

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

Daniel S. Hack, associate professor of English language and literature, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of English language and literature, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1998	University of California, Berkeley
B.A.	1987	Yale University

Professional Record:

2007 – present	Associate Professor, Department of English Language and Literature, University of Michigan
2005 – 2007	Associate Professor, Department of English, University at Buffalo, State University of New York
1998 – 2005	Assistant Professor, Department of English, University at Buffalo, State University of New York

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Hack is a successful and admired teacher who demonstrates considerable thoughtfulness in developing innovative approaches to undergraduate pedagogy. Professor Hack has taught twenty courses in the Department of English Language and Literature, and thirteen of these were at the undergraduate level. Student evaluations of his undergraduate courses have been consistently favorable. “Infectious” and “contagious” are terms that appear frequently to explain Professor Hack’s success in maintaining a high level of interest in 800-page novels that typically consume three to four weeks of the term. Professor Hack demonstrates a noteworthy combination of intellectual generosity and rigor in his work with graduate students both in the classroom and on dissertation committees. He is currently directing one dissertation committee and has served as a member on a dozen others. Student evaluations of his upper level courses are strong across the board.

Research – Professor Hack is a leading figure in the English literature subfield of Victorian studies. His recent work has focused largely on the cross-fertilizations among popular British writings in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the African American literary tradition. His most recent book, Reaping Something New, has received uniformly glowing reviews from senior scholars in the field for its path-breaking contributions to transatlantic English studies. Professor Hack is well-positioned to help shape the directions of his fields over the next decade. His new book and editorial appointment will vault him into considerable prominence as a field-shaping presence in Victorian studies. Professor Hack received the 2012 Donald Gray Prize for best essay published in Victorian studies from the North American Victorian Studies Association (honorable mention in 2008). He also received a University of Michigan Institute for Humanities Faculty Fellowship (2011-2012) and a Michigan Humanities Award (2015). In fall 2016, Professor Hack was selected by Cambridge University Press from over a dozen invited contenders to edit the highly respected journal, *Victorian Literature and Culture*, for a five-year term.

### Recent and Significant Publications:

Reaping Something New: African American Transformations of Victorian Literature, Princeton University Press, 2016.

“The canon in front of them: African American deployments of ‘The Charge of the Light Brigade,’” in Early African American Print Culture, L. Cohen and J. Stein (eds.), University of Pennsylvania Press, 2012, pp. 178-191.

“Wild charges: The Afro-Haitian ‘Charge of the Light Brigade,’” *Victorian Studies*, 54(2), 2012, pp. 199-226.

“Close reading at a distance: The African-Americanization of Bleak House,” *Critical Inquiry*, 34(4), 2008, pp. 729-753. Also in Global Dickens, J. O. Jordan and N. Perera (eds.), The Library of Essays on Charles Dickens, Ashgate, 2012.

Service – Professor Hack has served conscientiously and with distinction in a number of departmental leadership roles, including director of graduate studies and member of the Executive Committee. He is widely admired in his service contributions for his judiciousness, fair-mindedness, and sound judgement. His professional service includes active participation in the North American Victorian Studies Association (serving as NAVSA board member) and the Modern Language Association (co-chairing the Victorian/Early Twentieth Century Forum).

### External Reviewers:

#### Reviewer (A)

“...Reaping Something New...is one of the most exciting and provocative books I have read in the past 15 years... The work impresses me as a major transformation of our understanding of nineteenth-century literature on both sides of the Atlantic, and of the field of the transatlantic, to the extent of prodding us to reconsider the very meaning of the terms ‘Victorian literature’ and ‘African-American literature.’”

#### Reviewer (B)

“I have no doubt that this book will have a lasting effect not only on the fields of Victorian literature, American literature, and especially African American literature, but also as a method for how [to] read literary afterlives. Prof. Hack has established himself at the center of the nineteenth-century Anglo-American literary crossroads already with the many articles he has published, with his professional presentations, with his regular and highly visible contributions to the scholarship on the transatlantic nineteenth-century circulation of print.”

