

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

Lawrence M. La Fountain-Stokes, associate professor of American culture, with tenure, associate professor of romance languages and literatures, with tenure, and associate professor of women's studies, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of American culture, with tenure, professor of romance languages and literatures, with tenure, and professor of women's studies, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

1999	Ph.D.	Columbia University
1996	M.Phil.	Columbia University
1992	M.A.	Columbia University
1991	A.B.	Harvard College

Professional Record:

2018 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Women's Studies, University of Michigan
2009 – present	Associate Professor, Department of American Culture and Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, University of Michigan
2003 – 2009	Assistant Professor, Department of American Culture and Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, University of Michigan
1999 – 2003	Assistant Professor, Department of Latino and Caribbean Studies and Department of Spanish and Portuguese, Rutgers University
1998 – 1999	Assistant Professor, Department of Spanish and Portuguese, The Ohio State University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor La Fountain-Stokes has a strong track record of successful teaching, innovative pedagogy, and outstanding student mentoring. He has developed an impressive portfolio of courses in Puerto Rican, Latina/o, and LGBTQ performance studies, and he teaches core and signature courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels. With few exceptions, student evaluations are in the upper quartile and students enthusiastically praise his teaching style and course content. His excellent teaching record spans courses in Spanish and English. Both of his departments view the high number of graduate students he has supervised as an associate professor to be impressive. He has served on 31 dissertation committees in his own departments and in other departments, and he supervised an honors thesis in the Department of Women's Studies. One of his Ph.D. advisees is now a tenured professor at Harvard University.

Research – Since arriving at Michigan in 2003 and being promoted to associate professor, with tenure, in 2009, Professor La Fountain-Stokes has proven himself to be a prolific and in-demand public scholar. His original and significant research is breaking new ground in the fields of Latina/o studies and LGBTQ and performance studies, with themes of diaspora, revolutionary politics, race, and gender. His dossier is characterized by a range of well-regarded articles, a

very important co-edited handbook, and two well-received monographs. He has been an invited speaker throughout the Americas (Puerto Rico, the U.S., Dominican Republic, Mexico, Columbia, Venezuela, Argentina, Chile) as well as Spain. Professor La Fountain-Stokes has a high level of scholarly and creative productivity that promises to continue with strong national and international impact.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Translocas: Puerto Rican Drag and Trans Performance, manuscript submitted for readers' reports, University of Michigan Press, forthcoming).

"Learning to unlove Andy Gibb: Race, beauty, and the erotics of Puerto Rican Black male queer pedagogy," E. P. Johnson and R. Rivera-Servera (eds.), Blacktino Queer Performance, Duke University Press, 2016, pp. 542-554.

"Gender/Género in Latin America," in Critical Terms in Caribbean and Latin American Thought: Historical and Institutional Trajectories, Y. M.-S Miguel, et al. (eds.), Palgrave Macmillan, 2016, pp. 193-207, https://doi.org/10.1057/9781137547903_18.

"Puerto Rican *Rasanblaj*: Freddie Mercado's gender disruption," *emisférica* 12(1), 2015, (Special Issue on Caribbean Rasanblaj, G. A. Ulysse (ed.), electronic journal, <http://hemisphericinstitute.org/hemi/en/emisferica-121-caribbean-rasanblaj/laountain>.

Service – Professor La Fountain-Stokes has a very strong record of service to his departments and the college, including six years as the director of the Latina/o Studies Program. He served as a member of the LSA Dean's Ad Hoc Faculty Diversity Taskforce that has informed current diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives. He has also provided service to the university as a whole and to national professional organizations. His energy and excellence in service, as well as his superb communication skills, highlight his administrative strengths. Professor La Fountain Stokes has a promising future in leadership roles.

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

"La Fountain-Stokes is a recognized international academic figure. ...[his] first book *Queer Ricans: Cultures and Sexualities in the Diaspora* (2009: U of Minnesota P) is nowadays a canonical text for understanding LGBTQ Puerto Rican cultures in the United States... In his forthcoming book entitled, *Translocas*...La Fountain-Stokes...offer[s] a complex view of the questions he started to develop in his first book, particularly on the role of diaspora and performance for understanding the complexities of Puerto Rican culture."

Reviewer (B)

"...Professor La Fountain-Stokes is one of the most important scholars working in the intersections of the fields of Latin American and Latinx literary and performance studies with gender and sexuality studies and migration studies of his generation. ... He has amassed a truly outstanding record of publications in major academically refereed journal in his fields, and...has been chosen to edit key volumes that define his fields..."

Reviewer (C)

"...Professor La Fountain-Stokes dazzles us with the scope of his primary sources and the diversity of critical instruments he brings to the table of ideas. While his study is not exhaustive,

it marks a crucial beginning for scholars in the field interested in moving in the same terrain. ... When it is published, as I am certain it will be, Professor La Fountain-Stokes's project [*Transloca*] will secure his place in American Studies as one of the most significant voices theorizing space, nation and performance."

Reviewer (D)

"Dr. La Fountain Stokes is both an incredibly prolific scholar, and a critical voice that has risen to an admirable level of national and international prominence during the nineteen years since he obtained his PhD. ...several of his articles are of special note as they were published in critical reference texts that are used frequently in graduate and advanced undergraduate seminars... He has certainly become a field defining scholar..."

Reviewer (E)

"Professor La Fountain-Stokes [is] the leading Latino Studies scholar in the U.S. at present... ...I consider Professor LaFountain-Stokes's work as a groundbreaking contribution that has also been crucial in the articulation of Queer Puerto Rican studies as a field. ...his vision, erudition, spirit of collaboration and inclusion have made him a central figure in the articulation of Latino Studies and the Latino Studies Association."

Reviewer (F)

"From the very beginning of his scholarly career, Larry carved for himself a space that no other academic in the United States has been able to explore with the same passion, knowledge, and intelligence. ... Larry is respected both for his publications as well as for his solidarity with the communities that he works with. His output is truly prodigious, and it is incisive and nuanced at the same time."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor La Fountain-Stokes is an internationally recognized scholar and teacher, and a generous mentor of graduate students, with an extraordinary record of productive administrative work. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Lawrence M. La Fountain-Stokes be promoted to the rank of professor of American culture, with tenure, professor of romance languages and literatures, with tenure, and professor of women's studies, without 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

May 2019