

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

Annette Joseph-Gabriel, assistant professor of romance languages and literatures, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of romance languages and literatures, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2015	Vanderbilt University
M.A.	2012	Vanderbilt University
B.A.	2009	Williams College

Professional Record:

2017-Present	Assistant Professor, Department of Romance Languages and Literatures, University of Michigan
2015-2017	Assistant Professor, University of Arizona
2015	Visiting Assistant Professor, Williams College
2013-2014	Lecturer, Aix-Marseille Université

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Joseph-Gabriel's teaching record is very strong. She has taught five different undergraduate courses and one graduate seminar. Her classes have expanded the department's offerings to embrace interdisciplinary approaches to questions of colonialism, slavery, and other forms of structural racism and sexism in France, the Caribbean, and the black Atlantic. Her syllabi are intellectually and pedagogically rigorous, and her courses have been very well received by students. Beyond her own classes, she has been very active in matters of undergraduate education, notably in incorporating digital humanities, performing arts, and DEI issues. She designed and piloted a study abroad course for CGIS called "Black Paris," which she taught in Paris, diversifying the French literary canon and linking this to DEI issues in present-day France. She serves on three Ph.D. committees.

Research: Professor Joseph-Gabriel has a strong record of published and forthcoming scholarly works, including a book published by the University of Illinois Press, a guest-edited special issue of a journal, and over a dozen articles and chapters in edited volumes. They bear witness to a close intellectual engagement with primary sources, significant archival research, a deep and nuanced understanding of historical and political context, and a thorough knowledge of the secondary literature. She has done substantial work on her second book project, focused on writings by enslaved children in the black Atlantic in the 18th and 19th centuries, and the concepts of freedom contained in them. She has had a fellowship from the American Philosophical Society to conduct research in its archives on this subject, and she had a summer fellowship from UM's Institute for the Humanities to work on it in summer 2019.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Reimagining Liberation: How Black Women Transformed Citizenship in the French Empire.
Urbana-Champaign: University of Illinois Press, 2020.

“The Spectacle of Belonging: Henri Bergson’s ‘Comic Negro’ and the (Im)possibility of Place in the Metropole.” In Beyond Bergson: Examining Race and Colonialism through the Writings of Henri Bergson, edited by Andrea Pitts and Mark Westmoreland. SUNY Press, 2019.

“René Ménil’s Myths of Origin and Labor Activism in the French Antilles.” *The CLR James Journal: The Journal of the Caribbean Philosophical Association* (forthcoming, Fall 2020).

‘Ce pays est un volcan’: Saint-Pierre and the Language of Loss in White Creole Women’s Narratives.” *Women in French Studies* 25 (2017): 13-28.

Service: Professor Joseph-Gabriel has proved to be an outstanding citizen of the profession and the department. In her second year, she organized a well-attended conference of the African American Intellectual History Society, which was held at UM. She is active at the national and international levels, including serving on the MLA’s Committee on Information Technology and on the International Fellowships Selection Committee for the American Association of University Women. At UM, she serves on RLL’s Graduate Committee, Diversity Committee, and Study Abroad Scholarships Committee. She is on LSA’s Faculty Advisory Group on Inclusive Teaching and is part of the RLL Collegiate Fellow mentorship team.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A): “I see Joseph-Gabriel as a leading figure in a cohort of [junior] scholars who are reshaping the contours of European and Atlantic history and making the once peripheral voices of black writers more central to narratives of literary history. Reading her work at a moment when the Black Lives Matter movement is demanding a sweeping reconsideration of the political, economic and cultural legacies of slavery reinforces the urgency of this intellectual project.”

Reviewer (B): “To my mind, Joseph-Gabriel is one of the most vital and brilliant emerging voices in the field of French and Francophone Studies. The scope and ambition of her first book, which combines a capacious geographical range with a striking set of transdisciplinary methodologies, is remarkable ... It is notably impressive that Gabriel-Joseph has produced such a range of work, including rich pieces on Haitian politics during the eighteenth century and on contemporary Haitian literature, alongside a book on a different topic ... When I think of scholars of comparative influence and importance, my mind rapidly connects it the work of scholars who are already at Associate of Full Professor level.”

Reviewer (C): “Both the monograph and the book chapters and articles included in the dossier show that she is shaping the conversations in Black French Studies and offering fresh and resonant analyses of both under-studied material and texts that have been previously included in the genealogies of decolonization and black feminisms ... I would count her many digital humanities projects ... as important service to the profession and the discipline ... Her scholarship is exciting, engaging, and—given the current political and cultural climate in France—relevant in helping her readers understand the connections between Black people’s past and present hopes for citizenship and belonging.”

Reviewer (D): “Professor Annette K. Joseph-Gabriel is a brilliant scholar, a standout among her peers, a leader of her generation. Working on the intersection of literature, culture, history, and politics, she conducts research, publishes, and teaches courses on race, gender, freedom, and citizenship in Europe, Africa, the Caribbean, and the United States ... Her recently published book is an extraordinary piece of original research ... Professor Joseph-Gabriel has ‘crossed over’ into the

domain of the public intellectual ... Due to her profound erudition, numerous publications, and international profile, Dr. Annette K. Joseph-Gabriel ranks unquestionably far above her contemporaries.”

Reviewer (E): “I find the work to be lucid, erudite, path-breaking, and beautifully written.

Dr. Joseph-Gabriel is making an immensely valuable contribution to the history of Black women thinkers and activists as public intellectuals and ‘political protagonists,’ to their ‘geographies of resistance,’ and to their transnational networks of solidarity and influence ... The book is outstanding and unlike any other in the field. It will become the major reference for historians, cultural critics, and scholars of literary history.”

Reviewer (F): “After reading all that Professor Annette Joseph-Gabriel has published, I was quite astounded to note, belatedly, that her Ph.D. is only five years old. This is an outstanding record: one book in print, two edited journal issues, and numerous essays, with clearly-delineated plans for future research and publication. This places her in a rare category of tenure candidate ... The research amassed in [her] book is first-rate ... I note that her stated second book project, on enslaved children’s writings, may be just what is needed. No such study has been done.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Joseph-Gabriel has an exceptionally strong record of research, teaching, and service. With a book published, numerous published or forthcoming articles, a second project well under way, a proven record of innovative and effective teaching, significant service and leadership, a real engagement in public-facing scholarship, and a demonstrated commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, Professor Joseph-Gabriel is a highly valued member of the RLL faculty and of the profession overall. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Annette Joseph-Gabriel be promoted to the rank of associate professor of romance languages and literatures, with 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

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