

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

Benjamin Brose, associate professor of Chinese Buddhism, with tenure, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of Chinese Buddhism, with tenure, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2009	Stanford University
M.A.	2003	Stanford University
M.A.	2002	University of California, Berkeley
B.A.	1996	University of California, Santa Cruz

Professional Record:

Summers 2018, 2019, 2021 2016–present	Visiting Scholar, Universität Hamburg, Asien-Afrika-Institut Associate Professor of Chinese Buddhism, University of Michigan
2013–2014	Visiting Scholar, Academia Sinica, Institute of Modern History
2009–2016	Assistant Professor of Chinese Buddhism, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Brose's teaching is innovative and designed to encourage students to think carefully and creatively about the issues, themes, and relationships arising from the source materials in Buddhist studies, thus enabling students to view the subject through a different lens. The rigor and depth of his course design is amply illustrated by the success of high-enrolling classes and student evaluation scores. Since 2016, Professor Brose has developed three new courses, taught four independent study courses, and continues to grow ASIAN 325 (Zen Buddhism), which is the second highest enrolling course in ALC. He has served on a number of dissertation committees, and is currently chairing two. Professor Brose is highly regarded by undergraduate and graduate students, a reflection of a skilled and dedicated teacher.

Research: Professor Brose has established himself as a leader in East Asian Buddhist studies. His volumes on Xuanzang, the public-facing Xuanzang: China's Legendary Pilgrim and Translator and the forthcoming academic monograph Embodying Xuanzang: The Postmortem Travels of a Medieval Pilgrim, exhibit his flexibility as a scholar and deftness as a writer, speaking to two audiences with sophisticated and rigorous scholarship, a rare quality. Though public scholarship, Professor Brose provides what will be regarded as the most accurate and fluid translations in Xuanzang: China's Legendary Pilgrim and Translator, a book expected to have high impact even in the academic community. The importance of Professor Brose's scholarship has been recognized with prestigious and highly competitive fellowships, including an Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellowship and a Robert H. N. Ho Foundation Program in Buddhist Studies Research Fellowship (administered by the American Council of Learned Societies).

Recent and Significant Publications:

Xuanzang: China's Legendary Pilgrim and Translator. Boulder: Shambhala Publications, 2021.

Embodying Xuanzang: The Postmortem Travels of a Medieval Pilgrim. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press, forthcoming.

"The Pig and the Prostitute: The Cult of Zhu Bajie in Modern Taiwan." *Journal of Chinese Religions* 46, no. 2 (2018): 167–196.

"Resurrecting Xuanzang: The Modern Travels of a Medieval Monk." In Recovering Buddhism in Modern China, edited by Jan Kiely and Brooks Jessup, 143–176. New York: Columbia University Press, 2016.

Service: Professor Brose has made significant service contributions to the department, to the broader fields of Buddhist studies and Chinese studies, and to the university. These include several leadership appointments, including director of graduate studies, co-chair of Faculty Search Committees, and service on ALC's Governance and Leadership Committee and Executive Committee, as well as more routine service appointments, including membership of the Curriculum Committee and the Graduate Program Committee. Professor Brose also has been an active member of the Lieberthal-Rogel Center for Chinese Studies, serving on its Executive Committee. Professor Brose has reviewed book manuscripts for the University of Chicago Press and Columbia University Press and refereed article submissions for a variety of journals including the *Journal of Chinese Buddhism*, *Asia Major*, *Journal of Chinese Religions*, and *Hualin International Journal of Buddhist Studies*. He also sits on the editorial boards of Brill Studies in East Asian Religions series and the *Journal of Chan Studies*.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A): "[Professor Brose] has maintained a commitment to an intensive style of teaching focused on individual student intellectual and professional development. I know him to be a dynamic speaker and lecturer, and a valued participant in academic dialogue. He has also maintained a high level of professional activity and won prestigious awards, most notably the Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellowship."

Reviewer (B): "[H]is writings from his doctoral days are now treated as standard references in his field, and I have quoted them myself. It is no surprise therefore that he is now called upon to provide definitive encyclopaedia articles on the period of Chinese Buddhism with which he initially became familiar...It is difficult to make comparisons with other peers, since [Professor Brose] is definitely ahead of those within his age cohort."

Reviewer (C): "Brose is well known to me, and to most of us in the international Buddhist Studies community, as a careful scholar of Chinese Buddhism, and probably the leading expert in the West on Buddhism of the Five Dynasties period. I regularly recommend his publications to graduate students working in the field of Chinese Buddhism. His work combines painstaking research in pre-modern primary sources with the sophisticated overview of a scholar who grasps the key issues in the contemporary Humanities. He exemplifies the high standards that one would associate with tenured faculty at the University of Michigan."

Reviewer (D): “I have watched [Professor Brose] emerge as one of the most erudite and productive scholars among a...generation of specialists in Chinese Buddhism. I am convinced he is also destined to mature into one of the leading figures in Western academe in the study of East Asian Buddhism more broadly...The sophistication of Brose’s methodology and the creativeness of his insights are unparalleled...”

Reviewer (E): “[Professor Brose’s] sensitivity and incisiveness as a historian of Buddhist history and doctrines, and his deep knowledge of East Asian cultures, have been instrumental in driving home to me hidden intellectual implications of the complex social, politico-religious events that I have studied.”

Reviewer (F): “Brose’s work is essential reading for all researchers who specialize in Chan Buddhism, and for those with an interest in Buddhism’s impact on society, not least because he has chosen to focus on a period that is both intriguing and challenging.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Brose is one of the leaders in East Asian Buddhist studies. His first book catapulted him to the forefront of the field, and he now is recognized as the peer of the most senior figures in the field. His new books on one of the most famous monks in history continue his bold efforts to bring new methodologies from areas like the social sciences to Buddhist studies. He is a devoted mentor to his students at all levels, and one of the most admired figures in the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Benjamin Brose be promoted to the rank of professor of Chinese Buddhism, with tenure, Department of Asian Language and Literatures, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



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