

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

Imran Aijaz, assistant professor of literature, philosophy, and the arts, Department of Literature, Philosophy, and the Arts, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of philosophy, with tenure, Department of Literature, Philosophy, and the Arts, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2009	University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand, Philosophy
M.A.	2005	University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand, Philosophy
B.A.	2003	University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand, Philosophy

Professional Record:

2010 to Present	Assistant Professor of Literature, Philosophy, and the Arts, Department of Literature, Philosophy, and the Arts, University of Michigan-Dearborn
2006 – 2010	Fixed Term Lecturer, Department of Philosophy, University of Auckland

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Aijaz is rated excellent in teaching. He has regularly taught two lower-level philosophy courses and has offered four upper-level courses, including philosophy of religion, Islamic philosophy, and a new course in medieval philosophy. His teaching in Islamic and medieval philosophy has been particularly valuable in diversifying the curriculum of the philosophy program. He has developed and taught an online version of one of his lower-level courses, and he has supervised four Independent Study projects on Islamic philosophy with undergraduate students. The numerical scores on his teaching evaluations have been strong throughout his probationary years and have become even stronger over time, the result of continual enhancement of his teaching based on student and peer feedback. His scores have been mostly higher than those of his tenure-stream colleagues in philosophy and across the department. He is a clear and careful teacher particularly adept at explaining complex ideas.

Research: Professor Aijaz is rated significantly capable in his research. He has published four articles (two of them co-authored) in peer-reviewed scholarly journals and has three book chapters in press in collections edited by leading figures in philosophy of religion. According to external reviewers, Professor Aijaz's work is of high quality, has appeared in prestigious venues, and is breaking new ground by bringing Islam into the scholarship in philosophy of religion. His book under contract with Routledge, Islam: A Contemporary Philosophical Investigation, has the potential to make him a leading expert on Islam, and his arguments that Islam is, philosophically and theologically, a tolerant and pluralistic faith may be influential outside the academy.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Aijaz, Imran. "Traditional Islamic Exclusivism – A Critique," *European Journal for Philosophy of Religion*, vol. 6, no. 2, 2014, pp. 185-209.

Aijaz, Imran. "Some Ruminations on Inculpable Non-belief," *Religious Studies*, vol. 49, issue 3, 2013, pp. 399-419.

Aijaz, Imran. "The Islamic Problem of Religious Diversity," in Religious Perspectives on Religious Diversity, ed. Robert McKim (Brill, 2016). (In press.)

Service: Professor Aijaz is rated competent in his service. He has participated within the philosophy discipline in reviews of LEO lecturers, on the program's self-study, and in the search for a LEO lecturer III. He served for one year as the discipline representative. At the department level, he has served twice on the department executive committee, once as philosophy discipline representative and once as the at-large representative. At the college level, he has served for four semesters as a member of the Academic Standards committee. He is in his second year as faculty advisor to the Muslim Students Association.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "The quality of his work is comparable to what I see with the top level thinkers in his field. And the journals in which he is publishing are some of the top ones in this area."

Reviewer B: "Professor Aijaz publishes highly competent, accessible, and useful work in very good specialty journals and edited collections. His focus on Islam provides welcome diversity to contemporary philosophy of religion, which suffers from an overemphasis on Christianity. I expect that he will continue to publish with regularity as he delves more deeply into the philosophical issues raised by traditional Islam and as he explores revisionary forms of Islamic theology."

Reviewer C: "In sum, I believe Professor Aijaz to be a [junior], strong philosopher whose writing is clear, novel, and at times exciting for the discipline. I foresee his ability to become a well-known presence on the scene of philosophy of religion."

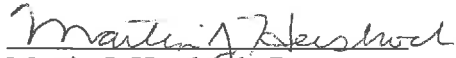
Reviewer D: "Professor Aijaz's scholarship enriches our discourse on Islam and philosophy of religion. His work on non-belief, salvation, and religious diversity in Islamic thought fills a void, as these issues are often overlooked or oversimplified by both philosophers and scholars of Islamic studies. Yet these are important, consequential topics. To be sure, I look forward to reading his future works."

Reviewer E: "Overall, Aijaz's principal research program—Islamic philosophy of religion—couldn't be more relevant. His analytical skills are finely honed. His roots in epistemology are very apt for the project. The articles published so far have launched the work and established momentum. I shall read his book *Islam: a Contemporary Philosophical Investigation* with real interest. It should be a real contribution!"

Reviewer F: "Dr. Aijaz has written expertly on Islamic philosophy and on many of the themes that are at the forefront of philosophy of religion: the epistemology of disagreement, religious diversity or pluralism, the problem of evil, religious exclusivism, and more."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Aijaz is an accomplished teacher and an innovative scholar who also carries a share of the service load. We are very pleased to recommend, with strong support of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters Executive Committee, Imran Aijaz for promotion to associate professor of philosophy, with tenure, Department of Literature, Philosophy, and the Arts, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.



Martin J. Hershey, Dean
College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters



Daniel Little, Chancellor
University of Michigan-Dearborn

May 2016