

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan-Dearborn
College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters

Approved by the
Regents
May 21, 2015

Maureen Linker, associate professor of philosophy, with tenure, Department of Literature, Philosophy, and the Arts, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, is recommended for promotion to professor of philosophy, with tenure, Department of Literature, Philosophy, and the Arts, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D. 1996 City University of New York, New York, New York
B.A. 1988 City University of New York, New York, New York

Professional Record:

2002 – present Associate Professor of Philosophy, Department of Literature, Philosophy, and the Arts, University of Michigan-Dearborn
1996 – 2002 Assistant Professor of Philosophy, Department of Humanities, University of Michigan-Dearborn

Teaching: Professor Linker is rated excellent in teaching. Since her last promotion, she has regularly taught Critical Thinking (PHIL 233), a course that she revamped and is now required for students in the College of Business, and a suite of upper-level courses in epistemology and logic, including Symbolic Logic (PHIL 234/350), Problems of Human Knowledge (PHIL 375), Theories of Reality (PHIL 380), Feminist Philosophy (PHIL 384), and Philosophy of Science (PHIL 485). She has contributed to CASL-wide programs in Women's and Gender Studies and Science and Technology Studies by teaching the introductory courses (WGST 303 and STS 300) in both programs. Perhaps most significantly, she has worked tirelessly to develop the campus's new Honors Transfer Innovators (HTI) program, an honors program for transfer students, developed and has regularly taught the gateway course for that program (LIBS 330), and co-developed the capstone course for the program (LIBS 430). Her efforts in course and program development have encompassed philosophy, HTI, WGST, STS, and the Master of Arts in Liberal Studies program. The numerical scores on her teaching evaluations are outstanding, consistently above those of her tenure-stream colleagues in philosophy and across the department. The quality of her record in teaching was recognized in 2009 by the campus's Distinguished Teaching Award.

Research: Professor Linker is rated excellent in her research. Since her last promotion, she has published six articles in refereed journals (four single-authored, two co-authored) and two book chapters, and has another journal article under review. In December 2014, her book Intellectual Empathy: Critical Thinking for Social Justice, will be published by the University of Michigan Press. This book epitomizes Professor Linker's standing as a teacher-scholar. It is shaped by her extensive experience teaching Critical Thinking (PHIL 233) but also reflects her work as a scholar, bringing the latest research in social epistemology to bear on how to analyze issues shaped by participants' identities, experiences, and deeply-held beliefs.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Intellectual Empathy: Critical Thinking for Social Justice. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2014. 237 pages. In press.

“Epistemic Privilege and Expertise in the Context of Meta-Debate,” *Argumentation*, Vol. 28, No. 1, 2014, pp. 67-84.

“Do Squirrels Eat Hamburgers: Intellectual Empathy as a Remedy for Residual Prejudice,” *Informal Logic*, Vol. 31, No. 2, September 2011, pp. 110-138.

“When Worlds Collide: The Global Exportation of Anti-Enlightenment Scholarship,” *Social Theory and Practice: An International and Interdisciplinary Journal of Social Philosophy*, Vol. 31, No. 3, 2005, pp. 451-464.

Service: Professor Linker is rated excellent in her service. Professor Linker has performed a tremendous amount of important service since her last promotion. At the campus level she has led the effort to create, develop, and bring to life a new honors program for transfer students, Honors Transfer Innovators, and has served as the director of MetroScholars, a coalition of programs based on learning communities that includes HTI, Women in Learning and Leadership, and Blueprints. At the college level, she has served two terms on the CASL Executive Committee, directed the Science and Technology Studies program, and been an active member of the Women’s and Gender Studies Program. At the department and discipline level, she has twice served as the philosophy discipline representative to the Literature, Philosophy, and the Arts Executive Committee, has been a member of two search committees in philosophy, and has coordinated the offering of the multiple sections of PHIL 233 (Critical Thinking) each term. Professor Linker has truly been a campus leader in service.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: “Each of Linker’s papers is a little gem of originality and beautifully clear argumentation. Linker’s abilities for astute and measured analysis are in constant display. The quality of the philosophy is first rate, but beyond this there is a surprising attentiveness to real world conditions that yields a significant real world application. Further, her analyses are always presented in clear, accessible prose, with a level of readability well above the typical levels in our discipline. She is an excellent writer. I honestly found every one of these published essays to be outstanding, and the book manuscript shows every promise of yielding an incredibly useful text as well as more elaborated development of her concept on intellectual empathy that should have an impact on epistemology and related fields.”

Reviewer B: “Linker’s strongest work is her scholarship on epistemology and pedagogy. Her voice has a gentle rigor that is both refreshing and appropriate to the content of the conversation on diversity and teaching. Her scholarship has the virtue of being both interdisciplinary and rooted in her rich experiences teaching in prisons, on the University of Michigan campus, and her work with colleagues in the School of Education in K-12 settings. Her scholarship is difficult and courageous.”

Reviewer C: “Professor Linker is a philosopher whose research is centrally focused on bringing philosophy to bear on practical problems of social interaction and engagement. This is evident in many parts of her work: from her book manuscript on intellectual empathy, to her work on curricular development with attention to a diverse student body, to her contribution to the collection *Tennis and Philosophy* in which she analyses the social significance of the Billy Jean

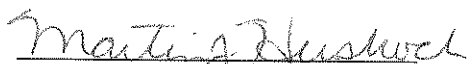
King versus Bobby Riggs 'Battle of the Sexes' tennis match in 1973. Her work on intellectual empathy is innovative with potentially significant practical applications both in and out of the classroom. It is important work, and Professor Linker is well positioned to have an impact in this area."


Reviewer D: "Maureen Linker is a remarkable philosopher who has put together a substantial corpus of important work. I know of no other work that I would recommend more highly than *Intellectual Empathy* as a resource in working on the epistemic demands of social justice. It will have a substantial impact when it is published."

Reviewer E: "Overall, Professor Maureen Linker has produced a body of scholarship that is genuinely impressive on several levels. It is passionate at the same time that it is rigorous and nuanced. It reflects a substantial background in research and theories across a number of disciplinary boundaries. It is characterized by conceptual analyses that are insightful and original. Finally, in all of her scholarly activities, including but not limited to her publications, Professor Linker exemplifies what it means to engage in philosophy in socially-relevant and socially-responsible ways."

Reviewer F: "The strong empirical thrust of her work is evident throughout. It makes the work both attractive and accessible. It clearly demonstrates the scholarly reflections of an engaged teacher. Her classroom experience influences arguments and is constantly used to illustrate points. This is the appeal and strength of the work. Not every scholar can convert experiences into lessons, and move smoothly between the classroom and the scholarly contribution. In this respect, she certainly stands out."

Summary of Recommendation: Professor Linker is an outstanding scholar and teacher, deeply committed to our campus and our students. We are very pleased to recommend, with strong support of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters Executive Committee, Maureen Linker for promotion to professor of philosophy, with tenure, Department of Literature, Philosophy, and the Arts, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.


Martin Hershock, Dean
College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters


Daniel Little, Chancellor
University of Michigan-Dearborn

May 2015