

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

Deirdre L. de la Cruz, assistant professor of Asian languages and cultures, and assistant professor of history, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of Asian languages and cultures, with tenure, and associate professor of history, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2006	Columbia University
M.Phil.	2000	Columbia University
M.A.	1998	Columbia University
B.A.	1995	University of Washington

Professional Record:

2009 – present	Assistant Professor, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures and Department of History, University of Michigan
2006 – 2009	Post-doctoral Fellow, Michigan Society of Fellows, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor de la Cruz has been very successful at expanding course offerings in Southeast Asian studies in the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures (ALC). Her training as an anthropologist has expanded ALC’s disciplinary focus beyond language and literature. A course she designed on Christianity in Asia, called “Jesus Comes to Asia,” has been particularly successful. In the Department of History, she has contributed to the curriculum through her course offerings on Southeast Asia and her participation in the core curriculum for History majors. Professor de la Cruz is an extremely successful teacher by any standard, including remarkably high numbers on the student evaluations of her courses.

Research – Professor de la Cruz is frequently placed among the top in her cohort and compared favorably with some of the leading scholars of the history of Christianity and the Philippines. Her book, Mother Figured, is a groundbreaking contribution to scholarship on the Philippines and on religion more broadly. Erudite and original, it promises to be a landmark study in history, anthropology, religious studies, and Asian studies. Professor de la Cruz received high marks from the external reviewers for her unique combination of empirical richness and theoretical sophistication. They praised the ambitious geographical scope, the theoretical acumen, the richness of the archival details, the methodological reflexivity and, above all, the elegance and lucidity of Professor de la Cruz’s prose.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Mother Figured: Marian Apparitions and the Making of a Filipino Universal, University of Chicago Press, 2015.

“Introduction: Figures of contemporary Philippine modernity,” and chapter co-edited with S. Lahiri in Figures of Modernity in Southeast Asia, J. Barker, et al. (eds.), University of Hawai'i Press, 2013.

“From the power of prayer to *Prayer Power: On religion and revolt in the Catholic Philippines*,” in Southeast Asian Perspectives on Power, L. Wilson, et al. (eds.), Routledge Press, 2012.

“The past and present of the future perfect in anthropology and history,” in Anthrohistory: Unsettling Knowledge, Questioning Discipline, D. W. Cohen, et al. (eds.), University of Michigan Press, 2011.

Service – Professor de la Cruz has been appointed to serve on administrative committees every year since joining the tenure-track faculty in 2009, except for her year at the Institute for the Humanities. She has provided significant contributions to the undergraduate curricula by sitting on the Curriculum Committees in both departments. She also served on both departments' Graduate Program Committees, as well as the Executive Committee of the Doctoral Program in Anthropology and History (2014-present). Professor de la Cruz is a consultant for Philippine Exhibit Remediation at the Museum of Anthropology, and she organized an international conference on the Museum's Dean C. Worcester photographic collection (2013). Professor de la Cruz has served on review committees for Barbour, FLAS, and Fulbright Fellowships (2009, 2012, 2013), on the Center for Southeast Asian Studies Executive Committee (2009-2011), and as a faculty advisor for a Rackham Interdisciplinary Workshop (2014-2015). She is a faculty advisor to the Philippine Studies Group and chair of the Philippine Studies Endowment Committee.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A)

“De la Cruz's scholarship demonstrates serious purpose, reliable research, and deeply thoughtful analysis consistent with cutting-edge scholarship on religions.”

Reviewer (B)

“Clearly all the courses she teaches draw in inspiring ways on her range and depth of scholarship, and they are imaginatively and positively constructed in terms of the learning needs of students. ... [Mother Figured] is a brilliantly original study of global Catholicism from the often surprising perspective of the Philippine elite and nationalist culture...”

Reviewer (C)

“De la Cruz is intellectually ambitious and unafraid of big questions, which she addresses with the concrete, grounded information of person, place and date. She uses the tools of history to consider matters of great interest to anthropologists, political scientists, and students of religious studies, systematically avoiding easy answers. Her work is interdisciplinary to the very core. Michigan can be proud of this brilliant scholar whom it has nourished and brought to maturity and wisdom.”

Reviewer (D)

“Dr. De la Cruz already has a growing reputation among Philippinists and Southeast Asianists as a rising star. She is one of the most promising area-studies scholars to have emerged in the last twenty years, and ranks among the finest of her cohort...”

Reviewer (E)

“*Mother Figured* is an impressive work of scholarship, and a significant contribution to the literature on the history of Christianity in the modern world. ... I would include her book on a list of important studies by these and other scholars on how Christianity both adapts to and inflects the ways in which individuals and societies experience modernity.”

Reviewer (F)

“...de la Cruz works in an area that is theoretically exciting and evolving, contributing to it a distinctive voice, theoretical acumen, and a very fine historical sensibility. The area she works in and she in particular speak to broad questions about modernity, secularism, critique, and post-secularism. She is a gifted historian and ethnographer and a superb writer.”

Reviewer (G)

“[Professor de la Cruz] has now emerged, I believe, as the finest scholar of her generation in the fields of history, religion, anthropology, and cognate disciplines, pursuing research in Southeast Asian studies. ... The spirit of her work is genuinely interdisciplinary. I fully expect Deirdre’s book to have far-reaching impact in a number of fields, including history, religion, anthropology, women’s studies, and media studies.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor de la Cruz is a highly valued member of both the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures and the Department of History, providing a model for her colleagues in the bold directions of her scholarship, the creativity of her teaching, and her dedication to the university. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Deirdre L. de la Cruz be promoted to the rank of associate professor of Asian languages and culture, with tenure, and associate professor of history, with tenure, in the 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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