

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

Kristin A. Hass, associate professor of American culture, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of American culture, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

1994 Ph.D. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
1992 M.A. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
1992 B.A. University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Professional Record:

2010–present Associate Professor of American Culture, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
2004–2010 Assistant Professor of American Culture, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
1995–2004 Lecturer in American Culture, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Hass is a pioneering and widely admired teacher who has received excellent evaluations. She has taught large and small undergraduate classes, ranging from AMCULT 201: American Values, to Honors 240: Detroit and the Problem of Gentrification. She has also been a key contributor to graduate education in American Culture, teaching key classes such as AMCULT 698: Methodologies, and AMCULT 850: Primary Research. Since her last promotion, she has chaired three dissertations and served on numerous additional dissertation committees. She received the John H. D’Arms Faculty Award for Distinguished Graduate Mentoring in 2015.

Research: Professor Hass is an interdisciplinary American studies scholar who focuses on the critical analysis of memorials and commemorations in the United States. She has published two single-authored books: one on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., and a second analyzing five monuments in the nation’s capital. Her third single-authored book, which is currently under contract with Beacon Press, engages monuments, museums, and everyday performances of patriotism such as the display of flags, the singing of the National Anthem, and the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance, and their relationship to structural racism in the United States. In addition to her three monographs, Professor Hass has edited valuable volumes on the social impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and on American material culture studies.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Blunt Instruments: Recognizing Racist Cultural Infrastructure in Memorials, Museums, and Patriotic Practices. Boston: Beacon Press, forthcoming November 2022.

The Routledge Handbook of American Material Culture Studies. New York: Routledge, forthcoming fall 2022.

ed. Being Human During COVID. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, November 2021.

Sacrificing Soldiers on the National Mall. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2013.

“‘Conventions of Glorification:’ Representing Blackness and the Divine Interior.” In Afro-Cosmologies: American Reflections, edited by Frank Mitchell. Hartford: Wadsworth Atheneum Museum of Art, 2019.

Service: Professor Hass’ service and leadership has been exemplary at the departmental, university, and national level. She served as the director of graduate studies for four years, chaired Graduate Admissions

for four years, and served on the Department of American Culture Executive Committee for eight years. At the university level, she has been the faculty coordinator of the Michigan Humanities Collaboratory since 2017 and has served for six years on the President's Advisory Committee on University History. She has also collaborated with the Presidio National Park in San Francisco.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A): "Professor Hass' book [Blunt Instruments] stands up to the best of them... Absolutely fascinating. I have rarely learned so much, so quickly from a book... this is a truly extraordinary book, which while fully meeting expectations for public-facing scholarship, also offers instructors in a range of disciplines a powerful toolbox to carry into their classes. [Being Human] is a testament to the good will and commitment Hass has inspired among her colleagues [and] I am confident this volume will be immediately added to innumerable course syllabi in the next semester and beyond. The essay ['Conventions of Glorification'] is a marvel of rigorous close reading that brings the paintings to life for readers balanced by capacious, wide-ranging theoretically and culturally informed interpretative insights. Professor Hass' professional service both on campus and nationally more than meets expectations for promotion to [professor]. There is no question in my mind that Professor Hass should be promoted to [professor], based on her record of accomplishments. I support her promotion with the greatest enthusiasm and admiration."

Reviewer (B): "...[Professor Hass'] reputation as one of the few scholars who helped transform the field of public history over the last twenty years, and her materials filed in support of promotion make clear that her status as a national innovator in American Studies, public history, and political culture is well deserved. [Blunt Instruments] is a creatively imagined, beautifully executed examination... Her argument is stunning... Although I see *Blunt Instruments* as a teaching book, it is also a well-researched one, and clearly the work of a mature scholar with excellent command of her field. In my view, Hass would be eligible for promotion to [professor] on this book alone. Her writing in the anthologies is unusually strong...her essay 'Conventions of Glorification'...is remarkable. It is one of the most compelling readings of visual culture material I've read in several years...The University of Michigan is fortunate to have her as an academic citizen. She certainly would be well deserving of promotion to [professor at my institution]. She is an excellent scholar and a deeply committed member of our profession."

Reviewer (C): "[Professor Hass'] publication file is very thick for someone at the associate rank...Prof. Hass has met even the most stringent quantitative criterion for promotion to [professor]...she is a recognized authority on U.S. public monuments... I should also add that her service file is equally thick at all levels and includes a great deal of public service work. For all these reasons she appears to be an obvious candidate for promotion to [professor], and I would certainly support her promotion if she were at my institution."

Reviewer (D): "...[Professor Hass'] work easily meets the expectations both in quality and quantity for promotion at virtually any university in North American, including my own. I find the material in [Blunt Instruments] riveting and would eagerly assign parts of it to my undergraduates. On the strength of this manuscript, along with her dynamic contributions in the classroom and to the university and field, I am certain that Hass would be promoted at my own university. [Being Human] promises to be a valuable contribution, eventually becoming a primary document about this world historical event. Based on her thoughtful Teaching Statement, she has apparently undergone a renaissance in the classroom by aiming her courses at unanswered questions, rather than seeing them (as so many of us do) as delivery systems for scholarly knowledge... I think she should be applauded for this...what Hass is doing is vital. I wish I had taken a class like this as an undergraduate... she would be a valued colleague at my institution. I strongly endorse Hass's [sic] promotion to [professor]."

Reviewer (E): “Professor Hass’s [sic] scholarship has always been what we often refer to as ‘engaged.’ It is high impact work that takes up the big issues bedeviling American culture. I find [Blunt Instruments] illuminating and fresh, a work that will undoubtedly be assigned in many public humanities, museum studies and American Studies graduate courses. To turn to the edited collections and/or shorter projects is to reveal further a trajectory forward that is quite impressive. I found the range of the essays [in Being Human] to transcend my initial expectations. The courage and initiative it took to produce such a volume of essays even as its authors were immersed in the immediate pandemic experience including the uprising at the Capitol and general social unrest, should not be underestimated. I think she would present a strong case for promotion at my institution and at most research institutions that value engaged scholarship. I recommend Professor Hass for promotion without reservation....”

Reviewer (F): “[Blunt Instruments] is the work of a mature scholar whose projects not only contribute to a primary field, but also shape the terms and analytical frameworks across several fields and expands outside to engage public discourse. Through [her] recent projects, Prof. [Hass] demonstrates her ability to be a leading academic voice and presence nationally and internationally. Prof. [Hass]’s [sic] academic leadership has also contributed to robust shaping of ideas within the University of Michigan community. I have no doubt that many within U-M community as well as other academics will find [Being Human] a useful volume for teaching the pandemic and its impact. Prof. [Hass] has demonstrated the leadership that characterizes the work of a [professor]. I have no doubt that from her teaching statement that Prof. [Hass] continues to evolve her pedagogical approaches drawing from her recent scholarship and various academic projects... given Prof. Hass’s [sic] diverse array of publications and service I would have no reservations in believing she would be promoted to [professor at my institution].”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Hass is a recognized innovator and leader in her field who will continue to produce outstanding research over the course of a long career. Her contribution to the teaching and service missions of the college has been exceptional. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Kristin A. Hass be promoted to the rank of professor of American culture, 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
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