

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

John Kingston, associate professor of anthropology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of anthropology, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

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| Ph.D. | 1992 | Harvard University                    |
| A.M.  | 1988 | Harvard University                    |
| M.S.  | 1985 | University of California, Berkeley    |
| B.S.  | 1980 | University of California, Los Angeles |

Professional Record:

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| 2012–present | Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, University of Michigan |
| 2006–2012    | Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology, Emory University       |
| 2000–2006    | Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology, Emory University       |

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Kingston teaches successful and popular courses on early human evolution, organismal evolutionary biology, vertebrate paleontology, and the dietary and ecological reconstruction of fossil and archaeological communities. He has taught several core courses multiple times, including a large introductory course (Anthrbio 201) and the required proseminar in biological anthropology (Anthrbio 570) taken by all graduate students in the program. Professor Kingston is a successful, dedicated mentor to students in multiple subfields in the department.

Research: Professor Kingston is a paleoanthropologist who focuses on paleoecology. His work is at the forefront of efforts to reconstruct the adaptive landscapes in which our ancestors evolved. His ongoing fieldwork has provided the longest, highest-resolution dataset available to chart evolutionary and environmental change in East Africa. His development of cutting-edge laboratory methods has allowed him to use fossil and paleoecological data to dramatically improve understanding of the diets, habitats, and life histories of human ancestors. Professor Kingston's empirical and theoretical work have reshaped the way anthropologists understand the environmental context of human evolution. His extensive technical expertise, ongoing investment in multiple field sites, and widely-respected collegiality have placed him at the center of several major consortia that are revolutionizing the way paleoanthropological research is conducted. He has a solid publication record and his work has appeared in the top journals in the fields of paleoanthropology, physical anthropology, human biology, archaeology, and earth sciences. His record of securing research funding is exemplary, with eight external grants (including six from the NSF), totaling over \$5,300,000.

#### Recent and Significant Publications:

Westover, K. S., Stone, J. R., Yost, C., Scott, J. J., Cohen, A., Rabideaux, N., Stockhecke, M., & Kingston, J. D. (2019). Diatom paleolimnology of late Pliocene Baringo Basin (Kenya) paleolakes. *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology*, in press. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.palaeo.2019.109382>.

Cote, S., Kingston, J. D., Deino, A., Winkler, A., Kityo, R., MacLatchy, L. (2017) Evidence for rapid faunal change in the early Miocene of East Africa based on revised biostratigraphic and radiometric dating of Bukwa, Uganda. *Journal of Human Evolution* 11(6), 95-107.

Campisano, C., Cohen, A., Arrowsmith, A. R., Asrat, A., Behrensmeier, A. K., Brown, E. T., Deino, A. L., Deocampo, D. M., Feibel, C. S., Kingston, J. D., Lamb, H. F., Lowenstein, T. K., Noren, A., Olago, D. O., Owen, R. B., Pelletier, J. D., Potts, R., Reed, K. E., Renaut, R. W., Russell, J. R., Russell, J. L., Schäbitz, F., Stone, J. R., Trauth, M. T., Wynn, J. G. (2017). The Hominin Sites and Paleolakes Drilling Project: Acquiring High-Resolution Paleoclimate Records from the East African Rift System and Their Implications for Understanding the Environmental Context of Hominin Evolution. *PaleoAnthropology* 2017, 1-43.

Carlson, B. and Kingston, J. D. (2014) Chimpanzee isotopic ecology: A closed canopy C3 template for hominin dietary reconstruction. *Journal of Human Evolution* 76, 107-115.

Service: Professor Kingston's service record is strong. He is a regular reviewer of journal manuscripts and has served as a reviewer of several external tenure and promotion cases. He has done significant departmental service, including serving as the subfield head for biological anthropology for two years, serving on the departmental executive and curriculum committees multiple terms, and serving as a formal mentor of several junior faculty members. Professor Kingston's signature service contribution has been his pivotal role and contribution to a number of international research collaborations and networks that bring together scholars in paleoanthropology, paleontology, geology, climatology, botany, and related fields. He is widely lauded for his collegiality and extensive service to the field, including investment in student training and dedication to developing and promoting fellow researchers from Africa.

#### External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A): "The quality of his work is deeply entrenched in and shaped by his multidisciplinary, integrative and collaborative approach ... exemplary research program, service record and unique contribution to the field of paleoanthropology and early hominin paleoecology ... one of the top-notch researchers in field of the exploration of early hominin paleoecology"

Reviewer (B): "... exceptional scientist for his range of expertise, objectivity, and ability to think about how environmental processes have interacted with human evolution from the perspectives of geology, geochemistry, and climatology ... among a select few who combine excellence in field and laboratory research with broad understanding of the importance of scale in the search for causal links between environmental forces and evolution. He also has a deep commitment to education and helping others of different career stages and nationalities achieve their goals."

Reviewer (C): “Professor Kingston is highly regarded by colleagues across a wide spectrum of disciplines, from isotope geochemistry to savanna ecology, and from geology to paleontology. He has an impressive record and a bright future ... a leader in the field, with an international reputation and a strong record of service at all levels.”

Reviewer (D): “... recognize him as a well-known and well-established specialist involved in a wide range of collaborative research that touches on early humans and their environments in Africa ... I’m impressed by the over-all level of his contributions on such a wide range of topics.”

Reviewer (E): “...highly respected senior researcher and considered as a leading expert on isotope analyses and paleoenvironmental reconstruction of ancient landscapes...unlike most researchers conducting work in developing countries, his work has resulted in noticeable broader impacts such as facilitating academic and infrastructural support to institutions in these countries and mentoring their students. This demonstrates the high societal impact of his research.”

Reviewer (F): “He is among the top 5% among his peers in the world of paleoanthropology, and that is to say he is an equal among the very best.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Kingston is a highly regarded paleoanthropologist whose exemplary research examines the role of the environment in shaping the course of human evolution. His collaborative intellectual approaches to research are transforming the field of paleontology. Moreover, Professor Kingston is a dedicated teacher, mentor, and department citizen. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor John Kingston be promoted to the rank of 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

May 2021