

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

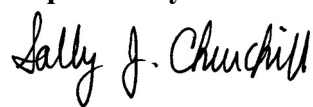
David M. Halperin, Ph.D., W.H. Auden Distinguished University Professor of the History and Theory of Sexuality, professor of English language and literature, and professor of women's and gender studies in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2021.

Professor Halperin received his B.A. (1973) degree from Oberlin College and his M.A. (1977) and Ph.D. (1980) degrees from Stanford University. Having taught at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Professor Halperin joined the University of Michigan faculty as a professor in the Department of English Language and Literature in 1999. He subsequently joined the Department of Women's and Gender Studies and had affiliations as well with the Department of Comparative Literature and the Department of Classical Studies.

These interdisciplinary affiliations suggest the range of Professor Halperin's scholarship and teaching. *Before Pastoral* (1983) established his impressive credentials as a classicist while *One Hundred Years of Homosexuality and Other Essays on Greek Love* (1990) established him as one of the most important historians and theorists of sexuality in the world. His many edited collections decisively influenced the direction of the emerging field of gay and lesbian studies while *Saint Foucault*, along with his co-founding of *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies*, established the academic field of queer theory. Widely considered a brilliant theorist and intellectual provocateur, his insistence that sexuality be rigorously historicized is modeled in his classic study, *How to Do the History of Homosexuality* (2002). In his last three books, Professor Halperin has explored, with piercing acumen and admirable wit, the contours of gay male subjectivity, culture, and politics. Author of over eighty articles in premier academic journals, his international stature was indicated by over four hundred invited presentations at venues around the world. At the University of Michigan, Professor Halperin founded the Lesbian-Gay-Queer Research Initiative. Known for using the classroom as a laboratory for theory, he taught 44 different classes, ranging from "The Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic" and "Bad Homosexuals" to "Shakespeare in Love."

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar by naming **David M. Halperin, W.H. Auden Distinguished University Professor Emeritus of the History and Theory of Sexuality, professor emeritus of English language and literature, and professor emeritus of women's and gender studies.**

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.
Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2021