

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Colin A. Gunckel, assistant professor of American culture, and assistant professor of screen arts and cultures, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of American culture, with tenure, and associate professor of screen arts and cultures, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

2009	Ph.D.	University of California, Los Angeles
2004	M.A.	University of California, Los Angeles
2002	B.A.	University of New Mexico
1997	B.A.	University of Texas, Austin

Professional Record:

2009 – present Assistant Professor, Department of American Culture and Department of Screen Arts and Cultures, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Gunckel has a strong record as an instructor at both the undergraduate and graduate levels and in a variety of classroom formats. He regularly offers core courses in each of his two units as well as in the Program in Latina/o Studies, where he is an affiliate. He teaches numerous courses that address issues of diversity. An increasing number of graduate students in the Department of Screen Arts and Cultures are turning to Professor Gunckel to mentor them and to direct their work. This includes students working in Latino/a media and those working on historical aspects of cinema more generally, which emphasizes Professor Gunckel's impact across media studies more broadly.

Research – Professor Gunckel's work has already had an impact in the fields of Latino/a media studies, film studies, and regional/urban studies. His work breaks fresh ground in the fields of Latino/a media studies as well as in cinema and urban studies, where he has built a reputation as a film and cultural historian as well as an active promoter of study, exhibition, and archival collection of Chicano/a visual works. Professor Gunckel's scholarship addresses and creates dialogue across disciplines and among a variety of constituencies in academia and the art world.

Recent and Significant Publications:

“Ambivalent si(gh)tings: Stardom and silent film in Mexican America,” *Film History*, forthcoming special issue on Mexican silent film culture.

Mexico on Main Street: Transnational Film Culture in Los Angeles before World War II, Rutgers University Press, 2015.

“The Chicano/a photographic: Art and social practice in the Chicano movement,” *American Quarterly*, 67(2), 2015, pp. 377-412.

“Vexing questions: Rethinking the history of East L.A. Punk,” *Aztlán: A Journal of Chicano Studies*, 37(2), 2012, pp. 127-156.

Service – Professor Gunckel has served both his units effectively. He has been elected to the Executive Committees in both units and is currently working with the associate chair in American Culture to assess the department’s contribution to the Race and Ethnicity curriculum. Professor Gunckel also received a grant to develop a diversity workshop in the Department of Screen Arts and Cultures, where he is serving as the director of graduate studies.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A)

“Professor Gunckel has proven to be one of those rare scholars who continually forges new scholarly ground... I consider Professor Gunckel a leading scholar among his peers with respect to the rigor of his archival research, the originality and breadth of his scholarship, and the level of passionate engagement that he sustains in his work as researcher, writer, and curator.”

Reviewer (B)

“...I would definitely include *Mexico on Main Street* on a list of significant publications in Latina/o urban studies and hemispheric film studies. I would also include ‘The War of the Accents’ on a list of publications on early sound cinema, and would recommend ‘*Vexing Questions*’ as a must-read regarding late-twentieth century Latina/o cultural production. ... Dr. Gunckel appears to have maintained a robust teaching portfolio while remaining exceedingly proactive as an editor and prolific as a published scholar.”

Reviewer (C)

“Overall, I find his work to be very strong. It is thoughtful and fluidly written, original, theoretically sound, and authoritative because it is so well researched. ... Professor Gunckel is a cultural studies scholar, and of a very high order. ... In the amount of new ground that [Mexico on Main Street]... is covering it is unlike any other research on this topic and likely to be the standard work on media and Mexicans and Mexican Americans in Los Angeles before World War II.”

Reviewer (D)

“Professor Gunckel’s book is very useful for my own teaching and for my effort to continue to forge a transnational dimension to Latin American and Latino studies. I am certain that it will be a foundational and pivotal text for studies of the early period of Hollywood history as well as a vital piece of the scholarly archive of Latino cultural citizenship. ... [He] shows great future promise as a scholar as evinced in his new projects...”

Reviewer (E)

“From the perspective of a faculty member at a Research I university, it is truly impressive that Dr. Gunckel has such a productive record of teaching and has maintained such an exemplary record of scholarship and service. ...more impressive than the quantity of the publications is the quality. ... His scholarship makes a significant and novel intervention into the scholarship of American Studies, Chicano Studies, and Film Studies.”

Reviewer (F)

“*Mexico on Main Street* is an important book that will undoubtedly make an impact across multiple fields and serve as a model for further studies on localized ‘film culture,’ a concept that is only beginning to be applied rigorously in Latin American film studies. ... Dr. Gunckel has established himself as a major authority on Los Angeles and Mexican American film culture, a leader of a new generation of scholars... Indeed I see no weaknesses in this case... I therefore recommend him without reservations for the promotion for which he has applied at the University of Michigan.”

Reviewer (G)

“He is among the very best in a new generation of Chicano/a Studies and Latino/a Studies scholars whose work forces us to re-consider previous models of American Studies scholarship and practice. ... I can attest that the quantity and quality of work in his dossier would easily meet the requirements of leading research universities (including my own) across the country. ... I feel confident that [*Mexico on Main Street*] ... will quickly be added as essential reading to bibliographies and syllabi dedicated to the study of Los Angeles.”

Reviewer (H)

“He is among the top of a new generation of film historians whose work is having an impact not only within cinema and media studies but in other arenas as well (history, cultural studies, ethnic studies, and area studies). ... Professor Gunckel would most certainly be awarded tenure and promotion at my university. His scholarship indicates superior intellectual attainment, originality of critical thought, and will have a clear and transformative influence in the interdisciplinary areas in which he works. His leadership role in the arts and among his peers in new research areas will likewise lay a foundation for future research.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Gunckel is a productive and accomplished scholar who will continue to produce outstanding research over the course of a long career. His contributions to the teaching and service missions of the college have been substantial. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Colin A. Gunckel be promoted to the rank of associate professor of American culture, with tenure, and associate professor of screen arts and cultures, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



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

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