

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

Johannes von Moltke, associate professor of Germanic languages and literatures, with tenure, and associate professor of screen arts and cultures, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of Germanic languages and literatures, with tenure, and professor of screen arts and cultures, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D. 1998 Duke University
B.A. 1989 Dartmouth College

Professional Record:

2014 – present Chair, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, University of Michigan
2005 – present Associate Professor, Department of Screen Arts and Cultures, University of Michigan
2004 – present Associate Professor, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, University of Michigan
2004 – 2005 Associate Professor, Program in Film and Video Studies, University of Michigan
1998 – 2004 Assistant Professor, Germanic Languages and Literatures and Program in Film and Video Studies, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor von Moltke is an extremely dedicated teacher and mentor. He has introduced a number of new courses into the curricula of both of his departments, particularly at the undergraduate level. These include his popular “Fascist Cinema.” Students consistently praise his knowledge of and engagement with the material as well as his clear presentations. His pedagogical versatility enlivens the out-of-classroom educational experiences Professor von Moltke has organized for students, including their interaction with Ann Arbor and Toronto Film Festivals, working on study abroad opportunities, or coordinating a symposium on director Robert Altman in which the research of undergraduate students was prominently showcased. Since receiving tenure, he has served on 22 Ph.D. committees in his two departments and he has chaired six of them.

Research – Professor von Moltke has become one of the top scholars in German cultural studies, film theory, and film studies. He is without doubt one of the leading figures to emerge in the area of German film studies since the 1990s. His work is interdisciplinarity at its best. Professor von Moltke’s first book, No Place Like Home: Locations of Heimat in German Cinema (University of California Press, 2005) received a top award from the Modern Language Association. Since then, he has published eight journal articles in the best journals of critical studies, film, and German studies. He has also written twelve book chapters, edited several American and German journal issues, and co-edited two anthologies. His forthcoming

manuscript, Manhattan Transfer, will advance Professor von Moltke's reputation even further as it explores the neglected "middle period" of canonical film theorist Siegfried Kracauer.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Manhattan Transfer: Siegfried Kracauer's American Writings, submitted to the University of California Press (planned 2016 release date coinciding with the 50th anniversary of Kracauer's death).

"Hollywood, Hitler, and historiography: Film history as cultural critique," *Cultural Critique*, forthcoming.

"Theory of the novel: The literary imagination of classical film theory," *October*, 144, 2013, pp. 49-72.

"Sympathy for the devil: Film, history, and the politics of emotion," *New German Critique*, 102, 2007, pp. 17-43.

Service – Professor von Moltke's service in his two departments exceeds the normal expectations of those at the associate professor rank. In addition to serving as chair of the German department, he has served on both executive committees, and for several terms was the associate chair and graduate director in the German department. His committee work in Screen Arts has been just as extensive. Professor von Moltke's service to the profession at large has included serving as executive editor of the *Germanic Review* for eight years and as a board member of the German Studies Association. Professor von Moltke is also on the Advisory Committee for the *Journal of the Modern Language Association*.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A)

"...I have found von Moltke's publications to be uniformly of the very highest quality. They often combine deep archival research with conceptually innovative arguments on topics that require someone with von Moltke's interdisciplinary imagination and facility in two languages and two cultures."

Reviewer (B)

"...I have rarely seen a stronger case for promotion to full professorship than this. Within the last ten years, von Moltke has emerged among his peers as the leading scholar of German film history and film theory."

Reviewer (C)

"What von Moltke has accomplished is at once a cultural portrait and an intellectual history. ... This undertaking is absolutely original in its sensitivity to Kracauer's exchanges with prominent American intellectuals and the importance of his many contributions for leading postwar American periodicals..."

Reviewer (D)

"...Professor von Moltke has been engaging in scholarly effort of a most consequential sort. ...I would have imagined von Moltke as already a full professor: he is one of the smartest and far-reaching scholars I know and his many contributions have been key to the development of cinema studies in its relation to the broader study of contemporary culture..."

Reviewer (E)

“Johannes’ use of the interplay between history and theory to illuminate the largely Germanic cinematic objects on which he writes has gained him increasing recognition as an interdisciplinary scholar of note who publishes not only within national cinema studies, but also in screen studies *tout court*, as well as cultural studies and history.”

Reviewer (F)

“...von Moltke has shown a rare talent to situate his research projects in the context of several (trans)disciplinary configurations and to contribute to these important debates in the humanities through his work as scholar, editor, reviewer, conference organizer, and, presumably, also teacher and mentor.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor von Moltke’s scholarship is internationally recognized. He is a valued teacher and he provides abundant service to two departments and to the broader community. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Johannes von Moltke be promoted to the rank of professor of Germanic languages and literatures, with tenure, and professor of screen arts and cultures, 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