

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

Damani J. Partridge, associate professor of anthropology, with tenure, and associate professor of Afroamerican and African studies, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of anthropology, with tenure, and professor of Afroamerican and African studies, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2003	University of California, Berkeley
M.A.	1997	University of California, Berkeley
B.A.	1995	Amherst College

Professional Record:

2011–present	Associate Professor, Department of Anthropology and Department of Afroamerican and African Studies, University of Michigan
2005–2011	Assistant Professor, Department of Anthropology and Department of Afroamerican and African Studies, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Partridge has taught a total of thirteen different courses across his two budgeted departments. These courses range from those foundational to undergraduate curricula to more specialized courses that focus on the complexities of politics and racialization across local and global scales. His most innovative, public-oriented participatory courses are his “Filming the Future” courses (“Filming the Future of Detroit” and “Filming the Future of Diversity”) that require an enormous commitment of time and labor training students in film production techniques, coordinating with guest filmmakers, community organizations, and movie theaters, and raising the funds to make it all happen. He has mentored numerous undergraduate students, advised five undergraduate theses, and has served on 23 dissertation committees, chairing five of those.

Research: Professor Partridge’s transnational research in the deindustrialized cities of Berlin and Detroit focuses on the politics of making and unmaking citizens; modes of including while excluding new citizens and non-citizens; and the relations between institutions of memorialization and processes of racialization. His forthcoming monograph with University of California Press, ‘Blackness’ as a Universal Claim: Holocaust Heritage, European Enlightenment, and Noncitizen Futures, unites all of these concerns in considering how ‘Blackness’ as a distinctly American form of racialization has been deployed as a universal political identity category in Germany and elsewhere in Europe. He has published in top-tier anthropology journals (*Public Culture*, *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, *Current Anthropology*, *Cultural Anthropology*, *Hau*) on conceptualizations and political valences of “diversity,” changing dynamics of race and urban space, and new epistemologies of Blackness. A committed collaborator and public scholar, Professor Partridge also invests

considerable labor in participatory film projects involving students, migrants, and community that share the process and outcomes of knowledge production through innovative means.

Recent and Significant Publications:

‘Blackness’ as a Universal Claim: Holocaust Heritage, European Enlightenment and Noncitizen Futures. Book manuscript under contract with the University of California Press.

With Matthew Chin. “Interrogating the Histories and Futures of ‘Diversity’: Transnational Perspectives.” Introduction to Special Issue of *Public Culture*, edited by Damani Partridge and Mathew Chin, 31, no. 2 (May 2019): 197-214.

“Articulating a Noncitizen Politics: Nation-State Pity vs Democratic Inclusion.” In Refugees Welcome? Difference and Diversity in a Changing Germany, edited by Sharon MacDonald and Jan Jonathan Block, 265-287. New York: Berghahn Books, 2019.

“Against Invisibilization—Towards “Blackness” as a Universal Claim.” *Hau*, Special Issue (in press).

Service: Professor Partridge has an extensive record of service to both of his units as well as to the University of Michigan and the disciplines of anthropology and African American studies at large. His service demonstrates his commitment to diversity, race, and inclusion on our campus and internationally. Salient among his numerous service contributions are his roles as: Rackham Graduate School diversity ally, faculty liaison to the joint Ph.D. program in Anthropology and Social Work, co-chair of Anthropology’s committee formerly known as DEI, LSA Advisory Board member for the Advance Program for Faculty Diversity and Excellence, and elected member to the university’s Faculty Senate Assembly in 2018 (currently finishing out his three-year term). Internationally, he serves as a co-convenor (since 2017) of the European Association of Social Anthropologists Network (EASA) – Anthropology of Race and Ethnicity (ARE) group, and provides leadership in various collectives focused on mentoring young scholars and scholars of color in Germany.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A): “This rich body of his work is thoroughly and necessarily interdisciplinary, intersectional, and transnational in materials and methods alike.”

Reviewer (B): “In recent anthropological work on Europe there is a growing emphasis on examining mechanisms of marginalization and the politics of race, and Dr. Partridge’s work fits within the best of this scholarship that is grounded in ethnography and historical specificity.”

Reviewer (C): “[H]is thinking ... speaks directly to the Zeitgeist of our moment when the international resonance of the Black Lives Matter movement intersects with intensifying anti-migrant, anti-refugee politics in liberal nation-states across the world.”

Reviewer (D): “These themes of belonging, politics, and relationality are present across Professor Partridge’s body of work, reflecting a coherent, expansive, and rigorous scholarly agenda. This coherence is notable given his range of subjects and methods, working in both

Germany and the United States, in traditional scholarly forms and through film, and in a multitude of different spaces and settings.”

Reviewer (E): “With his research, he has opened up new empirical spaces in the field of Cultural Anthropology, developed innovative methodological approaches, and looked for new theoretical perspectives.”

Reviewer (F): “Dr. Partridge is among the most important anthropologists of Germany and also of non-citizens. It is difficult for me to think about a second person whose work would match the depth and scope of his work in Germany.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Partridge is a leading figure in Black German Studies. His research on race in Europe shows the vital role Americanized Blackness now plays in contesting dominant models of citizenship and national belonging in Germany and other Western liberal democracies. Professor Partridge is also an innovative teacher and an excellent citizen of his departments and professional field, providing especially important leadership in diversity, equity, and inclusion work. I recommend that Associate Professor Damani J. Partridge be promoted to the rank of professor of anthropology, with tenure, and professor of Afroamerican and African studies, 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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