

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

Matthew P. Solomon, associate professor of film, television, and media, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of film, television, and media, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2001	University of California, Los Angeles
M.A.	1995	University of California, Los Angeles
B.A.	1993	Carleton College

Professional Record:

2011–present	Associate Professor, Department of Film, Television, and Media, University of Michigan
2009–2011	Associate Professor, Department of Media Culture, College of Staten Island, City University of New York
2008–2010	Visiting Professor, Film Studies Certificate Program, Graduate Center, City University of New York
2002–2008	Assistant Professor, College of Staten Island, City University of New York
2001–2002	Visiting Assistant Professor, Indiana University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Solomon is a committed and passionate undergraduate teacher who engages students to understand the multiple intersections between film history, film theory, and mass culture. At the undergraduate level, he has taught the department’s gateway course as well as elective courses in film and archival research, film noir, and silent cinema. At the graduate level, he has taught one of the department’s core requirements. He has been the recipient of multiple LSA and university grants to experiment with and create new methods of learning.

Research: Professor Solomon is a well-known and respected film historian. Since joining the University of Michigan, Professor Solomon has published an anthology, a brief monograph (The Gold Rush, London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015), five essays in peer-reviewed journals, and nine book chapters in refereed anthologies. His edited collection, Fantastic Voyages of the Cinematic Imagination (New York, NY: SUNY Press, 2011), is considered a major contribution to early cinema studies. The Gold Rush is a meticulously researched narrative of the multiple versions of Charlie Chaplin’s classic film. His latest monograph, Méliès Boots: Footwear and Film Manufacturing in Second Industrial Revolution Paris (forthcoming, University of Michigan Press, 2022), historicizes the work of pioneering figure Georges Méliès, considering artistic as well as economic and material practices of the Second Industrial Revolution.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Méliès’ Boots: Footwear and Film Manufacturing in Second Industrial Revolution Paris. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2022 (forthcoming).

The Gold Rush. BFI Film Classics series. London: Palgrave Macmillan, 2015.

“Old-Time Movies: Welles and Silent Pictures.” In Orson Welles In Focus: Texts and Contexts, edited by James Gilmore and Sidney Gottlieb, 52-79. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2018.

“Negotiating the Bounds of Transnational Cinema with Georges Méliès, 1896-1908.” *Early Popular Visual Culture* 14, no. 2 (2016): 155-167.

“George Méliès: Anti-Boulangist Caricature and the Incohérent Movement.” *Framework* 53, no. 2 (2012): 305-327.

Service: Professor Solomon has shown impressive leadership in the area of undergraduate teaching, particularly in his revamping of the Department of Film, Television, and Media’s gateway course. He has also been involved with service at the university level, organizing symposia for the Hatcher Library’s Special Collections Mavericks and Makers archives as well as being a member of the University of Michigan Press Faculty Executive Committee. Professor Solomon’s service to the profession has been noteworthy. He served as the associate editor of *Cinema and Media Journal*, the journal of record for the Society for Cinema and Media Studies. Professor Solomon has also refereed articles for a number of international scholarly journals.

#### External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A): “Solomon offers a fresh understanding of Méliès [in Méliès Boots] as not only a filmmaker and a magician, but as a product of his first career—maker of luxury footwear—and more broadly as the product of the second wave of technological industrialization and specific cultural, political, and artistic currents.”

Reviewer (B): “The major contribution of *Méliès Boots* is to make filmmaking and filmgoing fully a part of specific stage of economic development—the Second Industrial Revolution—in which industries took advantage of electricity and organic chemistry...to accelerate economic activity, especially in the realm of mass-produced consumer goods.”

Reviewer (C): “What separates out Matt Solomon’s scholarship, however, is that he can be relied upon to respond to shifts in the field (such as the repositioning of cinema relative to other media) with more imaginative historical research than other scholars.”

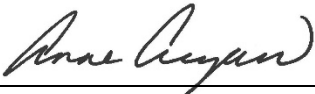
Reviewer (D): “Over the past two decades, Matthew Solomon has established himself as one of the leading authorities, arguably the *primus inter pares*, in the intermedial field of studies exploring the relationship between stage magic and silent cinema.”

Reviewer (E): “A meticulous historian, he keeps making new discoveries and revealing unexplored aspects of well-known films. Above all, he has done more than any previous writer to explore the crucially important relationship between stage magic and early cinema.”

Reviewer (F): “[Professor Solomon’s] new book *Méliès Boots*...is a veritable feat and truly original research specimen...The broad scope of the investigation sets the book apart from most of the Méliès literature that mostly tends to gloss over the boot context and the materiality and industrial infrastructure that connect and embed the panorama of Méliès’ range of métiers.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Solomon a leading scholar of the material and social history of early cinema in the United States and Europe. He is an important figure in the Department of Film, Television, and Media's film studies undergraduate curriculum and has been a central voice in developing strategies to fortify the department's pedagogical strategies. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Matthew P. Solomon be promoted to the rank of professor of film, television, and media, 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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