

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

Anna R. Kirkland, associate professor of women's studies, with tenure, and associate professor of political science, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of women's studies, with tenure, and professor of political science, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2003	University of California, Berkeley
J.D.	2001	University of California, Berkeley School of Law
M.A.	1997	University of Virginia
B.A.	1995	Davidson College

Professional Record:

2010 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Women's Studies and Department of Political Science, University of Michigan
2014 – present	Associate Director, Institute for Research on Women and Gender, University of Michigan
2014 – 2016	Director of Undergraduate Studies, Science, Technology, and Society Program, University of Michigan
2011 – 2013	Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Women's Studies, University of Michigan
2006	Visiting Assistant Professor of Law, University of Michigan School of Law
2004 – 2010	Assistant Professor, Department of Women's Studies, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Kirkland is an innovative, challenging, and committed teacher who has made significant contributions to the Women's Studies curriculum. Her teaching broadly covers topics on gender, health, and the law. When she served as the director of undergraduate studies for two years, she oversaw and guided all of the Women's Studies honors students in a year-long, senior honors seminar. Professor Kirkland also teaches a university-wide, interdisciplinary graduate course on disability studies and recently developed a new course titled "Conservatives and Feminists." As a testament to her impact as a teacher, she has been recognized with several prestigious teaching awards, including the Class of 1923 Memorial Teaching Award and an Arthur F. Thurnau Professorship.

Research – Professor Kirkland has been a prodigious scholar whose research makes a significant contribution to the field by bridging scholarship on health, risk, and injury, informed by feminist and intersectional theories. Her forthcoming book, Vaccine Court: The Law and Politics of Injury, is one of the first academic projects to examine and document the workings of the Vaccine Court. She addresses pressing epistemological questions about democracy, privilege, and the production and use of knowledge within the scientific and legal communities. In so

doing, Professor Kirkland makes a highly significant and original contribution at the intersection of multiple scholarly fields.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Vaccine Court: The Law and Politics of Injury, New York University Press, 2016.

“Health,” with A. Grigg, Oxford Handbook of Feminist Theory, L. Disch and M. Hawkesworth (eds.), Oxford University Press, 2016, pp. 326-345.

“Power and persuasion in the vaccine debates: An analysis of political efforts and outcomes in the states, 1998-2012,” with D. Lillvis and A. Frick, *Milbank Quarterly*, 92(3), 2014, pp. 475-508.

“The environmental account of obesity: A case for feminist skepticism,” *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society*, 36(2), 2011, pp. 411-436.

Service – For two years, Professor Kirkland served as the director of undergraduate studies in the Department of Women’s Studies (2011-2013). She oversaw all matters pertaining to undergraduate issues, including course offerings, teaching assignments, undergraduate advising, graduate student instructor (GSI) hiring, research and travel awards, and the Women’s Studies’ honors program. As an associate director of the Institute for Research on Women and Gender, Professor Kirkland currently manages a number of responsibilities supporting faculty research on gender and feminist approaches to scholarship. Further, her national service contributions include participating on the editorial board of several journals and serving as an active member of the Law and Society Association.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A)

“Overall, I found the book an important contribution to socio-legal studies, social movement theory, and the interdisciplinary analysis of power relations related to health care and disability. Her research focuses on an understudied legal forum and illuminates many of the deeper issues surrounding the controversies over autism and vaccination.”

Reviewer (B)

“Anna Kirkland is the rare scholar who is truly original. Her selection of topics and questions consistently marks out new territory. Likewise, her original data and analysis depart from conventional approaches in striking and productive ways. ... [Vaccine Trials] is a tour-de-force. ... It addresses important questions about the relationship between science and law, popular beliefs and expertise, fair process and desired outcomes, and how law both inspires and channels social movements.”

Reviewer (C)

“... [Vaccine Trials] informs a great deal about how actors make scientific claims, and how institutional forms determine their legitimacy—and whether that institution itself is considered legitimate and why—[this] is Kirkland’s great contribution. Because scientific debates entail numerous competing and complex claims, this close analysis of one institutional case over time is necessary and extraordinarily useful to shed light on the creation of knowledge and how actors and institutional forms both play a role in its legitimation.”

Reviewer (D)

“Anna Kirkland is an exceptional scholar with a clear research focus on issues at the intersection of health and health care, science and medicine, and policy and politics in the U.S. ...I am struck by the breadth and continuity of her scholarly opus, her ability to speak to multiple fields, the impact she has had on these fields, and the impact this work will continue to have in the future.”

Reviewer (E)

“...I find the topic original, the questions important, the theorization fitting, the research (despite the many obstacles) to be rigorous and convincing, and the analytical narrative well executed. ...the book contributes in distinctive ways to a host of broader questions about the role of law in defining injuries (and risks, responsibilities, rights....), regulating behavior, shaping political contestation, managing disorder amidst uncertainty, and much more.”

Reviewer (F)

“The bigger contribution comes in the book’s juxtaposition of law and society’s understanding of courts and science and technology’s understanding of knowledge claims. Kirkland fearlessly and clearly holds out the vaccine court as an institution that can achieve the messy compromises between policy, science, and procedural justice that are necessary to maintain the immunization social order.”

Reviewer (G)

“Vaccine Court is the crown jewel of the file. As with Professor Kirkland’s earlier work on debates over obesity, this project is located at the intersection of law, social movements, and science. It also engages with the literature on intensive mothering and racial and class inequality. It recounts how and why the vaccine court was created in the first place, how it works, and the important social role it performs. This is a fascinating story...”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Kirkland is a dedicated and prodigious scholar, a highly recognized and award-winning teacher, and a responsible departmental citizen. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Anna R. Kirkland be promoted to the rank of professor of women’s studies, with tenure, and professor of political science, without 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

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