

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

Rita C.K. Chin, associate professor of history, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of history, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1999	University of California, Berkeley
M.A.	1992	University of Washington
B.A.	1990	University of Washington

Professional Record:

2008 – present	Associate Professor, Department of History, University of Michigan
2003 – 2008	Assistant Professor, Department of History, University of Michigan
1999 – 2003	Assistant Professor, Department of History, Oberlin College

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Chin is a successful undergraduate teacher and mentor of graduate students, whose courses occupy an important place in the department’s European history curriculum. She has taught a wide range of courses at the undergraduate (five distinct courses) and graduate levels (three distinct courses) since her promotion to associate professor. Her courses encompass a large lecture course on Europe since 1945 as well as smaller lecture courses and seminars on race and immigration in Europe, Muslims in Europe, the history of the Cold War, and the history of socialism and communism.

Research – Professor Chin is a scholar of German and comparative European history, whose expertise is in intellectual, cultural, and political history. She is the author of one highly regarded monograph, The Guest Worker Question in Postwar Germany (2007), a forthcoming book, The Crisis of Multiculturalism in Europe, and a definitive co-edited volume, After the Nazi Racial State: Difference and Democracy in Germany and Europe (2009). Professor Chin is also the author of numerous articles and book chapters on topics of race, immigration, gender, and multiculturalism in German and European history.

Recent and Significant Publications:

The Crisis of Multiculturalism in Europe: A History, Princeton University Press, forthcoming 2017.

“Thinking difference in postwar Germany: Some epistemological obstacles around ‘race,’” in Migration, Memory and Diversity in Germany, C. Wilhelm (ed.), Berghahn Books, 2016.

“European new lefts, global connections, and the problem of ‘difference,’” in A New Insurgency: The Port Huron Statement and Its Times, H. Brick and G. Parker (eds.), University of Michigan Press, 2015.

“Turkish women, West German feminists, and the gendered discourse on Muslim cultural difference,” *Public Culture*, 22(3), 2010, pp. 557-581.

Service – Professor Chin has fulfilled significant service tasks since her promotion to tenure, including a one-year term on the Department of History’s Executive Committee and convener of the European caucus in History. In the wider university arena, she has served on the Center for European Studies Steering Committee, fellowship panels for the Institute for Research on Women and Gender, the International Institute, and Rackham Graduate School. Most recently, Professor Chin has assumed leadership positions in her department as the director of graduate studies (2016-18) and fellowships chair/associate director of graduate studies (2013-2014, 2016).

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A)

“In many ways, Professor Chin’s new book manuscript, The Rise and Fall of Multiculturalism in Europe: A Critical History, represents a key development from her previous work about race and difference in Germany. Professor Chin has long played a crucial role in transforming the politically charged discussion about race in Germany. ... At this point, Professor Chin really should not be thought of exclusively as a German historian, but truly as a Europeanist. Her new book project on multiculturalism is a bold and ambitious undertaking, which has required her to master and synthesize multiple (and vast) historiographies. The comparative approach is original and important, and it offers extensive coverage of a timely topic.”

Reviewer (B)

“This volume [After the Racial State] goes a long way in challenging historians in the field to think again about the place of race in postwar European politics and society. ... The book has been widely and very positively reviewed, and is used in a number of upper level undergraduate and graduate seminars, including my own. ... To my mind her forthcoming book On the Rise and Fall of Multiculturalism in Europe...is her most ambitious and engaging thus far. It’s a well researched and ably written comparative study of the arrival and partial integration on non-Europeans to Britain, France and (West) Germany.”

Reviewer (C)

“Professor Chin is a leading expert on the history of ‘race’ and racism in postwar Germany and Europe. ... within the smaller field of historians of postwar Germany, she is perhaps the most well known authority in the United States on the ways in which West Germans have (or have not) engaged with questions of ‘race,’ ‘racism,’ and ‘racialization.’ Professor Chin’s insistence on the importance of these concepts for postwar German history have had an enormous impact on the field. ... Chin’[s] work succeeds in deconstructing established master narratives of postwar German history by compelling all of us to consider issues of ethnic or cultural difference in our respective research. ... Chin’s recent work has moved from this more German-centered focus...to a pan-European perspective. ... [The Rise and Fall of Multiculturalism in Europe] is the only recent synthesis (to my knowledge) that brings together postwar Europe’s tortured histories of debating and making sense of cultural and ethnic diversity. The book will be indispensable for anybody seeking to gain an overview of the main themes, problems, and turning points regarding histories of immigration in Europe after 1945.”

Reviewer (D)

“Her research and scholarship address issues of pressing importance in contemporary German (indeed European) society and provide much needed historical perspective on current questions

of migration, immigration, racial thinking, difference, and xenophobia. ...Chin's co-authored volume, After the Nazi Racial State[,] constitutes a major and original intervention into the study of post-war German society by demonstrating the continuities (rather than the ruptures) with the pre-war years and through the Nazi period on the question of race."

Reviewer (E)

"From her earliest *Gastarbeiter* research, Chin's scholarship has evidenced an amazing combination of meticulous archival sleuthing and original interpretation. ... Chin's strength lies in her skill in identif[y]ing submerged race-based assumptions in order to subject them to analysis within broader theoretical and ideological frames of reference. ... The Rise and Fall of Multiculturalism...makes a unique contribution to a topic that has spawned scores of books... Given the vast literature on multicultural citizenship and integration, it's astonishing that no other transnational history of controversies about these topics exists."

Reviewer (F)

"I don't think there is any doubt that, on the basis of this manuscript and other achievements, Professor Chin easily and fully deserves this promotion. ...[she] has exceeded the requirement that she show 'clear evidence of sufficient progress in an outstanding research program.'"

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Chin is a widely recognized scholar of modern German and European history, whose work on immigration, race, and multiculturalism has been field defining. She is a very successful undergraduate teacher and mentor of graduate students, and she holds significant leadership positions in the Department of History and in the wider university community. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Rita C.K. Chin be promoted to the rank of professor of history, 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

May 2017