

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

Nilo Couret, assistant professor of romance languages and literatures, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of romance languages and literatures, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2013	University of Iowa
M.A.	2009	University of Iowa
B.A.	2005	Columbia University

Professional Record:

2013 – present Assistant Professor, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures,
University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – While some of Professor Couret’s course offerings stem from his research areas, most tackle larger issues, including how film, television, and photography participate in the construction of gender, class, regional, and ethnic identities in the Latin American context. He has taught fifteen courses, including two graduate seminars. For the courses at the undergraduate level, Professor Couret created eight different topics, which is an unusually high number, covering a wide array of topics in Latin American film, media, and culture. In order to provide students with transferable critical and practical skills, Professor Couret increasingly relies on the latest developments in pedagogical methodologies. He has designed a series of online lectures and resources that allow him to shift the focus of classroom time away from the transmission of information and turn it into a site for the practice of critical skills. In the same vein, he often has students produce their own photography portfolios and video essays, teaching them how to become critical practitioners of contemporary media. Professor Couret has mentored four graduate students and has served on four dissertation committees, as well as five preliminary exam committees and six fourth-term review committees. He is a dedicated mentor, offering guidance to students on publications, presentations, and job preparation, and helping students develop bibliographies that include a film or media studies component.

Research – Professor Couret’s research is characterized by a rich, multilayered methodological approach that draws on a variety of fields, including film and media studies, Latin American cultural studies, and social and cultural theory more broadly. He engages these different fields to produce groundbreaking arguments that have transhistorical, transnational, and interdisciplinary implications, and which are supported by rigorous archival research and theoretically informed textual and material analysis. The primary question that drives his research can be understood in its broadest form as seeking to understand how media function in society, with a principal focus on how film is received and transformed in Latin America through spectatorship, production, and circulation. He reads these transformations in relation to a number of interrelated topics, including the experience of modernization, the nature and limits of capitalism, the politics and performance of subjectivity, gender and class relations, the experience of affect, memory

politics, and the relationships between representation, resistance, and social change.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Mock Classicism: Latin American Film Comedy, 1930-1960, University of California Press, 2018.

“Crashing new waves: The friction of transnational film distribution in Brazil, 1931-1959,” *Film History*, under review.

“Parting glances: The posthumous Coutinho,” in *Eduardo Coutinho*, N. Brizuela and K. Brune, (eds.), forthcoming 2019.

“You looking at me? The misleading counter-shot in *The Hour of the Star* (1986),” in *Transition: Journal of Videographic & Moving Image Studies*, 3(3), 2016.

Service – Professor Couret has served as the undergraduate advisor and has been elected as a member of the Graduate Committee. He was elected to the Spanish undergraduate committee and will serve as acting head of the Spanish section in winter 2019. He has also been elected to the Graduate Committee. In the profession at large, he has been very active and highly visible in film studies and Latino/a studies, organizing events and spearheading important initiatives. Of particular note are his participation on the advisory board for a new book series from the University of California Press, his work as book review editor for a major journal in his field, and his active involvement in the Society for Cinema and Media Studies, which is the primary professional organization in his field.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“Couret is among the most original of his generation of...scholars working in transnational Latin American cinema... His rate of productivity is the highest of...[his] cohort, one soon-to-be-published book, nine published articles and book chapters, a number of them in top peer-reviewed journals in the field; a prodigious number of conference papers. He is on a par with the most prolific and influential...scholars who are slightly ahead of him in the general field of Latin American film scholarship...”

Reviewer (B)

“Among scholars who work on Latin American cinema in general, I know of no other with Professor Couret’s level of theoretical acuity and complexity. ... Professor Couret is a diligent researcher and...above all a thinker of great theoretical complexity, audacious and cutting edge. He is also profoundly transnational, which is of great importance. He studies Latin American cinema across the region, being as versed in Brazil or Argentina as he is on Mexico and Cuba, and he also studies it from the perspective of someone who deeply understands global cinema. ...too many film scholars focus on a narrow region/era or on a single country and therefore lose sight of the profound interconnections and negotiations that are constantly at play at any historical moment.”

Reviewer (C)

“...[Professor Couret’s] high quality published academic work taken together with the clear evidence of his prominence, supported by his active participation in relevant professional associations...show him to be one of the leading scholars of his generation; to be clear, I would

rank him in the top tier of Latin American film studies experts of the cohort of emerging scholars whose first book was published in the last few years. Given his track record, there is little doubt that his work will grow in prominence in the coming years.”

Reviewer (D)

“Mock Classicism: Latin American Film Comedy 1930-1960 is a major, path-breaking, and field-changing work in Film Studies broadly conceived and in Latin American Film Studies more specifically. The book is sure to become a field-transforming monograph for Latin American Film Studies and an important historically and materially-based sophisticated engagement with the modernity of film as commodity and the relationship of modernity and film more broadly.”

Reviewer (E)

“It is my objective assessment that Prof. Couret is the most important and noteworthy scholar in his field in his generation. ...his work is conceptually richer and theoretically more sophisticated. ...his theoretical prowess, the originality of his work and the historical and geographical range of his research surpass that of other peers.”

Reviewer (F)

“His monograph Mock Clacissism...puts him on par with the best scholars [in his cohort] in the field at similar stages in their careers.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Couret has become a leading scholar in Latin American cinema. He is a committed teacher and mentor, and he maintains a strong service record locally and in the wider community. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Nilo Couret be promoted to the rank of associate professor of romance languages and literatures, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



Elizabeth R. Cole, Interim Dean
Professor of Women’s Studies, Psychology,
and Afroamerican and African Studies
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

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