

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

Jatin Dua, assistant professor of anthropology, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of anthropology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2014	Duke University
M.A.	2006	American University in Cairo
B.A.	2003	Reed College

Professional Record:

2014 – present      Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Dua makes significant contributions to the anthropology curriculum at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. For example, his 200-level *Law and Culture* course has grown from 20 students to a 75-student course supporting a Graduate Student Instructor by attracting students who have not previously taken a course in anthropology. It covers a range of situations from traditional courtrooms to street corners, from nation-states to high seas, all the while attending to how different practices define the law and its boundaries. His commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion issues is evident in his classroom pedagogy, which caters to a wide range of learning skills, emphasizes real world problems, and provides opportunities for students to convey what they have learned in a variety of formats. The success of Professor Dua’s approach to teaching and his creativity as an instructor are reflected in his excellent teaching evaluations, which are consistently in the upper range for both the college and the university (top 25%). Professor Dua has also chaired or co-chaired four dissertation committees and has participated in ten more in the Departments of Anthropology and History, and in the Doctoral Program in Anthropology and History, which speaks to his skill as a mentor and as a scholar.

Research – Professor Dua’s work addresses questions about the intersection of law, regulation, and economy. His primary ethnographic research is on Somalia and its place within the larger sphere of interaction that links multiple ports, economies, and peoples across the Indian Ocean. His work thus contributes to both African Studies and the burgeoning field of Indian Ocean Studies. Key questions in Professor Dua’s ethnographic and theoretical work emerge in relation to concerns about power, authority, and sovereignty. His research on Somali pirates raises important questions about legitimacy and illegitimacy in the deployment of force. He tracks the history of these questions back to the “golden age of piracy,” showing how the monopoly over the use of force is closely tied to the ability to define and impose the rule of law. His work on capture also raises generative questions from an economic perspective with respect to debates about the centripetal force of contemporary intellectual property rights, which concentrate the most valuable resource in the global economy in a limited number of corporate pockets. In

addition, he revisits classical ethnography on segmentary lineage organization, showing how *diya* kinship networks function like banks by providing guarantees to purchasers, including the financial resources that made piracy economically possible.

#### Recent and Significant Publications:

*Captured at Sea: Piracy and Protection in the Indian Ocean*, University of California Press, 2019.

“Hijacked: Economies of protection in the Western Indian Ocean,” *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, 61(3), 2019, pp: 479–507.

“Captivity: A provocation,” with K. L. O’Neill, *Public Culture*, 30(1), 2018, pp: 3–18.

“A sea of profit: Making property in the Western Indian Ocean,” in *Legalism: Property and Ownership*, G. Kantor, T. Lambert, and H. Skoda (eds.), New York: Oxford University Press, 2017, pp: 175–202.

Service – Professor Dua provides service beyond what is expected from a colleague at his career stage, both by organizing international conferences and by producing public-facing scholarship for a wider audience. At the departmental level, he served twice on the sociocultural subfield’s admissions committee, responsible for winnowing 150 applications to the nine students admitted. He co-organized the sociocultural speaker series, served on the Anthropology Executive Committee for one year, and has played a key role in the departmental committee on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. At the university level, he has been a central participant in the Doctoral Program in Anthropology and History, serving on its Executive Committee and participating in its admissions process. He has also served on the Executive Committee for the Center for South Asian Studies and the Faculty Communities for Inclusive Teaching. Professor Dua is frequently called upon to provide peer review for top-ranked anthropology journals as well as by journals on African studies, Geography, and Law and Society. He is a member of scholarly advisory boards in Denmark, the Netherlands, and the U.S., and reviews grant proposals for the Social Science Research Council and the National Science Foundation, among others.

#### External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A)

“Reviewing his tenure file only deepens my admiration for the intrepid creativity of his transregional ethnographic research and for the tremendous theoretical insights his work offers about the centrality of maritime spaces in historically shaping traveling concepts and international standards of jurisdiction, freedom, value, risk and especially, what he terms ‘protection’ in the development of global capitalism.”

Reviewer (B)

“...the book contains extremely illuminating analyses of the ways that seizure and capture are fundamental modes of property acquisition, an analysis that convincingly links current practices of piracy with the dynamics of pastoralist property that provide the land-bound counterpart to the pirates’ maritime seizures.”

Reviewer (C)

“...what stands out is a singular research agenda that interrogates a range of intersecting problems of risk management, securitization, maritime history, the history of capitalism, both the history and contemporary praxis of piracy, and the lived realities of transnational market circulations.”

Reviewer (D)

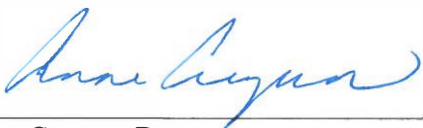
“Having just read through the proofs of the ‘Introduction’ to his forthcoming book, I would count this as one of his most outstanding publications, one that will surely have scholarly impact. It is an evocative introduction on a timely topic that is theoretically sophisticated and ethnographically rich in its substance and scope. ... Jatin is a rising scholar with a future academic career full of promise ahead of him. Comparable to my home institution, I strongly believe that his scholarship meets all of the requirements for being promoted with tenure at [my institution]. . .”

Reviewer (E)

“Professor Dua’s work has produced the foundation for an anthropology of maritime modernity that is simply fascinating. ... Professor Dua’s academic track record, his performance and publications undoubtedly merit an appointment as associate professor at your department. In the case of my own institution...his profile, experience and outputs clearly correspond to an associate professor position.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Dua has compiled an impressive record of excellence in research, service, and teaching, contributing to scholarship and facilitating the sharing of knowledge within and beyond the University of Michigan. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Jatin Dua be promoted to the rank of associate professor of anthropology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



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Anne Curzan, Dean

Geneva Smitherman Collegiate Professor of  
English Language and Literature, Linguistics,  
and Education

Arthur F. Thurnau Professor

College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

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