#### Reviewer (C)

“Professor Hack has assembled a fine record of publications, equal or superior to that of any Victorianist in his cohort. ... In his journal publications and lectures, Hack has emerged as one of the leaders of this movement, and his new book will confirm his stature as one of the most influential figures working in the nineteenth-century division of the field.”

#### Reviewer (D)

“The argument of Reaping Something New is a simple, but stunningly important one: that African American writers took Victorian prose and poetry and adapted it to their own ends. ... [it] is a highly original and groundbreaking work of literary study, encompassing both detailed

literary history and insightful interpretive work. It couldn't have been carried out without a deep knowledge of, and immersion in, the nuances and textual details of a whole range of both English and African American texts. Its demonstration of their imbrication, and the thoughtful analysis of its implications, is a major contribution to transatlantic literary studies."

Reviewer (E)

"It is hard to imagine a more distinguished set of achievements for a mid-career scholar earning promotion to the senior rank. Though Hack is already a visible figure in and beyond Victorian studies, the book will amplify his renown in Victorianist circles, cement his reputation as an African Americanist of consequence, and bring his interdisciplinary methods and achievements to the attention of historians, comparatists, and many others. ... As a contributor to African American studies, Hack offers a compelling argument for an anti-hierarchical form of intertextuality which is neither imitation nor homage but, rather, a distinctive feature of the African American 'tradition' as Hack conceives it."

Reviewer (F):

"I believe that the term of art for this particular case for promotion to full professor is 'no brainer.' We have here a candidate who has entered an entirely new field, African-American literature, and used his training as a Victorianist to open up lines of inquiry that dozens of scholars overlooked for decades, because Victorianists and African-Americanists worked in isolation from each other and with little knowledge of one another's fields."

Reviewer (G)

"Hack's book will join a few other texts, such as Edward Said's Culture and Imperialism and Paul Gilroy's The Black Atlantic, in staging a transformative reshaping of intellectual history and interpretative practice. The field of early African American literary studies is thriving at the moment, and this book has a very good chance of being one of a very small number of studies that sets the tone of the debate for the next generation of scholars."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Hack has proven to be a productive and influential scholar, a solid and deeply conscientious teacher, and a model citizen in his departmental leadership roles. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Daniel S. Hack be promoted to the rank of 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

May 2017

Paul N. Courant  
Re: Daniel S. Hack  
March 13, 2017

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the number of declines received. Professor Porter was excused and the EC then met with Professors Crane and Awkward. Professor Awkward explained that African American literary criticism has been primarily concerned with how Black authors have created a tradition based on folk culture to build a distinctive style of Black expression. In contrast, there has been limited attention to how Black authors also connected to White authors who were their contemporaries or to White literary traditions. Professor Awkward placed Professor Hack's work into a small body of work exploring these influences, such as the influence of romanticism on Countee Cullen and of William Faulkner on Toni Morrison. This type of reading allows scholars to make sense of allusions in the work that either they did not previously recognize or understand, or that they had not attended to. Professor Awkward claimed Black authors made these allusions to White authors and traditions in the service of supporting claims about Black liberation. The EC felt this explanation of how Professor Hack's work contributed to the scholarship on African American literature was persuasive and satisfying, and on that basis, the EC was comfortable putting the case to a vote.

Impact – Professor Hack has produced an important monograph, *Reaping Something New: African American Transformations of Victorian Literature*, three refereed articles in high-visibility journals, and a steady stream of book chapters, reviews, and short essays. He has been invited for speaking engagements at the Universities of Toronto, Chicago, Columbia, Cornell, Vanderbilt, and New York University, among others. He has also remained very active in professional organizations in his field. Professor Hack has won both a Michigan Humanities Award and an Institute for the Humanities Faculty Fellowship, as well as a major essay prize from the North American Victorian Studies Association. In fall 2016, Professor Hack was selected by Cambridge University Press from over a dozen invited contenders to edit the highly respected Victorian studies journal, *Victorian Literature and Culture*, for a five-year term.

The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts was unanimous in its recommendation for promotion to professor with tenure, and I support this decision.

Sincerely,



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