

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

Victor R. Mendoza, assistant professor of women's studies, and assistant professor of English language and literature, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of women's studies, with tenure, and associate professor of English language and literature, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2007	University of California, Berkeley
M.A.	2001	University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
B.A.	1998	Muhlenberg College

Professional Record:

2009 – present	Assistant Professor, Departments of Women's Studies and English Language and Literature, University of Michigan;
2008 – 2009	Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of English, Gettysburg College
2007 – 2008	Chancellor's Post-doctoral Fellow, Department of English, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – By all standards, Professor Mendoza is a highly dedicated and exceptional teacher. His teaching excellence is demonstrated by stellar course evaluations, the impressive quality of his syllabi, and classroom observation reports. Notably, Professor Mendoza has developed and taught eleven distinct course syllabi, a substantial teaching record that spans courses in feminist theory, literature, and cultural theory at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Moreover, he teaches core courses that are required for the undergraduate women's studies major curriculum, and his courses often incorporate difficult subject matter. At the graduate level, Professor Mendoza has served on thirteen dissertation committees in American culture, English, history, and women's studies.

Research – Professor Mendoza's scholarship examines U.S. sexual and racial regulation during the imperial-colonial presence of the United States in the Philippines at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. His first book, Metroimperial Intimacies, is expected to have an unusually large impact for a scholar's first book. The manuscript is praise-worthy in many respects, including the unprecedented richness of the interdisciplinary scholarship; the methodological originality in examining a range of cultural products as an archive when the evidentiary record is sparse; and the adept blending of different theoretical frameworks, such as critical race theory, queer theory, post-colonial theory, and psychoanalytic theory.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Metroimperial Intimacies: Fantasy, Racial-Sexual Governance, and the Philippines in United States Imperialism, 1899-1913, "Perverse Modernities Series," J. Halberstam and L. Lowe, (eds.), Duke University Press, 2015.

“Little brown students and the homoerotics of ‘white love,’” *Asian American Sub-Genres, 1853-1941*, H. Hsu (ed.), special double issue of *Genre: Forms of Discourse and Culture*, 39(4), 2007, pp. 65-83.

“‘Come buy:’ The crossing of consumer and sexual desire in Christina Rossetti’s *Goblin Market*,” *ELH* (formerly *English Literary History*), 73(4), 2006, pp. 913-947.

“A queer nomadology of Jessica Hagedorn’s *Dogeaters*,” *American Literature*, 77(4), 2005, pp. 815-845.

Service – Professor Mendoza has a wide-ranging service record within the Departments of Women’s Studies and English Language and Literature, as well as in the wider university community. He has served on both departmental Executive Committees, an English Diversity Committee, a Women’s Studies Taskforce on a New Gender and Health Major, and the Diversity in Graduate Education Program in English. At the Institute for Research on Women and Gender (IRWG), Professor Mendoza recently co-founded a new program area on Race, Colonialism, and Sexuality, and he will serve as the next director of IRWG’s Community of Scholars Program.

#### External Reviewers:

##### Reviewer (A)

“...*Metroimperial Intimacies*...is a work of contextually sophisticated scholarship that makes a bold contribution to the fields of American Studies, gender and sexuality studies, and Philippine Studies. ...[the book] charts the U.S. regulation of sexuality and the proliferation of cultural and sexual fantasy of the Philippine people... With his compelling insights, Mendoza’s original scholarship has deepened our understanding of racial-sexual governance of the Philippines and the fantasies of interracial intimacy reverberate in American cultural imagination.”

##### Reviewer (B)

“The book is a standout in part because Mendoza is such a rigorous researcher. It is rare for a first book in Cultural Studies, an interdisciplinary field, to display deep, broad work with historical archives, and especially with undiscovered or little-known ones. Yet Mendoza discovers treasure troves of legal documents, newspaper items, fictional and dramatic texts, and personal letters...”

##### Reviewer (C)

“I consider him to be among the top...scholars of...people who are in pre-tenure or recently tenured academic positions. ... Mendoza writes with luminous grace and a clear prose that does not rely on jargon to give his argument heft and weight. He systematically yet elegantly lays out his argument in a systematic and thorough manner so as to persuade and provoke the reader. Mendoza proffers a work that is not only rich in elegant readings, archival discoveries, and theoretical insights but also whose sweeping analysis builds a picture of U.S. - Philippines relations that is not only refreshing but startlingly brilliant.”

##### Reviewer (D)

“The exhaustive archival research that he has done across the different chapters of the book not only forms the backbone of his successful argument, but also provides a wealth of primary source material that will be enormously useful for future historically-oriented scholarship from

any number of fields.”

Reviewer (E)

“In terms of his standing nationally and internationally, he is a regular on the U.S. conference circuit and is a ‘known quantity’ in a variety of interdisciplinary professional associations. I can only estimate that his esteem will grow beyond the boundaries of the U.S. academy given the global nature of his topic and the significance of his arguments in *Metroimperial Intimacies*.”

Reviewer (F)

“The labor involved in bringing to light and together these disparate texts is made all the more noteworthy by the fact that Prof. Mendoza’s renders them *interesting*. This is a book, in other words, that has no canonical, readily recognizable, ‘obvious’ texts in it. And yet, chapter after chapter holds readerly interest and reveals fascinating insights – largely due to Prof. Mendoza’s careful contextualizations of both theme and genre...”

Reviewer (G)

“After reading *Metroimperial Intimacies*, I now believe it is the most significant book to ever be published in the area of Philippine-American cultural studies and the history of sexuality in the Philippines and metropole (US) in the context of the often forgotten (Spanish-Cuban-) Philippine-American War(s) and its aftermath.”

Reviewer (H)

“Mendoza’s study of race-sex governance through culture is, therefore, groundbreaking to the extent that his analysis is able to grasp the meanings and practices of imperial control in a new era of American expansion not simplistically as an account of race-sex bias, prejudice, or injustice, but as an unfolding of events and processes of social organization and management that were constituted through fantasies, desires, perversions, and intimate connections between and among metropolitan and colonized bodies.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Mendoza’s scholarship is boldly interdisciplinary and methodologically creative; his teaching is characterized by a deep and sustained commitment to providing the highest caliber of educational experience for students; and his service contributions have been generous and thoughtful. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Victor R. Mendoza be promoted to the rank of associate professor of women’s studies, with tenure, and associate professor of English language and literature, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



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

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