

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

Silke-Maria Weineck, associate professor of Germanic languages and literatures, with tenure, and associate professor of comparative literature, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of Germanic languages and literatures, with tenure, and professor of comparative literature, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1995	University of Pennsylvania
A.M.	1993	University of Pennsylvania
M.A.	1989	The Johns Hopkins University

Professional Record:

2013 – 2015	Chair, Department of Department of Comparative Literature, University of Michigan
2009 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Comparative Literature, University of Michigan
2004 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, University of Michigan
1998 – 2004	Assistant Professor, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, University of Michigan
1996 – 1997	Senior Researcher, Center for Bioethics, and Lecturer, Program in Comparative Literature, University of Pennsylvania
1996 – 1997	Lecturer, Humanities Program, University of the Arts

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Weineck is an exceptionally gifted teacher who emphasizes critical thinking and students' ability to read texts closely in all her pedagogical endeavors. She has offered a wide variety of courses at both undergraduate and graduate levels. Regardless of level, her courses focus on the literary and philosophical traditions in the German language since the eighteenth century, with a particular emphasis on poetry and modern reception of classical texts. Her undergraduate offerings have included courses taught in English and German. She has been a dedicated graduate mentor, advising a wide range of dissertations in both Comparative Literature and Germanic Languages and Literatures, as well as serving on numerous committees as a committee member or cognate member.

Research – Professor Weineck is a widely respected and highly productive scholar in the fields of German studies and comparative literature. She recently completed a book-length manuscript entitled The Tragedy of Fatherhood – a book of essays that are a tour de force in literary criticism, psychoanalytic theory, political philosophy, classical philology, and modern literature. She has also thirteen articles and book chapters post-tenure that are published or forthcoming on a wide array of topics, authors, and problems in literary criticism, literary history, philosophical thought, and the persistence of the ancient classical tradition. These appear in venues that

include premier journals as well as specialized journals. In addition to her major work on fatherhood, Professor Weineck has made progress on three additional book projects. The first is an imaginative volume (co-edited with Victor Caston) entitled Our Ancient Wars: Rethinking War Through the Classics (under consideration by University of Michigan Press) based on a conference they co-organized. A second book deals with the rise of humanism as a realm between religion and science that considers literature as a distinct form of knowledge. A third book sees the translation of German lyric poetry as a bridge between conceptual and creative work. Excerpts of the last two manuscripts have been published as well as presented in lectures and conferences; the books are highly anticipated by the outside readers.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Our Ancient Wars: Rethinking War through the Classics, co-edited with V. Caston, University of Michigan Press, forthcoming 2015.

The Tragedy of Fatherhood: King Laius and the Politics of Paternity in the West, Bloomsbury Academic Division (formerly Continuum), forthcoming 2014.

"Thoughts before a line of Kleist," *Germanic Review*, 85(1), 2010, pp. 63-69.

"The Laius syndrome, or the ends of political fatherhood," *Cultural Critique*, 74, 2010, pp. 131-146 (special issue on "Classical Reception and the Political").

Service – Professor Weineck has made extraordinary contributions to her departments. In German, she served as associate chair, graduate chair, member of the Executive Committee, and on various search committees, including chair of a tenure review panel, among other assignments. In Comparative Literature, she twice served/is serving as chair of the department, co-chair of a tenure review panel, and as a member of the Admissions Committee. For the university at large, she served on the Context for Classics Steering Committee and various selection committees, and was active for the Senate Advisory Committee on University Affairs. To the broader community, she has been active in the German Studies Association, and is a member of the editorial board of one of the key journals in her field as well as an important book series in German Studies, which she helped launch.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A)

"The great strength of the candidate's scholarly accomplishments is her facility with a variety of languages and scholarly discourses. She knows the ancient texts, especially the corpus of Greek tragedy, and the works of Plato and Aristotle, as well as the great monuments of German literature and philosophy, and is able...to bring them into illuminating relationship with one another."

Reviewer (B)

"Professor Weineck's publications to date stand out in their originality and diversity: working in a truly interdisciplinary fashion across the European tradition, with German as her fixed anchor, she covers an enormous number of fields and discourses... Her enormous range is matched by a lucidity and thoroughness that is to be both envied and held up as an exemplum."

Reviewer (C)

"Weineck very originally...emphasizes the 'trans-temporal dimension'...of mechanisms of reception. By insisting on the 'full presence of the past'...she on the one hand detaches the reading of both classical and modern texts from the prevalent historicist hermeneutic construction, and on the other clearly illuminates all the uncertainties and vacillations of historically determined readings."

Reviewer (D)

"I consider Professor Weineck's manuscript on *The Laius Complex[:]* *Politics and Tragic Paternity* as one of the most important books in the field of Comparative Literature written during the last two decades. It is quite likely that *The Laius Complex* will have an impact on the field comparable to the influence exerted by Rene Girard's book on *The Theater of Envy*."

Reviewer (E)

"Broadly recognized and greatly admired, both in the States and overseas, she has over the last decade produced exemplary work in German Studies, Comparative Literature, and Reception Studies that has continued to have a significant impact in shaping these fields."

Reviewer (F)

"...Weineck's achievements are convincing on the strength of their thematic diversity and the questions she not only raises, but also courageously, even passionately, cultivates beyond the mainstream. Thanks to her comprehensive knowledge in the histories of philosophy and literature, and thanks to her competence in literary and interpretative theory, her studies are accomplished and of [an] extraordinarily high level."

Reviewer (G)

"Her work explicitly crosses disciplines, not only because she is a comparatist interested in the reception of the classics in modern (German) literature but also because her recent project on paternity takes [us]...deep into philosophy, political theory, and myth studies."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Weineck is a leader in a variety of academic fields. She has been an active and very engaged teacher of undergraduates and advisor to graduates and on dissertations. Her service across the board has been extremely substantial. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Silke-Maria Weineck be promoted to the rank of professor of Germanic languages and literatures, with tenure, and professor of comparative literature, 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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