

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION  
The University of Michigan – Flint  
College of Arts and Sciences  
Department of History

Christopher A. Molnar, assistant professor of history, Department of History, College of Arts and Sciences, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of history, with tenure, Department of History, College of Arts and Sciences.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2013	Indiana University-Bloomington
M.A.	2005	Purdue University Lafayette
B.A.	2002	Indiana University-Northwest
A.A.	2002	Indiana University-Northwest

Professional Record:

2013-Present	Assistant Professor of History, University of Michigan – Flint, Michigan
2011-2013	Editorial Assistant, American Historical Review, Indiana
2009-2009	Adjunct Instructor, Indiana University, Indiana
2006-2009	Teaching Assistant, Indiana University, Indiana
2005-2006	Fulbright Teaching Fellow, Tamsweg, Austria
2003-2005	Teaching Assistant, Purdue University, Indiana

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Molnar has developed his own pedagogical style that focuses on having students understand that history is an interpretive enterprise – a conversation about the past – and not simply the memorization of facts and chronologies. He has applied his teaching philosophy to thirteen different courses, five of which were entirely new preparations aimed at developing the European history offerings in his program. These courses encompass the full range of the curriculum including HIS 112 “World History to 1500,” HIS 351 “Early Modern Europe, 1350-1800,” and HIS 400 “Postwar: Europe since 1945.” Professor Molnar has also taught the required entry course for all history majors and has taught multiple times in local high schools through our Dual Enrollment Education Program. The results from the student course evaluations demonstrate that Professor Molnar is a very accomplished teacher with average scores across all required questions being 4.25 to 4.86 (on a 1 to 5 scale).

Professor Molnar also demonstrates his strength as a teacher through a review of his course syllabi and a sample of his assignments. Professor Molnar’s syllabi are clear, comprehensive and visually appealing. Professor Molnar also promotes student learning through his development of innovative writing assignments such as asking his students to write a review of Charles Dickens’ Hard Times from Karl Marx’s perspective in his Nineteenth Century Europe course. Not only is this assignment multidisciplinary and provides clear and candid guidelines for what makes for a “good” paper, this learning activity requires students to explore the topics of industrialization, class formation, and the emergence of socialism from contrasting perspectives. Professor Molnar’s

effectiveness in teaching is also evident through his commitment to advising and the assessment of student learning. Soon after his arrival, he completed a three-part advising workshop and more recently, participated in the Fridays for Success advising professional development series. He has attended an Association of American Colleges and Universities General Education and Assessment conference in 2015 and has increased his leadership in the assessment of student learning to the point where he now has sole responsibility for preparing the History department's assessment reports. Professor Molnar has worked intensely with students on their Senior Capstone projects and has mentored eighteen students since his arrival in the fall of 2013.

Research: Professor Molnar's scholarship broadens our understanding of Germany's postwar immigration history by shifting the analyses away from Turkish immigration to a focus on immigration from Yugoslavia. The second contribution that Professor Molnar's research makes is the argument that the German asylum administration was restrictive and discriminatory soon after the end of World War II and that asylum migration is not a relatively recent development as the dominant narrative has argued. Professor Molnar advances a thesis that German attitudes toward Yugoslav immigration were shaped more by their personal interactions with Yugoslavs in both Yugoslavia and West Germany than from considerations of race or cultural difference. These scholarly contributions have been shared through six peer reviewed conference papers, a peer reviewed journal article and book chapter. Most importantly for historians, Professor Molnar's scholarship is featured in a single authored book by Indiana University Press – a leading European History university press. With this record of peer reviewed publications, Professor Molnar has clearly established himself an important scholar in modern German history. Professor Molnar has assembled a distinguished group of thirteen scholars for an edited volume with Professor Mirna Zakić from Ohio University. He is expanding his scholarly activity to address on the most pressing issues of our time – violent reactions to immigration and migration. Professor Molnar's second single authored monograph with the current working title of *Germany in Flames: Reunification, Migration, and Neo-Nazi Violence*, has a targeted completion date in 2022 and he has already begun sharing the results of his scholarship at peer-reviewed conferences

Recent and Significant Publications:

Molnar, Christopher. *Memory, Politics, and Yugoslav Migrations to Postwar Germany*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, January 2019.

Molnar, Christopher. "Imagining Yugoslavs: Migration and the Cold War in Postwar West Germany." *Central European History*, 47 no. 1 (March 2014) Cambridge University Press, pp. 138-169.

