

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

Approved by the
Regents
May 21, 2015

Douglas Trevor, 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.	1999	Harvard University
M.A.	1995	Harvard University
B.A.	1992	Princeton University

Professional Record:

2007 – present	Associate Professor, Department of English Language and Literature, University of Michigan
2005 – 2007	Associate Professor, Department of English, University of Iowa
1999 – 2005	Assistant Professor, Department of English, University of Iowa

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Trevor’s teaching has been exemplary with respect to the variety of courses and levels he has taught, his frequent introduction of new courses into his repertoire, his success on all course-levels, as indicated in both his numerical scores and in the student comments, and his distribution of teaching across the creative writing/literature studies divide. In addition, special notice is given to the number of writers and range of periods he has taught, including undergraduate courses at the 200, 300, and 400 levels, graduate courses at the 600 and 800 level, and undergraduate and MFA fiction workshops.

Research – Commentary on Professor Trevor’s scholarship is overwhelmingly positive. Despite the dazzling range of figures, topics, and historical contexts addressed in his work, the shape of the critical exercise remains consistent across the board. His essays are freshly researched and richly learned explorations of well-defined and consequential topics, problems, and patterns in a range of Early Modern texts and in the recent and classic scholarship on those texts. In addition to his expertise in the Early Modern field, Professor Trevor is also an author of prize-winning prose fiction. He has published two works of fiction: a collection of stories in The Thin Tear in the Fabric of Space, which antedated his hiring, and a novel entitled Girls I Know, published in 2013. He has also compiled a manuscript of nine short stories, collectively titled The Book of Wonders. Individual stories have appeared in such respected journals as *The Iowa Review*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *The Minnesota Review*, *Notre Dame Review*, and *New Letters*. Professor Trevor’s novel now in progress has the feel of commercial success and it is a safe guess that his career as a prose fiction writer will continue its strong upward arc.

Recent and Significant Publications:

“The Private Lives of Trees and Flowers,” in The Return of Theory in Early Modern English Studies, Volume II, P. Cefalu, et al. (eds.), Macmillan, 2014, 23 pages.
Girls I Know (a novel), SixOneSeven Books, 2013.

“Mapping the celestial in Shakespeare’s Tempest and the writings of John Donne,” in Shakespeare and Donne: Generic Hybrids in the Cultural Imaginary, J. H. Anderson and J. C. Vaught (eds.), Fordham University Press, 2013.
The Thin Tear in the Fabric of Space (a collection of short stories), University of Iowa Press, 2005.

Service – Professor Trevor has served as interim associate chair, a member of the departmental Executive Committee; chair of the Ph.D. Admissions Committee, frequent member of the MFA Fiction Admissions Committee, and as a member of two hiring committees. He has been called upon by the university to evaluate fellowship applications for the Rackham Graduate School and the Institute for the Humanities, and was a central organizer of a residency of the Royal Shakespeare Company. On the national level, he has served as a reader for several of the leading presses and journals in his scholarly field and has been elected to a five-year term on the Seventeenth-Century Divisional Committee of the Modern Language Association, a signal honor for a scholar of his generation. The sheer quantity of service would be extraordinary by any standard; the fact that it comprehends two very different professional fields is all-but-unparalleled.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A)

“In my view this is a no brainer. He has opened up an entirely new line in the interpretation of early modern literature. ...this new work... ...shows someone on a distinctly rising curve in his career attainments. The sum total of the research and teaching statements betoken a man at the very top of his game, with notable self-knowledge and a rare sense of what it is that he has achieved and also what he can still do.”

Reviewer (B)

“...it cannot be disputed that Professor Trevor is an energetic writer, in every sense of the term; he is on the strength of the listed awards an excellent teacher, and...he manages to spread his gifts over a variety of disciplines. ...at my own university, a candidate with only half this amount of work would be considered as having the sufficient proof of further industry to confirm the faith awarded in the tenure decision.”

Reviewer (C)

“He is a clearly a major force in your department, inspiring enthusiasm for the literature of this period and training future scholars. ...an impressive array of scholarship on sixteenth- and seventeenth-century literature... To articles such as these – hardworking, professional, building to insight – he adds more risk-taking and creative ventures...”

Reviewer (D)

“It’s wonderful to have been introduced to his work, and a deep pleasure to read. ... He is...a writer of both ideas and people, and tremendously ambitious and accomplished. ... Professor Trevor’s teaching statement admirably covers both halves of his teaching life and seems as earnest, involved, intelligent and deep as you could hope for.”

Reviewer (E)

“...Prof. Trevor is an active, capable and versatile scholar and author... ...the book reflects Prof. Trevor’s rare ability to integrate his engagement in humanistic scholarship with his fictional story-telling. ... this combination of interests and achievements would make Professor Trevor a strong candidate for promotion at any major university.”

Reviewer (F)

“This is a remarkable dossier and evidence of extraordinary fecundity, breadth, and productivity. It is unusual in my experience to receive a dossier equally strong in both literary criticism and fiction. ... This is compelling, unpredictable, original, thought-provoking work. ...Trevor is clearly at the top of his game, launching exciting new ventures even as he is bringing ambitious long-standing projects to fruition.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Trevor has managed the extraordinary task of developing equal excellence within both his chosen scholarly and creative disciplines. The breadth of Professor Trevor’s scholarship across cultural fields and historical periods, combined with creative success that appears on an upward arc demonstrate his value and excellence as both a member of the Department of English, and the University of Michigan at large. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Douglas Trevor be promoted to the rank of professor of English language and literature, 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