative of imperialism since 1750, in four successive layers. Each section tells a coherent story of how empire unfolded in one major region of the world. ... *An Imperial World* will stand out in a crowded field."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Northrop is a highly original scholar who has earned an international reputation in both the fields of Central Asian and global/world history. He is an extraordinarily innovative and imaginative teacher with an exemplary record of intellectual and institutional leadership. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Douglas T. Northrop be promoted to the rank of professor of history, with tenure, and professor of Near Eastern studies, without 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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