

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

Emily E. Wilcox, assistant professor of Asian languages and cultures, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of Asian languages and cultures, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2011	University of California, Berkeley
M.Phil.	2004	University of Cambridge
A.B.	2003	Harvard University

Professional Record:

2013 – present	Assistant Professor, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures (ALC), University of Michigan
2013	Program Director, Summer Study Abroad Program in Beijing, Reves Center for International Education, College of William and Mary
2011 – 2013	Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, College of William and Mary
2011	Adjunct Instructor, Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, University of California, Davis

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Wilcox is a passionate, attentive teacher, who makes significant contributions to Asian Languages and Cultures' (ALC) curriculum by covering core undergraduate courses and offering new content courses on Chinese and East Asian dance studies and more. Her classes range from gateway courses (averaging 44 students per class) to graduate seminars (averaging seven plus students per seminar). The range of course topics demonstrates Professor Wilcox's commitment to pedagogical innovation and to intellectual diversity. She should be especially acknowledged for reviving ASIAN 235, "Introduction to Asian Studies," which is the gateway course for all departmental majors, giving it an entirely new, design, and GSI support. Student evaluations of her courses are impressive across the board. Professor Wilcox has served as an advisor, co-advisor, or committee member for five doctoral students and three master's students at Michigan, and as an external committee member for two doctoral students at other institutions.

Research – Professor Wilcox has established herself as a prolific and formidable scholar in the field of modern Chinese dance studies, performance studies, and dance studies. Her recently published book, Revolutionary Bodies, is a groundbreaking study of the complex and eventful history of modern Chinese dance. It is the first scholarly and comprehensive treatment of the subject in English, and is a monumental achievement that will certainly exert a formative and lasting impact on the relatively new field of Chinese dance studies. Since 2013, Professor Wilcox has published five well-placed journal articles, with two more forthcoming; four book chapters, with eight more forthcoming, under contract, or under review; and a co-edited volume for the "Studies in Dance History" series under review at the University of Michigan Press. In 2017, she

co-curated a multi-media exhibition with the UM Library that was entitled “Chinese Dance: National Movements in a Revolutionary Age, 1945-1965.” She was also instrumental in conceptualizing and developing the related original archival resources. In recognition of her unique contribution, Professor Wilcox was the recipient of two prestigious and competitive national awards: the American Council of Learned Societies Fellowship (2014-2015), and the Social Science Research Council Transnational Research Junior Scholar Fellowship (2016-2017).

Recent and Significant Publications:

Revolutionary Bodies: Chinese Dance and the Socialist Legacy. University of California Press, 2018.

“Beyond internal Orientalism: Dance and nationality discourse in the early People’s Republic of China, 1949-1954,” *The Journal of Asian Studies*, 75(2) 2016, pp. 363-386.

“Dynamic inheritance: Representative works and the authoring of tradition in Chinese dance,” in L. Gibbs, ed., special issue “Faces of tradition in Chinese performing arts,” in the *Journal of Folklore Research*, 55(1), 2018, pp. 77-112.

“The postcolonial blind spot: Chinese dance in the era of third world-ism, 1949-1965,” *positions: Asia critique*, 26(4), 2018, pp. 781-815.

Service – Professor Wilcox has made laudable service contributions to ALC, the Lieberthal-Rogel Center for Chinese Studies (LRCCS), and the university at large. She has served on the Executive Committee for both ALC and LRCCS, the Steering Committee for the Center for World Performance Studies, and on the Graduate Program Committee and Curriculum Committee in ALC, the latter of which includes undergraduate advising duties. She was the organizer of four dance-related residency programs at Michigan, and co-organizer of three more similar events. Such programs brought further international visibility to the university and greatly enriched the experience of students, faculty, and the public. She was the president of the Association for Asian Performance (2015-2017), and on the Board of Directors for the Society of Dance History Scholars (2014-2016). She is currently a member of the editorial board for *The Journal of Contemporary Research in Dance* (based in China), and an editorial board member for *The Journal of the Society for Dance Documentation and History* (based in South Korea).

External Reviews:

Reviewer (A)

“Professor Wilcox’s lucid writing is trailblazing, theoretically sophisticated, thematically innovative, intellectually stimulating, and flows very nicely in an organized manner. In my view, her forthcoming book will be a substantial and significant contribution to Chinese performance studies, Asian cultural studies, intellectual history, anthropological studies of everyday life and its artistic expressions.”

Reviewer (B)

“Dr. Wilcox’s research has added a crucial dimension to the field of Chinese cultural studies in the socialist and post-socialist eras. ... Despite her relatively short time in this field, Dr. Wilcox has been at the forefront of this wave of research. Her forthcoming monograph... is a superb study of the surprising continuities from the 1930s to the present century in the ways in which dance has embodied and performed the Chinese revolution and its contemporary aftermaths.”

Reviewer (C)

“...[Wilcox] has been and will be acknowledged as the unquestioned expert on dance in the Chinese twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Given how central dance has been and remains to the Chinese sense of nationalist self, this is no small expertise.”

Reviewer (D)

“...because of her linguistic and kinesthetic fluencies in both Modern Chinese/Mandarin and Chinese dance, her exquisite academic training, and her scholarly productivity, she is well-positioned to lead the way toward pioneering a field within English-language dance studies that is both under-represented and largely uncharted.”

Reviewer (E)

“...I have come to deeply appreciate the depth and value of her work, which will without doubt change the way we look at modern dance and performance in a broader sense in China, particularly in the early PRC era, as well as in East Asia.”

Reviewer (F)

“She contextualizes the choreographic form and themes of each work within the changing institutions and politics of dance and culture from the 1940s to the present. *Revolutionary Bodies* is a tour de force, and it will become a standard reference in English-language studies of dance in China.”

Reviewer (G)

“Professor Wilcox’s standing in the field of dance studies and her national stature can be seen in the positions for which she has been elected and services she has rendered to the field. ... Her outstanding record of invited lectures, talks given at national and international conferences, as well as conferences she herself organized, demonstrates the recognition in the field of [the] excellence of her research.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Wilcox is a prolific scholar of modern Chinese culture with an emphasis on dance history. She is an inspiring teacher and an excellent citizen in the department and university. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Emily E. Wilcox be promoted to the rank of associate professor of Asian languages and cultures, 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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