

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Geoff Eley, D. Phil., Karl Pohrt Distinguished University Professor of Contemporary History and professor of history in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2022.

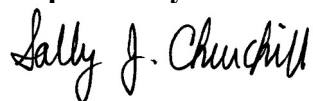
Professor Eley received his B.A. (First Class) degree from Balliol College, Oxford University in 1970 and his D. Phil. degree from Sussex University in 1974. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor of history in 1979, and was promoted to associate professor in 1981, and professor in 1986. He was awarded a collegiate professorship in 2000 and a distinguished university professorship in 2006.

Professor Eley is among the most prominent scholars in the fields of Modern German and European history and historiography of his generation. His pathbreaking early works included *Reshaping the German Right: Radical Nationalism and Political Change After Bismarck* and *The Peculiarities of German History: Bourgeois Society and Politics in Nineteenth-Century Germany* (co-authored with D.G. Blackbourn), which challenged the foundations of historical understandings of modern Germany. His continuing studies of nationalism, fascism, the history of the Left, and historiography were translated into many languages. His interests evolved to a focus on comparative state formation and theories of the state, culture, and ideology, and in particular the sociology of intellectuals and popular political mobilization and the relationship of social history and politics. In 2002, he published a highly significant work on the European left, *Forging Democracy: The History of the Left in Europe, 1850-2000*. In 2005, he authored *A Crooked Line: From Cultural History to the History of Society*, an intellectual memoir that outlined the evolution of his methodological influences through the lens of political commitment and experience, a focus that informs his current work, soon in press, *History Made Conscious: Politics of Knowledge, Politics of the Past*. He is also completing a major overview of twentieth-century European history, among other projects.

Professor Eley taught undergraduate and graduate courses in German and European history. He was an outstanding award-winning teacher in both the graduate program and undergraduate classroom. In addition to chairing the Department of History and the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, his service record at all levels of the university was exceptional. He was a dedicated mentor of many generations of undergraduate and graduate students in history.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar and teacher by naming **Geoff Eley, Karl Pohrt Distinguished University Professor Emeritus of Contemporary History and professor emeritus of history**.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.
Vice President and Secretary of the University

May 2022