

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

Hakki E. Çipa, assistant professor of Near Eastern studies, and assistant professor of history, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of Near Eastern studies, with tenure, and associate professor of history, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

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| Ph.D. | 2007 | Harvard University |
| M.Phil. | 2000 | Birmingham University |
| M.A. | 1997 | Boğaziçi University |
| B.A. | 1994 | Boğaziçi University |

Professional Record:

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| 2011 – present | Assistant Professor, Department of Near Eastern Studies and Department of History, University of Michigan |
| 2008 – 2011 | Assistant Professor, Department of Central Eurasian Studies, Indiana University |
| 2005 – 2008 | Lecturer, Department of Near Eastern Languages and Cultures and Department of Central Eurasian Studies, Indiana University |

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Çipa is a highly successful teacher of considerable range, encompassing Eurasian and Turkish history, pre-modern global history, and the history of social movements and revolution. He has enjoyed high success rates in his teaching as student evaluations consistently award him high scores for his courses. Professor Çipa takes his pedagogical mission seriously, and works to build critical analysis skills in his students by tailoring assignments to that end. Given his exceptional linguistic and archival skills, he is poised to make a major contribution to graduate training. He has served on four dissertation committees and one preliminary exam committee.

Research – Professor Çipa has a pivotal place at the intersection of Eurasian and Middle Eastern history, early modern history, and global history. His research focuses on social and political history. His forthcoming book, The Making of Selim, makes two significant contributions to a young and dynamic field in which many fundamental questions are still unresolved. Using meticulous and innovative archival research, Professor Çipa provides the first account of a crucial turning point in Ottoman history, which was the ascent of Selim I, who arguably initiated the transformation into an Islamic Empire. He also engages a new trend that studies historiography as a presentist and political endeavor, showing how Selim’s image was developed and transformed by various agendas in different contexts. Based on an astounding wealth of primary, mostly unpublished sources, Professor Çipa’s work provides new grounds for comparative work in early modern European, Mediterranean, and Middle Eastern studies. The new attention to ideology on one hand, and to the factor of popular violence on the other, prepares the foundation for his highly promising next project on religion and popular uprisings.

Recent and Significant Publications:

“Empire or faith: Stretching the boundaries of the Sharia in Ottoman institutional practice,” in The Turks and Islam: A Cultural and Political Journey from the God of Heaven to Allah, K. Silay (ed.), Indiana University Press, forthcoming 2017.

The Making of Selim: Succession, Legitimacy, and Memory in the Early Modern Ottoman World, Indiana University Press, forthcoming 2017.

“‘The lesser day of resurrection’: Ottoman interpretations of the Istanbul earthquake of 1509,” in Catastrophes and the Apocalyptic in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance, J. R. Lara (ed.), Tempe and Turnhout: Arizona Center for Medieval and Renaissance Studies and Brepols Press, forthcoming 2017.

Writing History at the Ottoman Court: Editing the Past, Fashioning the Future, co-edited with E. Fetvacı, Indiana University Press, 2013 (Turkish translation: Osmanlı Sarayında Tarih yazımı, Tarih Vakfı Yurt Yayınları, 2014).

Service – Professor Çipa has served on departmental committees with enthusiasm and energy. He served three years on the Near Eastern Studies (NES) Curriculum Committee, assisting with a complete restructuring of the curriculum. During the restructuring, he worked as a conduit between the committee and faculty members. For two years, Professor Çipa has served as an undergraduate advisor in NES, helping majors and minors navigate the newly implemented curriculum. He served on the NES Lecture Series Committee and on Language Lecturer Review committees for the Turkish language. In the Department of History, Professor Çipa served on the Fellowships Committee and was recently appointed to the Undergraduate Committee, which includes undergraduate advising duties. These rather heavy assignments reflect the departments’ views of him as an engaged and successful teacher and colleague.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A)

“The Making of Selim is a remarkable piece of work. ...Çipa’s completion and publication of a major and innovative contribution to Ottoman history, coupled with evidence of a new research project underway in the three new exploratory articles, would be more than sufficient for tenure and promotion at [my institution]....”

Reviewer (B)

“...I cannot recall another Ottomanist history that combines and manipulates such a dense matrix of primary narrative sources in order to provide such a nuanced picture of a sultan’s rise to power. ...Çipa merits tenure and promotion on the basis of his promising research program and the strength, originality, and degree of difficulty of his book on the ‘creation’ and (evolving) commemoration of an Ottoman sultan.”

Reviewer (C)

“...I find Dr. Çipa’s work to be interesting and technically skillful. His study of Sultan Selim I (r.1512-1520) provides a twist on the ‘great man’... by seeking to look as much at how we know as at what we know.”

Reviewer (D)

“There are a handful of Turkish-language studies of Selim, but these tend to be narrative biographies of either the ‘bugles and a tiger’ or the ‘nationalist mythology’ sort. The book’s subject is therefore welcome, and the approach is welcome, as well.”

Reviewer (E)

“Not every academic has the set of personal qualities that Professor Çipa shows. He seems to be genuinely good at collaboration—bringing people together, encouraging joint efforts, publishing projects with colleagues, and also collaborative teaching.”

Reviewer (F)

“Çipa should be commended for his lucid and elegant style, his impeccable attention to detail, his careful and comprehensive documentation and his mastery over Ottoman Turkish – the book is indeed a delightful read! I am, therefore, confident that The Making of Selim will become a model work on the formation of a major early modern empire in both ‘fact’ and ‘memory,’ and it will earn Çipa a well-deserved and prominent place among...early modern Ottomanists of his generation...”

Reviewer (G)

“There is no doubt in my mind that Dr. Çipa would be granted tenure at [my institution]. ...the work he has done is of very high quality, at once imaginative and meticulously researched. I believe he has a distinguished career before him and enthusiastically recommend him for tenure and promotion to the rank of Associate Professor at the University of Michigan.”

Reviewer (H)

“...The Making of Selim will be received as a landmark contribution to Ottoman history and historiography, a study that upends received notions about the sixteenth century Ottoman Empire and the image we have created of its most prominent rulers. In sum, I judge the work to be important and original.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Çipa’s research and teaching make significant contributions to the Departments of Near Eastern Studies and History. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Hakki E. Çipa be promoted to the rank of associate professor of Near Eastern studies, with tenure, and associate 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