

Approved by the
Regents
May 21, 2015

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
COLLEGE OF LITERATURE, SCIENCE, AND THE ARTS

Alaina M. Lemon, associate professor of anthropology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of anthropology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1996	University of Chicago
M.A.	1988	University of Chicago
B.A.	1987	University of Wisconsin, Madison

Professional Record:

2014 – present	Director, Interdepartmental Program in Anthropology and History, University of Michigan
2011	Director, Interdepartmental Program in Anthropology and History, University of Michigan
2003 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan
1999 – 2003	Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan
1996 – 1999	Senior Fellow, Michigan Society of Fellows

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Lemon is a thoughtful and successful educator who draws on diverse interdisciplinary theories and methods. Her courses promote learning and research as active, ethical, and creative endeavors, with rewards that extend beyond the classroom and topic of inquiry. She teaches a wide array of courses about an area of the world that is of growing interest to students. Her courses include innovative first-year seminars, a required course on language and culture for undergraduate majors, and graduate seminars. Professor Lemon has also served as a faculty leader in three undergraduate study tours to Russia. She has a strong record of graduate teaching in Anthropology, the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies (CREES), and the Inter-departmental Program in Anthropology and History. She is one of the most sought-after advisors in the Anthropology department, chairing sixteen doctoral committees and serving as a member on 35 additional committees in anthropology, anthro-history, and anthro-social work. She has also served on doctoral committees for students in history, Slavic studies, and music.

Research – Professor Lemon is a specialist in the study of the former Soviet Union and contemporary Russia, and of Romani (Gypsy) diasporas. She anchors our coverage of a region of the world that forms a crucial bridge between two of Anthropology's constituent departmental units (linguistic and socio-cultural anthropology) and she is a key figure in the department's relationship to the Interdisciplinary Program in Anthropology and History. Her fieldwork is unusually extensive even by the standards of cultural anthropology. Trained in two of the four subfields of anthropology (cultural and linguistic), Professor Lemon's deep knowledge of Russian society and culture has allowed her to carry out research across a wide range of topics, including performance, historical memory, emotions, media, gender, and ideologies of race,

ethnicity, and nationality. Her abiding concerns include the lingering effects of the Cold War on the perceptions the West has of Russia, and Russians of themselves, the nature of social interaction, and the role that emotions and dominant ideas about emotion play in all of these. Her publication record continues to add to the department's international visibility. Since her last promotion, Professor Lemon has published a dozen articles and chapters, many in the leading journals of her discipline, and completed the manuscript of a major monograph entitled Penetrating Minds: Communication and Control.

Recent and Significant Publications:

- "Touching the gap: Social Qualia and Cold War contact," in a special issue on Qualia, *Anthropological Theory*, 13(1/2), 2013, pp. 67-88.
- "Sympathy for the weary state: Chronotopes, empathies, and Moscow others," *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 1(1/4), 2009, pp. 832-864.
- "The emotional lives of Moscow things," *Russian History*, 36, 2009, pp. 1-18.
- "Hermeneutic algebras: Solving for love, time/space, and value in Putin-era personal ads," *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology*, 18(2), 2008, pp. 236-267.

Service – Professor Lemon previously served as the interim director and is now the director of the Interdepartmental Program in Anthropology and History. Among many other duties, she has been subfield head for Linguistic Anthropology, a member of the departmental Executive Committee, chair of the East European, and Eurasian Studies Vucinich Book Award Committee, and was appointed to the Social Science Research Council/International Dissertation Research Fellowship Selection Committee.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A)

"I consider her one of the most original, theoretically sophisticated, and provocative figures in the field. Her work is ambitious in the best sense of the term, illuminating an almost astonishing range of fundamental anthropological concerns. ... I approach all of her new publications in the expectation that I will be intellectually stimulated, provoked, and maybe even inspired—and I have never yet been disappointed. She is a scholar of outstanding breadth and creativity, richly deserving of promotion to full professor."

Reviewer (B)

"Professor Lemon is highly visible in our discipline as a star in her generation. I have been following her publications for many years. The newest ones are even stronger than her excellent earlier work. ... Lemon has published a great deal in the last decade, most of it in the first-rank journals of anthropology..."

Reviewer (C)

"...hands down, [she is] one of the most gifted minds in anthropology and Russian area studies. In the file at hand, her research and teaching statements alone are the single most thoughtful I have seen in years."

Reviewer (D)

"She is a stylish, vivid writer, and her recent work also has a ring of confident, widely-read erudition. ...I would like to emphasize her scholarly leadership: she has moved into a new intellectual terrain in Soviet / Post-Soviet anthropology, made it her own, and demonstrated how exciting and relevant it is to anthropology in general. These are excellent grounds for promotion to a full professorship and I support her application with great enthusiasm."

Reviewer (E)

"Her research is not only theoretically and historically solid, but also contains radically new perspectives germinal for new fields of inquiry...and offering methodologies for the employment in other disciplinary contexts."

Reviewer (F)

"...she is a one-of-a-kind scholar. The words that come to mind when considering her oeuvre...are 'unconventional, original, intellectually challenging, synthetic;' in short, her work is good to think with. ... Professor Lemon's wide-ranging interests and knowledge, along with her deep, extensive ethnographic experience and understanding has made her into a highly regarded scholar."

Reviewer (G)

"...she is one of the most innovative and sensitive anthropologists at work today. ...the range of perspectives she considers always makes her work extremely fresh and exciting. Moreover, her writing is clear and compelling. ... Alaina Lemon is simply an outstanding anthropologist."

Reviewer (H)

"...Lemon has consistently identified and explored intriguing themes that have garnered much interest from the anthropological and broader area studies... She has established a formidable reputation as a scholar, capable of innovative research and cogent argumentation."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Lemon's steadily productive scholarship is of high quality and great originality, and shows every sign of continuing to expand into new areas of research. She is a hard-working and highly responsible citizen who is committed to innovative teaching at all levels. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Alaina M. Lemon be promoted to the rank of professor of anthropology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



Andrew D. Martin
Dean, and Professor of Political Science
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

May 2015