

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

Omolade Adunbi, associate professor of Afroamerican and African studies, with tenure, and associate professor in the Honors Program, without tenure, College of Literature Science and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of Afroamerican and African studies, with tenure, and professor in the Honors Program, without tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2010	Yale University
M.Phil.	2006	Yale University
M.A.	2004	Yale University
B.A.	1992	Ondo State University

Professional Record:

2020–present	Associate Professor in the Honors Program, University of Michigan
2016–present	Associate Professor, Department of Afroamerican and African Studies, University of Michigan
2016–present	Faculty Associate, Program in the Environment (PitE), University of Michigan
2016–present	Faculty Associate, Donia Human Rights Center, University of Michigan
2016–present	Faculty Associate, Energy Institute, University of Michigan
2017–present	Dow Distinguished Faculty Fellow for Sustainability, University of Michigan
2017–present	Faculty Fellow, Institute for Advanced Social Sciences, Obafemi Awolowo University, Nigeria
2010–2016	Assistant Professor of Afroamerican and African Studies, University of Michigan
2010–2016	Faculty Associate, Program in the Environment (PitE), University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Adunbi is an engaging and dedicated teacher of graduate and undergraduate students whose classes have seen steady student enrollment growth over the years due to his commitment to pedagogical innovation. One of his signature courses boasts the highest enrollment in the unit capped at 150. He has taught across the board, including courses that fulfill the upper-level Writing and Race and Ethnicity requirements as well as graduate seminars for the DAAS Graduate Certificate. Professor Adunbi has an excellent record of mentorship. He has encouraged undergraduate, graduate students, and junior scholars' research through his strong involvement with the Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program and MCUBED. His ties with the Program in the Environment (PitE), the Honors Program, and several other units on campus have greatly contributed to his pedagogical versatility and his commitment to

interdisciplinary teaching. The quality of his teaching has been recognized with a Class of 1923 Excellence in Teaching Award and two nominations for the Golden Apple Award.

Research: Since his last promotion, Professor Adunbi has completed a second book, an ethnographic study of oil extraction in the Niger Delta, Enclaves of Exception: Special Economic Zones and Extractive Practices in Nigeria (forthcoming with Indiana University Press). The new book puts into conversation China-operated oil extraction with youth-led artisanal oil refineries, both in the Niger Delta. Since 2016, Professor Adunbi has published a dozen journal articles, book chapters, and encyclopedia entries, more than half of which are single-authored. With his groundbreaking research on the China-Africa energy nexus, Professor Adunbi has become an internationally recognized figure in the ethnographic field of oil extraction in Africa. Professor Adunbi's latest research has taken a promising new turn with his recent article on digital anthropology in Africa and his new book project in political ecology.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Enclaves of Exception: Special Economic Zones and Extractive Practices in Nigeria.

Bloomington: Indiana University Press, forthcoming 2022.

“Cloning a President: Social Media and the Politics of Elections in Nigeria.” *POLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review* 43, no. 1 (Spring 2020 Virtual Edition on Politics).

“Crafting Spaces of Value: Infrastructure, Technologies of Extraction and Contested Oil in Nigeria.” *Cambridge Journal of Anthropology* 38, no. 2 (Fall 2020): 38-52.

“Extractive Practices, Oil Corporations and Contested Spaces in Nigeria.” *The Extractive Industries and Society* 7, no. 3 (Summer 2020): 804-811.

“The Facebook President: Oil, Citizenship, and the Social Mediation of Politics in Nigeria.” *POLAR: Political and Legal Anthropology Review* 40, no. 2 (Fall 2017): 226-244.

Service: Professor Adunbi has served as one of the two associate chairs in DAAS since 2018, in the area of African Studies. He has been involved in many committees not only within the unit but also as a liaison to other programs. He has taken part in most DAAS committees, including the executive committee, the fellowship committee, the graduate certificate committee, and the curriculum committee. In his capacity as a major figure in African studies on campus, he has also served on the Masters in International and Regional Studies (MIRS), the African Studies Center, and the South African Initiative Office committees. His service to the university is expansive, one example being his role on the Presidential Award Committee on Distinguished Service in International Education, the Donia Human Rights Center Advisory Board, and the University of Michigan Press Executive Committee. Nationally and internationally, he has served on many editorial and advisory boards, including the Association of Africanist Anthropologists, the National Science Foundation, and the Social Action Interaction (Canada).

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A): “...the candidate is highly regarded within – and beyond – the scholarly community. He compares favourably well with the best scholars working in the areas of the political economy, cultural politics of extraction, the anthropology of oil and resource distribution, Niger Delta and China in Africa as well as the politics of human and environmental rights.”

Reviewer (B): “*Enclaves of Exception* is another *tour-de-force*. Professor Adunbi has done it again—he has produced an extraordinary ethnography of the complex entanglements of foreign capital and local communities and cultures, this time focusing on two state-managed Free Trade Zones (partnered with China) in Lagos and Ogun States and a ‘renegade’ village (Kpofire) in the Niger Delta run by militant youth groups who have developed artisanal methods of (re)capturing crude oil in the margins and shadows of the Nigerian state.”

Reviewer (C): “Adunbi’s scholarship interweaves observations across a range of sectors and scales and draws on the experiences of a wide spectrum of interlocutors, from human rights and environmental activists, to foreign workers and technocrats, local politicians, cultural elders, and rogue innovators and engineers who tap, refine, guard and transport illicit petro-wealth.”

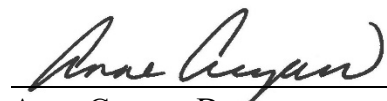
Reviewer (D): “...over the last decade, [he] has developed a solid body of work on the governance of oil and other natural resources in Nigeria.”

Reviewer (E): “I find this work to be particularly powerful in the ways that it goes beyond the simplistic binary of most contemporary studies of Africa-China engagement.”

Reviewer (F): “Enclaves deepens our understanding of how the ‘global’ and the ‘local’ interact, antagonize, and imbricate in a terrain haunted by the ghosts of history [...]”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Adunbi is an internationally recognized leader in Africanist anthropology. He has played an instrumental role in building a vibrant community of students and junior scholars invested in African Studies, while fostering productive collaborations between units and programs across campus in a spirit of cross-fertilization. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Omolade Adunbi be promoted to the rank of professor of Afroamerican and African studies, 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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