

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

Andreas Gailus, associate professor of Germanic languages and literatures, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of Germanic languages and literatures, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1996	Columbia University
M.A.	1988	Freie Universitat, Berlin

Professional Record:

2018 — present	Chair, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, University of Michigan
2008 — present	Associate Professor, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, University of Michigan
2005 — 2008	Associate Professor, Department of German, Scandinavian, and Dutch, University of Minnesota
2003 — 2005	Assistant Professor, Department of German, Scandinavian, and Dutch, University of Minnesota
1996 — 2003	Assistant Professor, Department of Germanic Studies, University of Chicago

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching — Professor Gailus is a gifted and dedicated teacher of undergraduate and graduate students. He has successfully taught a variety of classes in German literature and philosophy, including thirteen courses at the undergraduate level (several of which were for the Upper Level Writing Requirement). Over the past decade, he has served on fourteen Ph.D. committees (chairing six), and taught eight graduate courses. He has a rare gift for engaging students in the serious and rigorous study of some of the most difficult philosophical, literary, and theoretical writing in the German and European tradition. He contributes to the core humanities curriculum in German and to the interdisciplinary strength of the department.

Research — Since his arrival at Michigan, Professor Gailus has completed a major new book manuscript, Forms of Life. Drawing on literary, philosophical, biological, and political sources, he analyzes the discourse of “life” emerging in modern Germany, and introduces a powerful argument about the role of aesthetics in contemporary debates about biopolitics in the humanities and social sciences. He has also published four full-length articles in peer-reviewed journals, two book chapters, and a range of shorter pieces, including introductions and book reviews.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Forms of Life: Aesthetics and Biopolitics in German Culture, Cornell University Press, forthcoming 2019.

“Language unmoored: On Kleist’s ‘The Betrothal in St. Domingo,’” *Germanic Review*, 85(1), 2010, pp. 20-43, reprinted in *Rebellion and Revolution*, M. Etzler and P. Layne (eds.), Cambridge University Scholars, 2011, pp. 89-120.

“Ein theater des infinitesimalen: Musil und die grenzen der genauigkeit,” in *Dilettantismus als Wissenschaft*, S. Azzouni and U. Wirth (eds.), Berlin Kulturverlag, 2010, pp. 65-83.

Service—Professor Gailus has been actively engaged in departmental service as a member of the Executive Committee, as the associate chair, and currently as the chair. Additionally, he served for two years as the director of graduate studies. His university service includes membership in SACUA’s Tenure, Promotions and Professional Development Committee, as well as selection committees for graduate fellowships at the Michigan Institute for the Humanities, the Fulbright Campus Committee, ACLS dissertation fellowships, and fellowships at the American Academy in Berlin. His service to the profession includes six years as an executive editor of *Germanic Review*.

#### External Reviews:

##### Reviewer (A)

“I know of few colleagues in German studies (indeed, in literary studies generally) who are as meticulous in their treatment of both philosophical thought and poetic word as Gailus is.”

##### Reviewer (B)

“Professor Gailus’s publications stand out in their originality, diversity, and refined attention to the intersection of literature and theory from the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries, with equal expertise and exactitude in all three centuries. ...Gailus brings together the best of what defines the field of German Studies both in the United States and Europe: imagination, scholarly rigor, and curiosity for the new and underappreciated. His combination of a passion for the German literary tradition and a commitment to its deep entwinement not only with aesthetic but scientific questions, is rare...”

##### Reviewer (C)

“...Professor Gailus follows his own questions with remarkable fidelity, rigor and persistence. That they happen to coincide with and enrich currents or trends is a secondary effect. And this is precisely what ensures the validity of his scholarship and its lasting impact. Since assuming his academic career Professor Gailus has regularly made lasting contributions to the discipline and the profession at large in a steady and reliable way.”

##### Reviewer (D)

“...Gailus’s research unquestionably places him at the forefront of German Studies, both in the United States and abroad. Thoroughly conversant with the principal trends that are defining the field, Gailus is not merely part of the broader conversation, but also in many important ways is helping to steer new directions and inquiries. ... With work of such high caliber, Gailus reminds us how German Studies continues to play a central role in the Humanities and in the university at large.”

Reviewer (E)

“Gailus’s manuscript is indeed a masterpiece that—for the first time—delineates and analyzes an archive of texts from Kant to Foucault and Agamben and demonstrates the fact that these texts have to be taken into consideration when we think about the history of notions of ‘life.’ ...Gailus gives us a body of work that is of the highest quality and that merits the highest recognition. It is inspiring and it shapes the research of the next generation of scholars in an exemplary fashion.”

Reviewer (F)

“...Andreas Gailus is a very productive, independent and original scholar with a clear research agenda, broad theoretical knowledge, an extraordinary intellectual commitment, and a very good standing in the field.”

Reviewer (G)

“...I came to realize, reading *Forms of Life*, that Gailus has done an unmatched service to the fields of German and critical theory, bringing into view a genealogy no one has ever taken the time to build. ...I discovered an intellectual worker with a tri-partite soul, so to speak. An intellectual profile of him would have to show a. his truly immense archive of knowledge in the history of German literature, philosophy, and natural science; b. his careful and precise philology that compares across huge spans of time and is at the same time sensitive to local shifts in meaning within sentences and passages; and c. an ability to illuminate theoretical claims through their enactments in literature, and, equally, an ability to critique theory by means of literary scenes and language that complicate theory’s assumptions.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Gailus has achieved international prominence as a scholar of modern German literature and philosophy, and as a leading figure in defining the future of the field. As a newly appointed chair, he is also leading his department forward in continuing to develop its interdisciplinary curriculum and scholarship. His remarkable erudition, his commitment to interdisciplinary dialogue, his pedagogical excellence, and his skills as an administrator are of the highest caliber. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Andreas Gailus be promoted to the rank of professor of Germanic languages and literatures, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



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

May 2019