

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan
A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Andrew H. Herscher, associate professor of architecture, with tenure, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, associate professor of Slavic languages and literatures, without tenure, and associate professor of history of art, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of architecture, with tenure, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, professor of Slavic languages and literatures, without tenure, and professor of history of art, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2002	Harvard University, Architecture, Landscape Architecture, and Urban Planning, Cambridge, MA
M.Arch.	1989	Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
B.Arch.	1983	Yale College, New Haven, CT

Professional Record:

2016–2017	Visiting Associate Professor, Stanford Arts Institute, Stanford University, Stanford, CA
2014	Visiting Professor, Institute of World Literatures and Cultures, Columbia University, New York, NY
2012–Present	Associate Professor, History of Art, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
2011–Present	Associate Professor, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
2011–Present	Associate Professor, Slavic Languages and Literatures, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
2005–2011	Assistant Professor, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
2005–2011	Assistant Professor, Slavic Languages and Literatures, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
2003–2005	Visiting Assistant Professor, Program in Comparative and World Literature, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, IL
2002–2005	Consultant, Department of Culture, United Nations Mission in Kosovo, Prishtina, Kosovo

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Herscher's teaching contributions consistently expand the range of political and historical narratives in the study of architecture and urbanism. His transformative rethinking of a core history requirement exemplifies his effectiveness in translating the political insights of his architecture scholarship to a reimagined foundational pedagogy. While concerned with the ways in which architecture is political, Professor Herscher never reduces the built environment to a mere sign of oppression. In his teaching as in his writing, he is careful to understand how construction, siting, materials etc. are connected to political purpose. His distinctive teaching style combining activism and spatial theory has been particularly important in helping to realize the goal of diversifying the curriculum and the models of practice the students encounter. Many students applauded Professor Herscher's enthusiasm and especially his ability to promote inclusive discourse within the classroom.

Research: Professor Herscher has established himself as arguably the most important scholar in architecture to focus on what he calls “spatial violence” and “the architecture of destruction.” His large and varied body of research includes four academically profound categories: violence and memory in the Balkans; the architectural response to the global refugee crisis, and the limits of humanitarianism; Detroit; and Native Americans and “settler colonialism.” He significantly broadened his fields of interest beyond the former Yugoslavia to include refugee settlements and the refugee experience throughout the world. He has researched Detroit in the context of racial and spatial injustice, and, most recently, Native American history as exemplary of “settler colonialism.” Professor Herscher is internationally recognized not only as a researcher bringing together in-depth historical research with contemporary concerns, but perhaps more importantly as one of the leading scholars in architecture to see the built environment through the lens of the oppressed. He has been remarkably productive since his promotion to associate professor having two sole-authored books; two co-edited books; 14 chapters in books; one peer-reviewed journal article; and numerous sole-authored or co-authored works.

Recent and Significant Publications, Exhibitions, and Awards:

Herscher, Andrew. Decolonizing the Chicago Cultural Center Exhibition, Chicago Architecture Biennial, Chicago, 2019.

Herscher, Andrew. Mapping Chicagou/Chicago: A Living Atlas. Chicago: Settler Colonial City Project, 2019.

Herscher, Andrew. Displacements - Architecture and Refugee (2017). Berlin: Sternberg Press.

Herscher, Andrew, Siddiqi, Anooradha Iyer. Spatial Violence, co-edited, 1st ed., New York: Routledge, 2016.

Herscher, Andrew. Mapping the Water Crisis: The Dismantling of African-American Neighborhoods in Detroit, vol. 1. Detroit: We the People of Detroit Community Research Collective, 2016.

Herscher, Andrew. The Unreal Estate Guide to Detroit. (2012) Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

Service: Professor Herscher has a solid record of service to the college, the university, and non-governmental organizations. He has been particularly active in co-organizing a series of discussions around the concepts of “settler colonialism” and “decolonizing pedagogies.” These included organizing a faculty learning group with a grant from the Center for Teaching and Learning Inclusive Teaching Initiative and several Rackham funded workshops on the theme of “Decolonizing Pedagogy.” Professor Herscher has also been active in helping to organize events that brought together University of Michigan faculty and students around Detroit-centered community-led research and community engagement. These include co-organizing programs on the Detroit “blight emergency;” the Detroit bankruptcy and emergency-management regime; and racial inequities in structuring Detroit property taxes and foreclosures. He co-founded the activist organization Detroit Resists, and the We the People of Detroit Community Research Collective as well as the Settler Colonial City Project whose work was exhibited at the Chicago Architectural Biennial.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: “I believe that Prof. Herscher’s contribution is outstanding in the area of architecture, urban history and design. His global and regional engagement pathways with a very interesting mix of competences on teaching, engagement, and leadership.”

Reviewer B: “Professor Herscher’s work will inspire new ways of conceptualizing the agency of the marginalized. He is one of the first architecture scholars to substantively tackle the problem of violent conflict, forced migration, and the ‘refugee crisis,’ and I find his work useful to critically reflect on my own work on sovereignty and spatial violence.”

Reviewer C: “I see the work of a serious scholar whose background is unique among architectural educators. The quality is outstanding as evidenced by the visiting appointments, awards, fellowships and exhibition invitations etc.”

Reviewer D: “Herscher’s work not only breaks new grounds in the relation between politics, aesthetics and media...but its strength lies in being structured around innovative forms of practice based research and teaching that has been truly groundbreaking in the context of the study of violence and war in general.”

Reviewer E: “Prof. Herscher is a dedicated and widely respected scholar, one who has cultivated a robust interdisciplinary body of research.”

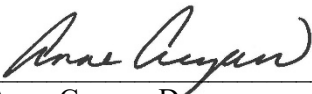
Reviewer F: “Professor Herscher’s teaching and scholarship constitute a theoretical core for a post-colonial/decolonization/settler colonial approach to architectural history...Professor Herscher is having an impact on the shape and direction of the next generation of theoretically-inclined architectural historians.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Herscher has established himself as a field-leading scholar in architecture focused on spatial violence and the architecture of destruction. He has achieved outstanding sustained dissemination through noted publications, international visibility, an innovative teaching record, and community engagement. It is with the support of the Taubman College Promotion and Tenure Committee and the Executive Committee that I recommend Andrew H. Herscher for promotion to professor of architecture, with tenure, A. Alfred Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning, professor of Slavic languages and literatures, without tenure, and professor of history of art, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



Jonathan Massey
Dean and Professor
Alfred Taubman College of
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Anne Curzan, Dean
Geneva Smitherman Collegiate Professor of
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