

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

Reginald R. Jackson, associate professor of Asian languages and cultures, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of Asian languages and cultures, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2007	Princeton University
B.A.	2001	Amherst College

Professional Record:

2019-present	Associate Professor, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, University of Michigan
2015-2019	Assistant Professor, Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, University of Michigan
2009-2015	Assistant Professor of East Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago
2007-2009	Assistant Professor of East Asian Languages and Literatures and Theater Studies, Yale University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Since Fall 2018, Professor Jackson has taught twelve courses with admirable creativity, rigor, and pedagogical skill. Of these, seven are undergraduate courses at the 200 and 300 levels, four are combined graduate/undergraduate courses, and two are dedicated graduate seminars. Professor Jackson has made several new additions in the form of topics courses: he has developed a new border-crossing Japan/South Asia graduate course, and redesigned and updated several of his existing courses. For the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, his undergraduate offerings have consisted of mid-sized lecture-based classes such as Asian 300: Love and Death in Japanese Culture and Asian 320: Japanese Performance Culture. He has also taught the junior-senior capstone course for graduating ALC majors, a seminar on antiracism and Japanese culture, and a specialist language seminar AsianLan 433: Classical Japanese. His graduate teaching has been in ALC and in the Transcultural Studies Program, the latter of which were overload courses which he agreed to take on at short notice following the departure of a faculty colleague. Professor Jackson's contributions to graduate supervision and mentoring have been extensive: he serves or has served on many dissertation committees, has been a qualifying exam committee member for five graduate students from various departments, and has supervised six MA theses since 2017.

Research: Professor Jackson came to Michigan as a scholar of Japanese literature in the Heian (794-1185) and medieval (1185-1600) eras. However, over the course of a decade of teaching and research, he has branched out into studies of performance, race, and queerness. Professor Jackson is a highly original thinker who is recognized in the field for taking intellectual risks in his published scholarship. He has become a prominent figure in the field of premodern Japanese literature, known for his novel perspectives on familiar materials. He has been particularly productive in the last six or seven years, with a strong publication record in rank and a strong set of articles in the pipeline. His new monograph, A Proximate Remove: Queer Intimacy and Loss in The Tale of Genji, was released

by the University of California Press in 2021. The book is complemented by multiple notable articles and two additional book projects slated for completion in the coming two years.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Yasuko Yokoshi: Choreographic Translation Beyond Japanese Culture. Middletown, Connecticut: Wesleyan University Press, forthcoming 2024.

Spectacular Dominion: Slavery, Performance, and the Boundaries of Personhood in Premodern Japan. California: University of California Press, forthcoming.

“Blueprints for Making Room: Considering Closure and Hospitality in Anglophone Heian Literary Studies.” *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* 82, no. 1 (2022).

A Proximate Remove: Queering Intimacy and Loss in The Tale of Genji. New Interventions in Japanese Studies Series. California: University of California Press, 2021.

“Solidarity’s Indiscipline: Regarding Miyoshi’s Pedagogical Legacy.” *boundary 2* 46, no. 3 (2019): 65-88.

Service: Professor Jackson’s contributions towards service, leadership, and governance are shaped by the lived experience of being the only Black faculty member in the Asian studies departments he has served (including ALC), underpinned by long-standing commitments to DEI, and informed by expertise in languages, race, gender, and social justice. Professor Jackson’s portfolio of governance activities in the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures includes being elected twice to serve on the Executive Committee and serving as the diversity ally from 2018 to 2020. Professor Jackson’s service to the wider LSA community includes serving as director for the Center of Japanese Studies and undertaking the role of the director of a relatively new accelerated master’s program, the Program in Transcultural Studies. He has had other important service commitments, including participating in multiple Rackham and MORE workshops to improve application review and graduate mentoring processes.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A): “In relation to others who have been working in the same field, I would say that the candidate is very highly regarded as a brilliant scholar, eloquent writer, and excellent presenter. When it comes to thinking, writing, and speaking, [Professor Jackson] has few equals. There are probably people who are better at parsing a difficult text in classical Japanese or Chinese, but I think he can certainly hold his own, and most of those people, including myself, cannot hold a candle to him in terms of method or breadth of knowledge.”

Reviewer (B): “I find Professor Jackson’s work and mind keenly perceptive and stimulating, and I share his faith in what he terms ‘transformative,’ ‘imaginative’ and ‘generous’ (also ‘generative’) research: in this context, readings and modes of reading which spark ‘undisciplined’ inquiries and readers with other/out intellectual commitments.”

Reviewer (C): “With respect to service to the discipline, Dr. Jackson’s dossier is very strong. His two-year term as Director of the Center for Japanese Studies and his one-year term as Director of Graduate Studies show that he can take line-item responsibility for administering major programs. The antiracist syllabi workshop series in 2021, and his PI position (2020-present) with the larger Japanese Studies and Antiracist Pedagogy (JSAP) project represents brave leadership around a crucial initiative. Dr. Jackson is clearly a sought-after advisor, serving thus far on more than a dozen dissertation committees in Asian Languages and Cultures, Comparative Literature, and Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. He has reviewed article manuscripts for the *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* and book manuscripts for Cornell, Duke, and Columbia University Presses.”

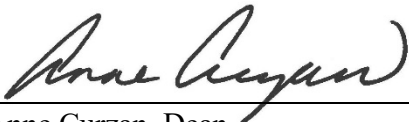
Reviewer (D): “The volume of his output, the upward trajectory of his research interests, his steady productivity, excellent teaching (so far as I can tell), and commitment to building his field even as he occasionally criticizes it are all the sorts of things that help junior colleagues get promoted. Of course, the key is the quality of his scholarship. From my own proximate remove it seems to be excellent.”

Reviewer (E): “In my view, Professor Jackson is one of the most interesting scholars of premodern Japanese culture publishing in English today. After reviewing his work to date, I would describe him as uniquely situated to lead the study of premodern Japan into exciting new areas in the coming decades.”

Reviewer (F): “Professor Jackson’s teaching and service are inseparable from this project of scholarly activism. All of his publications are written with students in mind; he is constantly aware of the impact of teaching both undergraduates and graduate students, and his desire to change the accepted, standard discourses of our field stems from this keen awareness. Since the start of the pandemic and the ensuing sharp rise in hate incidents that target people of Asian descent, Professor Jackson has become an outspoken ally, using venues that intersect teaching and service to support and amplify the voices of students and scholars of Asian descent.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Jackson is at the very top of the field of Japanese studies, particularly in the realms of premodern literature and performance. He has established himself as a senior scholar whose research agendas are rich, varied, and insightful. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor Reginald R. Jackson be promoted to the rank of professor of Asian languages and cultures, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



Anne Curzan, Dean
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