

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

Charlotte M. Albrecht, assistant professor of American culture, and assistant professor of women's and gender studies, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of American culture, with tenure, and associate professor of women's and gender studies, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D. 2013 University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
B.A. 2003 Rice University (*cum laude*), Houston, Texas

Professional Record:

2015–present Assistant Professor, Departments of American Culture and Women's and Gender Studies, University of Michigan
2014–2015 Visiting Assistant Professor, Women's Studies Program, Denison University
2013–2014 Consortium for Faculty Diversity Post-doctoral Fellow, Women's Studies Program, Denison University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Albrecht is a remarkably effective teacher whose commitment to pedagogical excellence is transformative for her students and her departments' curricular offerings in gender studies, LGBTQ studies, comparative ethnic studies, and Arab American studies. Of note is that she is an effective instructor of WGS 240: Introduction to Women's and Gender Studies (enrolling over 300 students per semester) and has both taught this course in person and adapted it to an online format. She contributes substantively to various course innovation initiatives, including a competitively funded Large Course Initiative Grant from the Center for Research on Learning and Teaching, and she regularly lends her expertise to fundamental revisions of core courses and curricular projects that center issues of pedagogical equity and inclusion. Professor Albrecht is also a valued mentor of Ph.D. students.

Research: Professor Albrecht's field-shaping scholarship recasts perspectives in gender and LGBTQ studies, American studies, U.S. immigration history, and ethnic studies. These fields examine the historical structures of power that marginalize specific communities and excavate the cultural texts, movements, and creative and resistant productions and practices that characterize the lives and agency of these same communities. Professor Albrecht's work provides nuanced readings of Arab American men's and women's experiences in the United States as portrayed in a variety of late nineteenth and early twentieth-century cultural texts. She is already recognized as a major figure in these intersecting fields through her published articles and first book, and with her future planned work—which will bring Native American studies into dialogue with Arab American studies—she will continue to reshape the fields of comparative, interdisciplinary ethnic and queer studies and to enhance the research profile of the Departments of Women's and Gender Studies and American Culture at the University of Michigan.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Possible Histories: Arab Americans and the Queer Ecology of Peddling. American Crossroads Series. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2023.

“Why Arab American History Needs Queer of Color Critique.” *Journal of American Ethnic History*. 37, no. 3 (Spring 2018): 84-92.

“An Archive of Difference: Syrian Women Peddlers and U.S. Social Welfare, 1880-1935.” *Gender & History*. 28, no. 1 (March 2016): 127-149.

“Narrating Arab American History: The Peddling Thesis.” *Arab Studies Quarterly*. 37, no. 1 (Winter 2015): 100-117.

Service: Professor Albrecht’s service focuses on diversifying the student body at the University of Michigan and supporting the experiences of underrepresented students. Since arriving at UM, she has demonstrated deep respect for students at all levels and committed herself to thoughtful, generous mentoring and modeling of intellectual community building. She has been elected to the Executive Committees of both of her departments and has served for two years as the WGS Diversity Ally with Rackham Graduate School, as well as the WGS liaison for the MICHHERS program, which brings promising candidates for humanities graduate programs at UM to our campus every summer to work with a faculty mentor and to obtain support for their Ph.D. program applications. She has also served as a mentor for this program herself.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A): “I was so impressed that I selected her work to be in the two scholarly anthologies ... ‘An Archive of Difference: Syrian Women Peddlers and U.S. Social Welfare, 1880-1935’ ... because it is the best piece of research I know on Arab American women in the early migration [and] ‘Narrating Arab American History: The Peddling Thesis’ ... again, the most thorough critique of dominant narratives of early Arab Americans and the role of peddlers in their history.... [and] a major contribution to Arab American Studies... Professor Karem Albrecht’s work certainly meets the standards of [my institution] for promotion to Associate professor in teaching, service, and research.”

Reviewer (B): “Professor Karem Albrecht’s book *Possible Histories*... is a crucial and groundbreaking scholarly work that is bound to reshape the study of early Arab American immigrant history. I very much look forward to teaching this much-anticipated monograph in my courses... Professor Karem Albrecht’s second book project... promises to be another much-needed contribution to the field of Arab American studies. Based on the strength and ongoing promise of her scholarly and service record... I fully support Professor Karem Albrecht’s case for tenure and promotion to Associate Professor at the University of Michigan.”

Reviewer (C): “Professor Karem Albrecht is an impressive scholar making significant and innovative contributions to multiple fields. Her work sits at the cutting edge of Arab American and migration studies, and her project advances our understanding of how gender and sexuality inform ideas about racial difference in the United States. Her work is anchored in history, but is interdisciplinary, combining a deft analysis of archival material with sophisticated engagements with queer and feminist theory. I consider her to be among the top five [junior] scholars working in Arab American studies in the United States...”

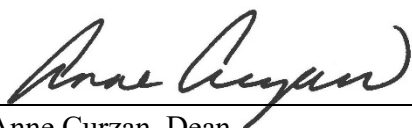
Reviewer (D): “As is characteristic of her work more generally, Dr. Karem Albrecht’s included essay is honestly a model for how to go about disrupting the canon, while simultaneously inviting generative debate and discussion... Dr. Karem Albrecht is a groundbreaking, creative, and inspiring thinker whose corpus of work has productively shifted and expanded the scope of several fields of study, including Arab American studies, critical ethnic studies and queer studies.”

Reviewer (E): “I find her 2018 work published [in] the *Journal of American Ethnic History* to be the most exciting and I predict will be one of her most cited works. I have used it in my graduate seminars with great success. *Possible Histories* is a rigorously argued and elegantly written prose that can be considered a potentially useful model for the historiography of minoritized groups. This work is a remarkable contribution to the fields of American migration history, Arab American Studies, Ethnic Studies, American Studies, and LGBTQ studies...Albrecht’s work can stand together with the works of [the] top scholars in American, American Ethnic, and Gender/Women/Sexuality Studies. With her scholarship record, I am convinced that she will surely be awarded tenure at my institution...”

Reviewer (F): “Dr. Karem-Albrecht’s research interests—a combination of gender studies, queer or color critique, and historical analysis—uniquely accounts for the lives of people excluded from the historical record and provides a methodology for including them and telling their stories...Dr. Karem Albrecht’s book...has expanded the reach of an earlier scholar’s work without doing an academic takedown or shuttering the possibilities still present... [Her] work broaches this space with the utmost care and talent...I would be remiss if I didn’t speak about the beauty of the writing...[which] maintains a clear, accessible, and scholastic tone throughout, even while she inhabits the voices and memories of others. I have no doubt that she meets the standard for tenure...[S]he...[has]created quality work that intervenes in multiple fields.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Albrecht 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 outstanding. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Charlotte M. Albrecht be promoted to the rank of associate professor of American culture, with tenure, and associate professor of women’s and gender studies, 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
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

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