

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

ACTION REQUEST

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**

**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

**Carol Bardenstein, Ph.D.**, associate professor of Arabic languages and cultures, Department of Middle East Studies, in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on May 31, 2023.

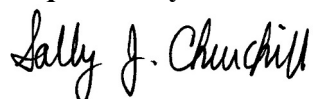
Professor Bardenstein attended the University of Michigan, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Near Eastern studies in 1979. After two years of graduate coursework at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, she obtained the Master of Arts degree in Arabic language and literature from the University of Michigan in 1982. She went on to complete a study abroad program at The American University of Cairo during 1982-1983 and earned her Ph.D. degree at the University of Michigan in 1991. She taught Arabic language and literature at Dartmouth College from 1987-1998. She joined the faculty at the University of Michigan as an assistant professor in 1998, and was promoted to associate professor in 2004.

Professor Bardenstein's scholarship has taken up topics such as translation and the cultural encounter between Europe and the Arab world (in her book *Translation and Transformation in Modern Arabic Literature*), contested symbols in the Arab-Israeli conflict (in her articles "Threads of Memory in Discourses of Rootedness" and "Trees, Forests and the Shaping of Palestinian and Israeli Collective Memory"), the politics of 'passing' in Palestinian and Israeli cinema, ("Cross/Cast: Passing in Israeli and Palestinian Cinema"), and the cookbook-memoirs of Middle Eastern exiles and immigrants ("Beyond Univocal Baklava: Deconstructing Food-as-Ethnicity and the Ideology of Homeland in Diana Abu Jaber's *The Language of Baklava*," and "Transmissions Interrupted: Reconfiguring Food, Memory and Gender in the Cookbook-Memoirs of Middle Eastern Exiles").

Professor Bardenstein taught popular courses like Introduction to Arab Studies and Connecting Life Stories, Connecting Lives: The Middle East and Beyond at U-M. She presented dozens of invited and public talks, was deeply involved in community outreach and public humanities, and was nominated for the Golden Apple Teaching Award several times. She served on numerous committees at U-M and remains an active member of several professional organizations.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar by naming **Carol Bardenstein, associate professor emerita of Arabic languages and cultures.**

Requested by:



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

May 2023