

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

Madhumita Lahiri, assistant professor of English language and literature, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of English language and literature, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2010	Duke University
B.A.	2004	Yale University

Professional Record:

2014 – Present	Assistant Professor, Department of English Language and Literature, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (Affiliated Faculty – Department of Film, Television and Media; Center for South Asian Studies; Center for African Studies)
2013-2014	Assistant Professor, Department of English and Comparative Literary Studies, University of Warwick
2011-2013	Mellon Post-doctoral Fellow, Department of English, Brown University
2010-2011	Mellon/URC Post-doctoral Fellow, Centre for Indian Studies in Africa, University of Witwatersrand (Affiliated Faculty –Department of African Literature)

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Lahiri's teaching is characterized by its range and creativity across different levels of the curriculum and across genres and fields. She teaches courses in Anglophone and global literary studies, post-colonial studies and Bollywood cinema. Her numerical scores on student evaluations are consistently above the school- and university-wide medians. Her courses are of interest not only to students in English but also to those in South Asian Studies and in the Department of Film, Television and Media. Two of her courses fulfill the college's Race and Ethnicity requirement and she is a much sought out mentor by a diverse range of students. Equally impressive is the work she has done with Honors students, having supervised five theses, served on the Honors committee, and read a thesis each year that she has been at UM. Likewise, she has mentored and served on the dissertation committees of Humanities graduate students.

Research: Professor Lahiri's research situates itself in multilingual environments through and against official, imperial English, while rendering a complex and agile account of many vectors of such transmission, including: print internationalism, the vernacular and the classical, the national, transnational, and the supranational, neologisms, critical race theory, translation, and language politics among others. Professor Lahiri's significant publications include her monograph Imperfect Solidarities: Tagore, Gandhi, Du Bois, and the Global Anglophone (2020), as well as four peer-reviewed articles. She has also published a number of shorter articles and reviews. The articles are in journals such as *Interventions*, *Comparative Literature*, and *Black Camera*—all considered premier journals in their respective fields. The monograph is published

as part of the prestigious Flashpoints series at Northwestern University Press. Professor Lahiri's book and her articles have been recognized by scholars to have shifted the debates and brought new energies and attention to the field of postcolonial studies.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Imperfect Solidarities: Tagore, Gandhi, Du Bois, and the Global Anglophone. Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 2020. (Recipient, "Towards an Open Manuscript Ecosystem" (TOME) award, 2019.)

"The Pose of the Author: Colonial Africa and the Operations of Genre." *Social Dynamics* 45(1) (2019): 53-74.

"Print for the People: Tagore, China, and the Bengali Vernacular." *Comparative Literature* 70(2) (2018): 145-159.

"Hearing the Difference: Sexuality, Xenophobia, and South African Melodrama," *Black Camera* 9(2) (2018): 295-312.

Service: Professor Lahiri served for two years on the department's highly-demanding executive committee. She also has served as a mentor for the MICCHERS program for three years and served on English's graduate admissions committee for two years. Beyond the department, Professor Lahiri has mentored students, organized symposia (e.g., one through South Asian studies on Bollywood cinema) and hosted guest speakers. She has served on editorial boards of journals on a national and international level, and all indications are she will engage further with the profession at large with her promotion and the recent publication of her book.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A): "It is clear from the packet you sent me that Professor Lahiri's scholarly production is of the highest quality. The book proofs and essays are consistently incisive, insightful and thorough. Professor Lahiri has a range of interests and areas of expertise, and what characterizes all of them is the synthetic intelligence, creativity, and scholarly responsibility with which she approaches her work."

Reviewer (B): "In sum, the rigor in archival scholarship, rhetorical analysis, and critical appraisal of commonplaces in our field make *Imperfect Solidarities* a work of excellence that is certain to make an impact on multiple specialties within English and cultural studies."

Reviewer (C): "I can say with conviction that *Imperfect Solidarities* is an important book that will shape how we think about the transmission and influence of global Anglophone print cultures outside the metropolitan West."

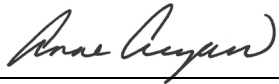
Reviewer (D): "In reviewing the proofs of *Imperfect Solidarities*, I see a gifted and dedicated scholar's emergence into one of the most nuanced, astute, and critically elegant voices in a veritable wave of linguistically focused, transnationally oriented studies in comparative and world literature and postcolonial studies."

Reviewer (E): “To read Professor Lahiri is to move meticulously through the contextual history of publication and to simultaneously take aesthetic form very seriously. She is a serious, ambitious scholar and has important work ahead.”

Reviewer (F): “*Imperfect Solidarities* makes several notable contributions to salient debates in current postcolonial scholarship. Lahiri is unusually attentive to the linguistic dimension of the field.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Lahiri’s excellence in research, teaching and service have and will continue to be transformative for our students in the Department of English Language and Literature. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Madhumita Lahiri be promoted to the rank of associate professor of English language and literature, 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

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