Molnar, Christopher. "On the Move and Putting Down Roots: Transnationalism and Integration among Yugoslav Guest Workers in West Germany," in *Migration in the German Lands, 1500-2000*, edited by Jason Coy, Jared Poley, and Alexander Schunka (Berghahn Books, 2016), pp. 191-208.

Service: Professor Molnar has established a solid record of service to his department, college, university, local and professional communities. As a member of a small department, he was immediately required to contribute by conducting LEO peer observations followed a year later by becoming the history department's honors advisor. Professor Molnar's department service continued to expand to include participation in the department's scholarship committee and his leadership in coordinating the department's assessment efforts. He has also assumed significant

service responsibilities as the 2016-2017 Wyatt Fellow where he organized seven on and off-campus events covering the history and culture of Germany and developed and led students on a two-week Wyatt Exploration trip to Germany and Austria in May of 2017. Most recently, Professor Molnar has become the faculty advisor for the National History Honor Society, Phi Alpha Theta. For the college, Professor Molnar was elected to serve as a member of a CAS LEO major review committee since 2016 and was a member of the college's Appeal Panel in the 2015-2016 academic year. Additionally, Professor Molnar has represented his department in numerous admissions and recruitment events and presented at new student orientations. For the university, Professor Molnar's most conspicuous service has been participating in the Common Read project when he became a member of the committee in 2013. Professor Molnar now serves as a co-chair for this vitally important component of the university's intellectual life and is also a member of the University's International Travel Advisory Committee – a position he has held since 2015. Professor Molnar also serves his community by appearing as a featured speaker at many area events and venues. His speaking engagements include “Beyond Auschwitz: The Unknown Holocaust,” Cromaine Public Library, Hartland (February 2015), “How Detroit Built Stalin's Soviet Union,” Whaley Historical House Museum (April 2015), “The Murder of the Disabled and the Origins of the Holocaust,” Mount Morris High School (October 2017), and “Krampus: The South German Christmas Demon,” Whaley Historical House Museum (December 2017). Finally, Professor Molnar is an active participant in his profession serving as a manuscript reviewer for Routledge and Rowman & Littlefield, and a panel co-organizer for the German Studies Association in 2015 and 2017. Professor Molnar is a member of the American Historical Association, the German Studies Association, the Central European History Society, and the International Society for the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning in History.

#### External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A): “Overall, Dr. Molnar's edited-volume article and book (which includes a revised version of his *Central European History* journal article) represent rigorous, nuanced research that undoubtedly adds ‘a significant positive contribution’ to the body of scholarship concerning German history as well as the history of immigration and integration.”

Reviewer (B): “His research makes a significant contribution to migration history in Europe broadly, and in Germany specifically.”

Reviewer (C): “Taken together, Dr. Molnar's publications reveal an active scholar who is contributing to scholarly conversations about German immigration, memory, the Cold War and race. He is advancing our understanding of the role immigrants have played in postwar West German society and politics both at home and abroad.”

Reviewer (D): “Chris Molnar is a solid, highly professional scholar who has made an important contribution to the field, and has positioned himself in the middle of an issue that will continue to be important—even critical—in Germany and throughout the world. Molnar has the potential to build on his work in immigration, and to continue to position himself as someone in authority on this critical issue.”

Reviewer (E): “Dr. Molnar is an emerging scholar with an excellent reputation in our field. He is clearly on an upward trajectory and will be increasingly visible as more of his scholarship

emerges as publications. I am very impressed by Dr. Molnar and his scholarship. He is a valuable colleague and an enthusiastic contributor to the study of modern German history.”

Reviewer (F): “Overall, what really sets his book and his *Central European History* article apart are the ways that Professor Molnar has framed our understanding Yugoslav immigration. He has taken the issue and tied it into larger questions of postwar German history-memory and legacy of the Second World War, the context of the Cold War, along with changing political currents within the Federal Republic. This is a very inventive and important perspective to understand Germany's postwar immigration policies.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Molnar has established a strong record of scholarly achievement, is a contributing member of the faculty through his service to his department, college, university and local and professional communities, and has demonstrated effectiveness in teaching and a dedication to his students' learning. I am pleased to recommend Christopher A. Molnar for promotion to associate professor of history, with tenure, Department of History, College of Arts and Sciences.

Recommended by:



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Susan Gano-Phillips, Dean  
College of Arts and Sciences

Recommendation endorsed by:



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Susan E. Alcock, Interim Provost and  
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs



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Susan E. Borrego, Chancellor  
University of Michigan – Flint

May 2019