

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
School of Music, Theatre & Dance

Clare H. Croft, assistant professor of music, Department of Music, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of dance, with tenure, Department of Dance, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2010	University of Texas at Austin, Theatre History & Criticism
M.A.	2002	New York University, Performance Studies
B.A.	2000	Goucher College, American Studies and Dance

Professional Record:

2013 - present	Assistant Professor, Department of Dance, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, University of Michigan
2010 - 2013	Post-doctoral Fellow/Assistant Professor, Michigan Society of Fellows, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Croft has been described by her colleagues as very creative, generous with her time, and admired by her students. Her commitment is evident from the student feedback that references her mentorship, level of respect, and her willingness to help students develop and seek opportunities in the field, including internships and scholarships. During Professor Croft's relatively short time here, she has developed the MFA program in dance that is progressing towards national recognition. She has developed several new courses that are attracting students across the campus, recruiting a healthy enrollment of both upper level undergraduates and graduate students. She is a positive and transformative teacher in the Departments of Dance, Women and Gender Studies, and Interarts.

Professional Activities: Professor Croft's professional activities encompass two areas - scholarly works and creative practice. She is a sought-after invited speaker at national and international conferences, the author of several invited publications and reviews, and two books published by Oxford University Press. Her first book, Dancers as Diplomats: American Choreography in Cultural Exchange, is sole-authored; this work received the Congress on Research in Dance 2016 Outstanding Publication Award. Professor Croft's second book/website, Queer Dance: Meanings and Makings, is a multi-layered project published in March 2017. She has been successful in obtaining fellowships and internal and external grant funding from the Mellon Foundation, Quick Wins Grant, Third Century Initiative, a Norman and Jane Katz Fellowship from the UM Institute for the Humanities, and a prestigious NEH grant for the initial research for a new book project. Professor Croft's creative practice is in the field of curation and dramaturgy, working with artists and producers to create performances into meaningful communicative experiences. Her most recent project, "Explode!" was a four-day festival of queer dance in New York that brought together both academics and performers, and was positively recognized in a *New York Times* article. In recognition of her impressive contributions to the field of dance, Professor Croft received the UM Henry Russel Award in 2016.

Service: Professor Croft's level of service is broad and extraordinary. For the dance profession, she serves on the editorial board of *Studies in Dance History*, a manuscript reviewer for *American Studies Quarterly*, *The Black Scholar*, *Dance Chronicle*, *Dance Research Journal*, and *Theatre Survey*. She is also a book manuscript reviewer for Oxford University Press and the University of Michigan Press. Professor Croft provides a multitude of service in differing capacities for the Society of Dance History Scholars/Congress on Research in Dance, the American Society of Theatre Research, and many others. Her service record for the university and the school are equally impressive with past service including the 2014-15 SMTD Dean Search Advisory Committee, University Musical Society, Provost Faculty Advisory Committee, The Institute for Research on Women and Gender, and she is currently serving on a faculty search committee in her department.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "Her work has already shown to be award winning and therefore outstanding in the field of dance studies, and I would say that she is extremely visible in the field and her work ranks highly."

Reviewer B: "Professor Croft's record is outstanding, having won a major book prize, having published a number of pioneering essays and curated performance scholarship, being in demand for peer review and editorial expertise, and consistently presenting at key conferences. Her impressive scholarship and teaching will continue to grow and that she will continue to be one of the outstanding dance scholars in the field."

Reviewer C: "She has been well-trained and the academy is fortunate to have her. I believe her work is standard-defying and debate-inducting and future scholarship will be held to her model. Because of her exceptional commitment to research, teaching and service thus far, I am confident that Dr. Croft will continue to contribute significantly to the field."

Reviewer D: "The quality and impact of Croft's scholarship places her securely in the top 1% of dance studies scholars of her rank. Croft is unquestionably an intellectual leader in dance studies. She is an outstanding and active disciplinary citizen who produces public dance infrastructure."

Reviewer E: "Croft is, in no uncertain terms, a leader among her generation of dance scholars. She has published at an impressive rate, her scholarship has become required reading for doctoral students in dance studies, and she is well respected by all who encounter her work. Indeed, I consider her to be one of the most important shapers of the field of dance studies."

Reviewer F: "Dr. Croft's standing in dance studies is well above scholars of her level. She has been impressively prolific and her work has already made a substantial impact. She is highly appreciated for her generous service and admired for her keen insights and balanced viewpoints."

Reviewer G: "I consider Croft as one of the leaders of her generation, not only for the superior quality of her published scholarship but also for the way she models the integration of academic research with dramaturgy, curation, and dedicated service to the field."

Reviewer H: "Croft is a rare scholar who is equally proficient in archival research and studio-based practice, one who can curate and dialogue with a broad arrange of contemporary dance makers, while also developing worthy research projects that connect the history and culture of dance to central themes and questions in American Studies."

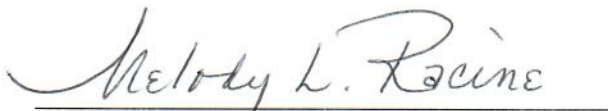
Reviewer I: "Croft is a scholar of international standing with a solid reputation in the dance field as an original researcher, a contributor to knowledge, and a conscientious participant in the dance studies field as a whole. Croft has offered much to the dance studies field. Her dance criticism, curatorial and dramaturgical work, and her editorial efforts in themselves contribute to the field."

Reviewer J: "The work she studies is rich with implications across several fields including Dance Studies, Performance Studies, Queer and Gender Studies and American Studies and she clearly holds promise of becoming one of the leading scholars of her generation within Dance Studies. She brings an important range and depth to the field and she is poised to lead new courses and trajectories, ones that point toward a promising future for dance studies in the academy."

Reviewer K: "Croft is at the top of her field, a generous and committed colleague, and a potential leader for the future."

Internal Review: Professor Croft is recognized by her colleagues as a dedicated teacher and bright scholar who is already making meaningful and needed contributions to the field of dance studies. Her work transforming the MFA program is acknowledged and deeply appreciated by her colleagues, and the school in general. The Executive Committee's review recognized the import and strength of her professional activities, and were impressed with the energy and creativity she brings into the classroom.

Summary of Recommendation: Professor Croft is highly innovative, contributive and productive in all areas of research, teaching and service. She is already a prominent scholar and sought-after speaker both at the national and international level. Her teaching contributions and methodologies are recognized beyond the borders of the school and are thought to be creative, though-provoking and highly effective. It is with great enthusiasm and with the support of the School of Music, Theatre & Dance Executive Committee that I recommend Clare H. Croft for promotion to associate professor of dance, with tenure, Department of Dance, School of Music, Theatre & Dance.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Melody L. Racine". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

Melody L. Racine
Interim Dean
School of Music, Theatre & Dance

May 2018