

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

Wang Zheng, associate professor of women's studies, with tenure, and associate professor of history, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of women's studies, with tenure, and professor of history, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1995	University of California, Davis
M.A.	1988	University of California, Davis
B.A.	1982	Shanghai Normal University

Professional Record:

2008 – present	Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Michigan
2004 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Women's Studies, University of Michigan
2002 – present	Associate Research Scientist, Institute for Research on Women and Gender, and Faculty Associate, Center for Chinese Studies, University of Michigan
2000 – 2001	Fellow, Stanford Humanities Center, Stanford University
2000 – 2006	Academic Advisor, "Creating Women's and Gender Studies in China," national project funded by the Ford Foundation.
1996 – 2001	Affiliated Scholar, Institute for Research on Women and Gender, Stanford University
1995	Lecturer, Women's Studies, University of California, Davis

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Wang is a committed teacher who routinely teaches two courses in Women's Studies annually. Her teaching broadly covers topics on gender in modern Chinese history and global feminisms. In addition, she recently developed a new core course for Women's Studies minors entitled "Gender, Race, and Nation." As a testament to her teaching impact, graduate students in one of her classes mobilized themselves to form the Center for Chinese Studies' Interdisciplinary Workshop, providing an opportunity for peer review of works-in-progress.

Research – Professor Wang has been a remarkably prodigious scholar who has established herself as one of the leading scholars on feminism in twentieth-century China. Her forthcoming book, Finding Women in the State, makes a critically significant contribution by highlighting the roles played by women and feminist activists in China's socialist movement. She has received funding for her work from a variety of prestigious organizations, including three awards from the Henry Luce Foundation and six awards from the Ford Foundation, among others. Taken together, Professor Wang's scholarship is marked by in-depth archival research, broadly creative use of historical cultural material, and a tenacious determination to uncover the stories of

feminist activists in modern Chinese history and the feminist agenda they promoted.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Finding Women in the State: A Socialist Feminist Revolution in the People's Republic of China, 1949-1964, University of California Press, forthcoming.

"Feminist Sinologies: A Thematic Cluster," co-edited with N. Z. Da, *Signs*, 40(3), 2015.

"Chinese History: A Useful Category of Gender Analysis," with G. Hershatter, *The American Historical Review*, 113(5), 2008, pp. 1404-1421.

"State Feminism? Gender and Socialist State Formation in Maoist China," *Feminist Studies*, 31(3), 2005, pp. 519-551 (best article prize of the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians).

Service – Professor Wang has served as an Executive Committee member in the Department of Women's Studies, the Institute for Research on Women and Gender, and the Center for Chinese Studies. Additionally, she served a three-year appointment as an associate director for the Center for Chinese Studies (2011-2014). Professor Wang's service in fostering international collaborations is simply remarkable. Since 2005, she has co-directed the Fudan Joint Institute for Gender Studies at Fudan University, involving numerous Michigan faculty members and graduate students in cross-cultural exchanges of teaching and scholarship.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A)

"As I have been told over and over by Chinese women's studies professors, no US scholar has been more important, more available, more active than Professor Wang in working on behalf of Chinese women's studies scholarship and institution building."

Reviewer (B)

"Professor Wang Zheng's enormous list of publications, her teaching record and her service to the field are impressive. Her broad interests speak for themselves: she is not only one of the most important scholars in Chinese women's studies with a very broad range, spanning the entire long 20th century, but her particular approach to research, historically grounded on the one hand, and empirically situated, on the other, thus combining theory and practice, as she commutes between the U.S. and China and participates in feminist scholarly communities in both countries, is very exceptional and extremely conducive to her scholarship and teaching..."

Reviewer (C)

"I cannot exaggerate the significance or impact that Wang Zheng has achieved in her lifelong commitment to legitimating scholarship in China. There is simply nobody who has had a comparable impact in this endeavor. ...this level and quality of global scholarly disciplinary development should itself more than establish Wang Zheng as a foremost senior scholar in Chinese feminist studies."

Reviewer (E)

"Wang Zheng is one of the best-known and most active of a new generation of educated Chinese women who wrestle with the problem of how to theorize gender questions in post-Mao China. ...[she] is a truly transnational scholar whose written work is both utterly original and generative."

It opens new worlds for readers across the usual boundaries of geography, language and discipline. Her scholarly organizing has changed the shape of gender studies in China.”

Reviewer (F)

“Wang Zheng’s research and publications during the period since being awarded tenure establish her as among the most, if not *the* most, prominent historian of feminism in the People’s Republic of China. ... In writing a history of Chinese socialism through the lens of gender, the book makes a powerful intervention in histories of Maoist China. Most importantly, it insists on recognizing the debates, conflicts, and fissures within the PRC leadership, effectively challenging common-place and scholarly portrayals of it as monolithic, seamless, and hegemonic.”

Reviewer (G)

“I am pleased to comment on a body of work that I found, upon close reading, impressive in its theoretical interventions, analytical acuity, and ethnographic and historical complexity. Professor Wang’s work stands out as far and above the best work I have read in recent years on feminism in China. She also makes stellar contributions to studies of the state and national political culture. Her achievements rank at the top of the best scholars in the multi-disciplinary field of Women and Gender Studies.”

Reviewer (H)

“Professor Wang has produced an impressive portfolio of scholarship; a portfolio that elevates our knowledge of women and gender in China and women’s studies more generally, while simultaneously gaining recognition in many academic disciplines, including political science. She is one of the top three scholars I think of when I am asked to direct students or colleagues to work in her field, and her work is the first I turn to when I want to bridge gender in China with Chinese politics.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Wang is a highly influential and prodigious scholar, a dedicated teacher, and a tireless advocate of cross-cultural exchanges of scholarship and teaching. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Wang Zheng be promoted to the rank of professor of women’s studies, with tenure, and professor of history, without 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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