

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

Approved by the  
Regents  
May 21, 2015

Steven G. Mullaney, associate professor of English language and literature, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of English language and literature, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1982	Stanford University
B.A.	1973	University of Colorado

Professional Record:

1995 – 1997	Director, Program in British Studies, International Institute, University of Michigan
1990 – present	Associate Professor (with tenure), Department of English Language and Literature, University of Michigan
1987 – 1989	Associate Professor (without tenure), Department of English Language and Literature, University of Michigan
1986 – 1987	Associate Professor, School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
1982 – 1986	Assistant Professor, School of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Mullaney’s teaching record includes a wide variety of courses at every level, from large-lecture introductory courses to graduate-level seminars. While a majority of these courses have been taught in Early Modernity, his area of specialization, Professor Mullaney has ventured far beyond his field to initiate and prepare classes in more contemporary fields of literary inquiry. The design of his courses is thoughtful and takes advantage of a variety of pedagogical strategies, a reflection of his ability to be both self-conscious and self-critical of his presence in the classroom. Professor Mullaney’s students consistently praise his knowledge and passion for his subject matter. He takes students’ commentary seriously, and has worked hard to modify the structure and content of his courses so students can experience learning in new and dynamic ways.

Research – Professor Mullaney’s scholarly work is characterized by theoretical sophistication, undeniable command of early modern drama and theater history, inclusive of Shakespeare, and increasing international and multi-disciplinary collaboration. Substantial book review essays in such valued journals as *Modern Philology*, *Shakespeare Quarterly*, and *Albion* suggest Professor Mullaney’s authority in his field of study and demonstrate his superb ability to assess the scholarly contributions of others, as well as to explain major conversations within the field. His forthcoming book, The Reformation of Emotions in the Age of Shakespeare, is a learned and judicious meditation on the meaning and function of the theater in early modern England. Professor Mullaney’s plans for future work reveal his strengths as a conceptualist and an essayist. His major project is a new book that analyzes our changing concept of just what

constitutes the very term “publication” itself. His intention is to rethink multiple forms of literacy, both in terms of our attachment to print media but even more so to the fuller and more historical sense of making discourse public, in other words, “of entering [discourse] into civil society.”

Recent and Significant Publications:

The Reformation of Emotions in the Age of Shakespeare, University of Chicago Press, forthcoming 2015.

“Introduction: Making space public,” with A. Vanhaelen in Making Space Public in Early Modern Europe: Performance, Geography, Privacy, A. Vanhaelen and J. P. Ward (co-eds.), Routledge, 2013, pp. 1-14.

“Religion inside out: Dutch house churches and the making of publics in the Dutch republic,” with A. Vanhaelen and J. P. Ward in Making Publics in Early Modern Europe: People, Things, Forms of Knowledge, P. Yachnin and B. Wilson (co-eds.), Routledge, 2009.

“Affective technologies: Toward an emotional logic of the Elizabethan stage,” in Environment and Embodiment in Early Modern England, M. Floyd-Wilson and G. Sullivan (co-eds.), Palgrave Macmillan, 2006, pp. 71-89.

Service – Professor Mullaney has consistently exercised an important leadership role in the department. He has served on the Executive Committee, as director of graduate studies, chair of the Awards Committee, and he made contributions to the department’s five-year plan. He has been an influential participant in the UM Comparative Study of Social Transformations group, and has served on the MEMS, Atlantic Studies, and UMS steering committees. He also served as an important participant in the Royal Shakespeare Company’s residencies as a member of various outreach panels. That he is held in high regard by major scholars in the field is evident in the fact that he writes a good many tenure and promotion evaluations for some of the most distinguished universities in this country and in Canada, and is regularly asked to review articles for high-ranking journals (*PMLA*, *Shakespeare Quarterly*) and to evaluate book manuscripts for excellent presses (Cambridge, Princeton, etc.).

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A)

“Everyone in my generation of scholars knows Steven Mullaney’s work, especially his path-breaking first book, The Place of the Stage: License, Play, and Power in Renaissance England... In the last few years Mullaney...has been a central figure in several large-scale collaborative research projects, the impact of which has already been considerable. ...there is powerful thought and reading throughout this manuscript [The Reformation of Emotions]. I particularly like the detailed investigation of the effects of trauma on a culture’s capacity to remember and forget...”

Reviewer (B)

“I find it suggestive that much of Mullaney’s recent work has either been created in collaboration with other scholars or as a result of such collaboration... Clearly he thrives in the collaborative mode, and given that interdisciplinary, collaborative work is becoming more central to the discipline, Mullaney is helping to blaze a path. ... It is clear that the profession at large has come

to think of him as having the status of Full Professor already and it would seem appropriate for the University of Michigan to ratify this perception by promoting him..."

Reviewer (C)

"...The Reformation of Emotions in the Age of Shakespeare is a powerful, passionate book, the kind of book we would hope a full professor would write. And there is clear evidence of further major scholarship to come. ...it seems as if others already think of him as a full professor. I am happy to conclude that this would also be my judgment."

Reviewer (D)

"Nowadays, in the intellectual circles of Renaissance studies, Mullaney functions as a senior eminence... The quality of Mullaney's book manuscript, as well as the other essays he has published since his last promotion, clearly warrants advancement to the rank of full professor. In terms of national/international visibility in his field, he plainly exceeds the usual requirement."

Reviewer (E)

"Steven Mullaney is a leader in his field, someone admired by scholars senior to him, by his contemporaries, and by a slew of assistant professors and graduate students, someone whose published work has been extremely influential, and whose public presentations, conversation, and counsel are regarded as of very great authority."

Reviewer (F)

"Steven Mullaney is a leading figure of international standing in my fields of Shakespeare studies and early-modern literary studies. ... The Reformation of Emotions in the Age of Shakespeare promises to make a central contribution to current debates about the bodily nature of affect, the medium of theater, and the public sphere in early-modern English studies."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Mullaney's thoughtful, incisive scholarship clearly commands great respect from those familiar with his work. His teaching record and service to the department round out his exemplary contribution to the academic excellence of the university as a whole. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Steven G. Mullaney be promoted to the rank of professor of English language and literature, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



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

May 2015