

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

Rudolph T. Ware, assistant professor of history, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of history, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2004	University of Pennsylvania
B.A.	1997	University of Minnesota

Professional Record:

2008 – present	Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of Michigan
2005 – 2008	Assistant Professor, Department of History, Northwestern University
2004 – 2005	Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences Fellow, Department of History, Northwestern University
2004	Lecturer, African and African-American Studies, University of Minnesota

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Ware is an accomplished teacher who has developed and taught six courses since 2008. He regularly taught two undergraduate lecture courses and his graduate courses include core seminars on pre-colonial Africa as well as a course on the Black Atlantic. Student evaluations have been very strong and include high praise for his skill and dedication to teaching. His courses are a crucial part of the department's curriculum in African history. He is currently advising two dissertation theses and serving on six additional dissertation committees at Michigan and one in Senegal.

Research – Professor Ware is an accomplished historian of Islam and West Africa, whose work engenders spirited scholarly debate and admiration from top experts in several fields. His impressive first book, The Walking Qur'an: Islamic Education, Embodied Knowledge, and History in West Africa, is considered to be an important work that substantially advances our understanding of Senegalese history, West African Islam, and modern Islam in general. The research for his next book, The First Atlantic Revolution: Islam, Abolition, and Republic in Senegambia, c. 1776, is well underway. His outstanding scholarly article on Islamic slavery reveals the scope and promise of the second book. It, too, is expected to have a major impact on the field.

Recent and Significant Publications:

The Walking Qur'an: Islamic Education, Embodied Knowledge, and History in West Africa, University of North Carolina Press, forthcoming 2014.

"In praise of the intercessor," introduction, annotation, and translation into English verse of an original Arabic poem, Mawâhib al-Nâfi' fi Madâ'ih al-Shâfi' by Amadu Bamba Mbacké, *Islamic Africa*, 4(2), 2013.

“Slavery in Islamic Africa, 1400-1800,” in Cambridge World History of Slavery, Vol.3. AD 1420–AD 1804, S. Engerman and D. Eltis (eds.), Cambridge University Press, 2011, pp. 47-80.

“Njàngaan: The daily regime of Qur’anic students in 20th century Senegal,” *International Journal of African Historical Studies*, 37(3), 2004, pp. 515-38.

Service – Professor Ware has been an excellent citizen in the setting of his department and in the university. He has chaired the African caucus for three years, and he has served on the Executive Committee of the Interdisciplinary Program in Anthropology and History and as faculty coordinator of the African History and Anthropology Workshop under the auspices of the Rackham Interdisciplinary Workshop. Professor Ware has also served on the Steering Committee of the Islamic Studies Program. In the broader profession Professor Ware is a member of the editorial board of the *International Journal of African Historical Studies*.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A)

“The particular field of the institutions and methods of learning in Islamic West Africa is still a developing one and Butch Ware’s work on ‘epistemology and embodiment’ to use his own words constitutes a major contribution to it. I should add that Dr. Ware has a unique position in this developing field of the intellectual history of Islamic West Africa as he is one of the best specialists of *Wolofal* literature, which is the Islamic literature in Wolof language using the Arabic script.”

Reviewer (B)

“The very meticulous and astute reading of the various records...indicates the broad scope and intellectual precision of the work. It proposes a very readable and convincing historical and ethnographic narrative of the lives and subjectivities of Senegambian clerics and subaltern groups (slaves and peasants).”

Reviewer (C)

“Few researchers manage to juxtapose written and oral sources, text analysis and field studies simultaneously and with such ease. It is this double exposure that he can communicate so successfully to both the reader of his written work as well as to the listener of his oral communications.”

Reviewer (D)

“Overall, this book is outstanding. Its analytical depth is unparalleled in anything that I have read on African Islam in the last 15 years. Ware has established his reputation as an authority in West African history and Islamic epistemology. ... He has demonstrated the capacity for very original work and, in all likelihood, will continue to make significant contributions to the discipline of history and to Islamic and African studies.”

Reviewer (E)

“For Ware, Africans can be authentically Muslim and authentically African at the same time. In fact, Ware argues that in the form of the daara West Africans have held on to a pan-Muslim practice longer than other Muslim societies, that they are, as it were, more authentically Muslim

than others. This is an important argument that needs to be made. It will reshape the place of Africa in Islamic studies (and in our view of the Muslim world) while also making Africanists take note of insights from Islamic studies.”

Reviewer (F)

“I think his writings are both scholarly and provocative enough to make him not only eligible for promotion/tenure, but also a distinguished addition to your tenured Faculty. ... So I recognise the quality and the novelty of Dr[.] Ware’s work – and I admire it even when I think it too rosy. He would most certainly be an asset to a History Faculty anywhere, and I think the University of Michigan is fortunate to [have] him on its staff.”

Reviewer (G)

“Dr. Ware is clearly one of the relatively few scholars in North America whose expertise on Islamic West Africa stands out. Moreover, his current publications, none of which I knew before his materials were sent to me, are very good and certainly are of comparable standards to the publications of several distinguished...scholars [of his generation] in the field. ...the University of Michigan is fortunate in having such a fine scholar in the Department of History.”

Reviewer (H)

“...the manuscript is intricately conceptualized and nonetheless cogently focused and executed around the theories and practices of educating children in Senegal. It exhibits all of the marks of a scholar entirely in control of his materials – even ranging, as he does, through a millennium of time and multiple languages and epistemologies. Prof. Ware’s understandings of the story are revealingly subtle, consistently aware, but also independent, of the prevailing historiographies, and entirely coherent in the terms he develops.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Ware has an outstanding international reputation as an innovative scholar. He has also made excellent contributions as a teacher and is an engaged colleague in his department. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Rudolph T. Ware be promoted to the rank of associate 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

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