

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

William A. Calvo-Quirós, assistant professor of American culture, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and assistant professor of art and design, Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of American culture, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and associate professor of art and design, without tenure, Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2015	Chicana and Chicano Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara
Ph.D.	2011	Industrial Design, Arizona State University, Tempe
M.S.D.	2003	Industrial Design, Arizona State University, Phoenix
B.S.	1996	Industrial Design [summa cum laude] Costa Rica Institute of Technology, Cartago, Costa Rica

Professional Record:

2018–present	Assistant Professor, Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
2015–present	Assistant Professor, Department of American Culture, College of Literature, Science and the Arts, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor
2014–2015	Post-doctoral Fellow, Department of American Culture, and The National Center for Institutional Diversity [NCID] University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Calvo-Quirós teaches courses cross-listed in American culture, Latina/o studies, history of art, and women’s and gender studies. In teaching about cars, monsters, Latina/o art, and Latina/o studies, he centers culture as a way into explorations of race, gender, nation, religion, LGBTQ issues, class, immigration, and various hierarchies and identities within American life. His courses are characterized by innovation, flexibility, and attention to feedback, and have included visits to the Henry Ford Museum of American Innovation in Dearborn. Professor Calvo-Quirós transforms students’ lives and expectations about what an American culture and Latina/o studies class can be.

Research: Professor Calvo-Quirós focuses on the complex political, cultural, and religious experiences of people moving through, along and beyond the U.S.-Mexico border. Drawing on Latina/o studies, American studies, religious studies, folklore studies, and gender, queer, and cultural studies, he makes compelling arguments for taking the religious, spiritual, and imaginative lives of his subjects seriously as sites for the expression of powerful and sustaining ontologies of race, place, and belonging. He accomplishes this through ethnography, interviews, spatial mapping, and careful cultural critique. His new project on Chicana lowrider car culture promises to be equally exciting and to make significant contributions to American studies, art and design, and the university.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Undocumented Saints: The Politics of Migrating Devotions. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2022.
“The Emancipatory Power of the Imaginary: Defining Chican@ Speculative Productions.” *Aztlán: A Journal of Chicano Studies* 41, no. 1 (Spring 2016): 155 – 170.

“The Aesthetics of Healing and Love: An Epistemic Genealogy of Jota/o [Queer Chicano] Aesthetic Traditions.” *Aztlán: A Journal of Chicano Studies* 39, no. 1 (Spring 2014): 181 – 194.
“The Politics of Color: Chromophobia, Chromo-Eugenics, and the Epistemologies of Taste.” *Chicana/Latina Studies: The Journal of Mujeres Activas en Letras y Cambio Social* [MALCS] 13, no. 1 (Fall 2013): 76 – 116.

Service: Professor Calvo-Quirós’s departmental service contributions have been exemplary and have also extended well beyond the university, including his work as founding member of the Michigan Association of Latinx for Higher Education; a member of the National Diversity Scholars Network, organized by the National Center for Institutional Diversity; a reviewer for the top journals in his fields; and a board member of the National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies and the Association for Jotería (Queer Latinx) Arts, Activism, and Scholarship. His international service has been equally exemplary and has involved collaborations with universities in Italy, Mexico, and Spain, and a collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A): “[Professor Calvo-Quirós’] work has quickly established him as a significant force in the shaping of Latinx cultural studies—especially innovating in areas of lowrider, speculative, and monster subcultures as well as vernacular (spiritual and creative) practices of undocu. [sic], Latina, and queer material inclusion and resistance...*Undocumented Saints* provides a new scholarly paradigm.”

Reviewer (B): “Dr. Calvo-Quirós has an impressive record of presentations and publication internationally as well as nationally. Of their publications, I consider their first book the most important for the field. Overall, [their] work breaks new ground...I cite another excellent example of Dr. Calvo-Quirós’s[sic] service and their leadership role: the establishment of a new professional organization, the Association for Jotería (Queer Latinx) Arts, Activism, and Scholarship, an offshoot of the National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies. I know of no other scholar at this level who has accomplished such a level of involvement.”

Reviewer (C): “I am delighted to have this opportunity to add my voice to the chorus recommending William Calvo-Quirós for tenure at your university. [He] is doing deeply committed, deeply felt, intensely personal, and profoundly scholarly work in the vein of the best culture studies scholarship.”

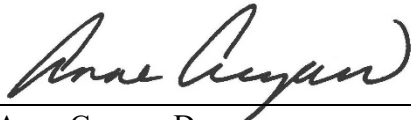
Reviewer (D): “Having completed my review of William Calvo-Quirós’ dossier for promotion, I recommend tenure. [*Undocumented Saints*] is work that is already having an impact if we consider that each of his three separate chapter publications...were contributions invited by leading scholars in American Culture and Latinx Studies. It is work of great interest for scholars of Catholic studies, religious studies, and Chicanx and Latinx studies...Calvo-Quirós’s [sic] service record is bifurcated and exemplary.”

Reviewer (E): “*Undocumented Saints: The Politics of Migrating Devotions* promises to become a blockbuster interdisciplinary book that I look forward to using [in classes at my institution]. [It] is a tour de force. I can assure you that, if he were coming up for tenure in my department...[he] would most assuredly get tenure...Indeed, his expertise and scholarship represent exactly the kind of cutting edge, interdisciplinarity work that we would reward with promotion to Associate Professor with tenure.”

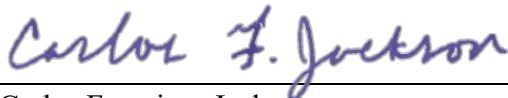
Reviewer (F): “Clearly, Dr. Calvo-Quirós is a visible, energetic, and engaged academic and public scholar, whose contributions since graduate school to his current institution are consistent, remarkable, and generous...I consider William Calvo-Quirós’s [sic] new study to be in this same category of exciting, serious, and groundbreaking studies of religiosity among U.S. Latinxs. I have no doubt that he will continue making significant contributions as a scholar, teacher, mentor, and public intellectual who is committed to social justice and transformation toward a more compassionate, inclusive, and egalitarian world.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Calvo-Quirós is a recognized innovator and leader in his field who will continue to produce outstanding research over the course of a long career. His 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 Assistant Professor William Calvo-Quirós be promoted to the rank of associate professor of American culture, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and associate professor of art and design, without tenure, Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design.



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



Carlos Francisco Jackson
Dean and Professor
Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design

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