

Approved by the  
Regents  
May 21, 2015

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

Sherie M. Randolph, assistant professor of Afroamerican and African studies, and assistant professor of history, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of Afroamerican and African studies, with tenure, and associate professor of history, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

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|-------|------|---------------------|
| Ph.D. | 2007 | New York University |
| M.A.  | 1999 | Harvard University  |
| B.A.  | 1994 | Spelman College     |

Professional Record:

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| 2008 – present | Assistant Professor, Department of Afroamerican and African Studies and<br>Department of History, University of Michigan |
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Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Randolph is a dynamic, innovative, and rigorous teacher. Her field of African American women’s history forms an important dimension of the Department of Afroamerican and African Studies (DAAS) curriculum where she teaches both survey courses and specialized seminars. Her teaching record is strong and students regard her courses positively, and her Q1 and Q2 ratings averages are strong overall. In her course on the Black Power Movement, for example, Professor Randolph adds to the rich mix of course materials—historical monographs, films, memoirs, speeches, music, poetry, and documents from Black Power organizations—by asking students to design presentations and work collaboratively on particular topics. These kinds of engaged learning strategies create a deeply participatory classroom experience and their success is reflected in the high regard students have for her courses.

Research – Professor Randolph’s research area encompasses African American studies and African American women’s history. Her forthcoming book, Black Feminist Radical, refines the long-standing genre of African American biography, which is a key genre in the interdisciplinary field of Africana studies. In the book, she presents a compelling and well-supported argument that we must nuance our understanding of the Black Power movement, about which we still assume internal racial divides and sexism shut down coalition building, which is of critical importance to African American and American history. This book will surely garner praise for its original subject matter and groundbreaking findings on the intersection of Black Power and feminist organizing. Professor Randolph’s next project, Free Them All: African American Women Exiles in Cuba, is exciting for its transnational scope and for unearthing buried stories of women activists who sought refuge in Cuba in the 1960s and 1970s. This project extends her work into Caribbean history and gender studies.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Florynce “Flo” Kennedy: The Life of a Black Feminist Radical, University of North Carolina Press, forthcoming August 2015.

“Women’s liberation or ... Black liberation, you’re fighting the same enemies: Florynce Kennedy, Black power and feminism” in Want to Start a Revolution? Radical Women in the Black

Revolt, K. Woodward, J. Theoharis, and D. Gore, (eds.), New York University Press, 2009, pp. 223-247.

“Addie Wyatt” in African American National Biography, H. L. Gates and E. B. Higginbotham, (eds.), Cambridge University Press, 2008.

Service – Professor Randolph’s service record reflects her exemplary citizenship as a member of two academic units, and as a member of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. She has met the challenge with grace and commitment. She is currently a co-director of the African American Studies Workshops, establishing protocols and parameters of the workshop as well as hosting distinguished speakers. Throughout, Professor Randolph has evidenced administrative savvy, organizational acumen, and depth of vision. She also served on the DAAS Curriculum Committee and is the advisor for the Honors Program.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A)

“Because of Professor Randolph’s groundbreaking work, however, scholars can now see how Black Power influenced the Women’s Liberation movement, how engaged and conflicted African Americans were in the abortion rights campaigns, the complex source of the fissures between white and black feminists, and how the strategies and tactics honed in the black freedom struggles found their way into a number of liberatory campaigns. ...scholars will no longer be able to examine the women’s movement, Black Power, or reproductive rights histories without going through Black Feminist Radical.”

Reviewer (B)

“Randolph’s well-researched biography provides a powerful and persuasive corrective that restores Kennedy to her rightful place as a pioneering participant, indeed, pivotal catalyst and early organizer for several Women’s and Black Liberation organizations. ...the manuscript breaks new ground in multiple subfields and promises to greatly enhance the professional career and visibility of Professor Randolph.”

Reviewer (C)

“Randolph’s biography of Kennedy is smart, thoughtful, and analytical... Professor Randolph’s new book project, ‘Free Them All:’ African American Women Exiles in Cuba, is incredibly exciting. ...I am convinced that Sherie Randolph would have achieved, if not exceeded, the requirements for tenure and promotion at [my institution].”

Reviewer (D)

“Professor Randolph is one of the most promising emerging scholars...helping to (re)-define the fields of post-war African American history, women’s history and the history of radical protest. ...Randolph’s work is original and thought provoking and has already made its mark on the field of history. ...scholars, both inside and outside the field of history, have taken notice.”

Reviewer (E)

“Ambitious and paradigm shifting, Randolph’s biography of Kennedy provokes us to rethink commonly held assumptions about the modern U.S. feminist movement, the New Left, radical lawyering, and Black nationalism. ...Randolph’s case is very strong. She is a truly exceptional scholar whose career is on an upward trajectory. ... I predict...[Black Feminist Radical] will be one of the most highly acclaimed books in African American political history in 2015.”

Reviewer (F)

“Black Feminist Radical is a major book that will...influence future scholarly work... Its publication by the University of North Carolina Press, the leading university press for African American history, is [a] testament to its strengths... [she has] established herself firmly in that scholarly conversation, as her list of speaking engagements and fellowships demonstrates.”

Reviewer (G)

“Randolph’s intellectual strength is grounded in her ability to introduce new ways of reading and hearing female voices, and especially Kennedy’s, as political activists. She places feminism in conversation with a number of debates and has added another layer on an insightful interpretation of the [sic] feminism and black power.”

Reviewer (H)

“While the past two decades have witnessed the embrace of the concept of ‘intersectionality,’ a good portion of the work has remained in the realm of the conceptual. ...fewer scholars carry out the kind of historical work to show how it was lived in these movements because such work is quite labor-intensive. ... Reading her footnotes attests to the diversity of sources, materials, and disciplinary approaches she mastered, the archives she visited and the papers she personally archived to complete this biography in such a substantive manner.”

Reviewer (I)

“Her portfolio, alongside her CV and research and teaching statements, reveal an engaged and productive scholar and university citizen, and that bodes well for the department and university.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Randolph has demonstrated her value as a scholar, teacher, and citizen. I recommend that Assistant Professor Sherie M. Randolph be promoted to the rank of associate professor of Afroamerican and African studies, with tenure, and associate professor of history, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



Martha E. Pollack

Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs

May 2015