

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

Amal Hassan Fadlalla, associate professor of Afroamerican and African studies, with tenure, associate professor of women's studies, with tenure, and associate professor of anthropology, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of Afroamerican and African studies, with tenure, professor of women's studies, with tenure, and professor of anthropology, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2000	Northwestern University
M.S.	1992	University of Khartoum, Sudan
B.A.	1986	University of Khartoum, Sudan

Professional Record:

2011 – 2012	Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Women's Studies, University of Michigan
2009 – present	Associate Professor, Department of Afroamerican and African Studies, with tenure, Department of Women's Studies, with tenure, and Associate Professor of Anthropology, without tenure, University of Michigan
2003 – 2009	Assistant Professor, Department of Afroamerican and African Studies and Department of Women's Studies, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching – Professor Fadlalla's teaching mainly focuses on contributions to the undergraduate curriculum. Her four upper-level courses contribute significantly to the international scope of the Women's Studies curriculum, while infusing gender studies into the curriculum in the Department of Afroamerican and African Studies. Her courses generally focus on gender and health, often from transnational and feminist perspectives. She covers a range of topics, including reproduction poverty, the black diaspora, and transnational and colonial and postcolonial relations. The course requirements are appropriate for the course level, and students are given a notable range of intellectual opportunities. Her syllabi are well developed and she puts anthropological and feminist concepts into practice by engaging students with one another and working with her class to better understand ideas of power and agency. Her courses are transnational in focus, and encourage students to situate their knowledge of the United States in a global context. The curricular role of her courses and the quality of her instruction is strong. She plays an especially crucial role in globalizing the Gender and Health major and minor in Women's Studies.

Research – Professor Fadlalla's scholarship is situated at the intersection of feminist and cultural anthropology and African studies. Since her promotion to associate professor in 2009, she has published a monograph and a co-edited volume, edited a special issue of a journal, and placed two articles in high-impact journals. The cornerstone of her promotion case is her second book,

*Branding Humanity: Competing Narratives of Rights, Violence, and Global Citizenship*, which was supported by a Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars Fellowship. Beyond the import of her book's analysis of humanitarianism in Sudan and the Sudanese diaspora, its methodology (which supplements ethnographic observation in multiple sites with interviewing, media analysis, and online interactions) is original and likely to be influential. She is also an avid scholarly collaborator with colleagues at University of Michigan and elsewhere. Her record of productivity and her plans for three new book projects suggest continued robust research contributions.

Recent and Significant Publications:

*Branding Humanity: Competing Narratives of Rights, Violence, and Global Citizenship*, Stanford University Press, 2018.

*Gendered Insecurities, Health, and Development in Africa*, co-edited with H. Stein, London: Routledge, 2011.

"Special Issue on 'Human Rights and Humanitarianism in Africa,'" co-edited with O. Adunbi, *Humanity*, 7(1), Spring 2016.

"State of vulnerability and humanitarian visibility on the verge of Sudan's secession: Lubna's pants and the transnational politics of rights and dissent," *Signs*, 37(1), 2011, pp.159-84.

Service – Professor Fadlalla has served on the Executive Committees in both of her tenure units, as well as on several internal committees. In Women's Studies, she served as the director of graduate studies for a year. She has chaired the Africa Workshop in DAAS, and she provides visible intellectual leadership to the community of Africanists at UM and beyond.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A)

"Branding Humanity makes several important contributions. For me, this [is] her most outstanding work to date. As an anthropologist I find this multi-method ethnographic research an excellent signpost pointing to the future of ethnographic methods for the 21st century."

Reviewer (B)

"I am writing to recommend AMAL FADLALLA enthusiastically for promotion to Full Professor. She is a highly accomplished scholar who has made a major and sustained contribution to the study of human rights, diasporas, women's studies, and African politics. Her work manifests an outstanding combination of empirical sensitivity, interdisciplinary innovation, and social engagement."

Reviewer (C)

"Professor Fadlalla is a dynamic interdisciplinary scholar whose writings have made key contributions to our understanding of the fraught intersections between migration, gender, race, human rights, and citizenship. Her own multilayered subject-position as an engaged feminist scholar from Sudan lends extra depth to her interventions and provides personal and historical perspectives that broaden her scholarly commitments."

Reviewer (D)

“The Anthropology Department at Sudan’s leading university, the . . . , is only some 55 years old. But it has a rich history, and Amal is a major figure in our scholarship.”

Reviewer (E)

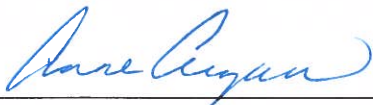
“Both *Embodying Honor* and *Branding Humanity* mark important contributions to the fields of cultural anthropology, transnational feminism, diaspora studies, human rights and humanitarianism. The theoretical and methodological frameworks employed of these studies are rigorous and effective, while the use of empirical data is compelling.”

Reviewer (F)

“Branding Humanity redirects the boundaries between Sudanese communities in the diaspora, and Sudanese communities in both North and South Sudan. This surprisingly tender and humanistic approach enables Dr. Fadlalla’s readers to understand how these different communities navigate between Western humanitarian interventionism in issues like Darfur and the secession of South Sudan, the images of Sudanese culture and politics that have both fueled and resulted from this interventionism, and the complicated realities of political opposition at home. Her method of creating an ethnographical narrative (please forgive my vocabulary – I am not an anthropologist) is self-reflective and gentle.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Fadlalla is an excellent scholar who contributes importantly to the undergraduate teaching and DEI missions in both of her units. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Amal Hassan Fadlalla be promoted to the rank of professor of Afroamerican and African studies, with tenure, professor of women’s studies, with tenure, and professor of anthropology, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



---

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

May 2020