

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION  
The University of Michigan – Flint  
College of Arts, Sciences and Education

Guluma Gemed, associate professor of Africana studies, with tenure, Department of Social Sciences and Humanities, College of Arts, Sciences and Education, is recommended for promotion to professor of Africana studies, with tenure, Department of Social Sciences and Humanities, College of Arts, Sciences and Education.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1996	Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI
M.A.	1984	Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia
B.A.	1980	Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia

Professional Record:

2007-present	Associate Professor, with tenure, Department of Social Sciences and Humanities, University of Michigan-Flint, Michigan
2001-2007	Assistant Professor, Department of Social Sciences and Humanities, University of Michigan-Flint, Michigan
1998-2001	Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Social Sciences and Humanities, University of Michigan-Flint, Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Gemed has successfully taught a wide variety of courses since earning tenure. His dedication to course development extends across levels, modes and disciplines. He has also regularly taught the first-year experience and within multiple DEEP programs. Professor Gemed's deep commitment to serving and retaining these students is demonstrated in his attendance at conferences and workshops where he has learned to apply strategies that best serve these particular populations. Professor Gemed is a thoughtful, student-centered teacher with a sound teaching philosophy and well-structured syllabi. He engages in a variety of high impact practices and has adapted materials to meet the demands of online learners. Professor Gemed has remained flexible when accommodating students. He takes student feedback seriously and considers the student evaluations to be evidence of "thorough preparation care, outstanding delivery and high teaching effectiveness." Students generally agree that Professor Gemed is an excellent instructor, and his expectations are clear. They report advanced understanding and increased interest in the content. Professor Gemed's record also includes effective advising, routine assessment and impactful curriculum development.

Research: Since earning tenure, Professor Gemed has published three peer reviewed journal articles. Two of these articles also appear as chapters in a book of essays. Consistent with Africana Studies standards for promotion to full professor, Professor Gemed has demonstrated ongoing scholarly achievement. There is also promise for future work given an article is under review and a book is in progress. Reviewers report that Professor Gemed is one of very few established historians on Oromo and Ethiopian studies.

Recent and Significant Scholarly Activity:

“Development Without Democracy? The Myth of Economic Miracle and Protests in Ethiopia,”  
*Journal of Oromo Studies* 27, no. 1 & 2 (2020), 71-99.

“The Northern Oromo and the Abyssinian State: A Review of the Other Abyssinians,” *Journal of Oromo Studies*, vol. 28 (in Press).

“The Glory and Price of Serving Empire: Oromo Elites and the Ethiopian State, 1600-1900,”  
*Journal of Oromo Studies* 21, no. 1 (2014), 27-58.

Service: Since earning tenure, Professor Gemedā has continued to build a strong record of meaningful service. This service spans the discipline, college, university and community. As a member of multiple college level committees, Professor Guluma has played a role in shaping policy and curriculum. Committee membership includes the Curriculum Committee and the LEO Annual Review Committee. He co-chaired the General Education Reform committee. Professor Gemedā served as the chair of African Studies for multiple terms. In this role, he led the organization of significant cultural events across Black History Month, including Africa Week for many years. Events often include collaboration across campus and the community, thus enriching both campus and community life. Professor Gemedā served as the interim chair of the Department of Foreign Languages. Professor Gemedā holds leadership roles in several professional organizations. He helped establish organizations that aid the Oromo Diaspora community in Michigan, in the United States and Globally. He served as the president of the Oromo Community Association in Michigan for many years. He is recognized as a leader among this population. Professor Gemedā’s active participation in conference panels and manuscript review further demonstrate extensive service contributions. Professor Gemedā’s service has been impactful and broad.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A): “His articles have appeared in the preeminent refereed journal on Oromo studies, and his overall body of work constitutes a seminal contribution that continues to inspire subsequent generations of scholars of Oromo history, myself included.”

Reviewer (B): “All of this clearly shows that professor Gemedā has sufficient evidence of ongoing scholarly and professional achievements. It also shows that Gemedā is very devoted and hardworking school who is a great asset for the Department of African Studies and the University as a whole.”

Reviewer (C): “Dr. Gemedā’s work on Oromo Studies successfully and strongly reflects the promotion criteria of making ‘a significant positive contribution to the individual’s field(s).”

Reviewer (D): “Dr. Gemedā’s scholarship makes a significant contribution to the development and growth of Oromo Studies and Ethiopian History.”

Reviewer (E): “Guluma Gemedā is recognized as an authority on the history of land in Ethiopia.”

Reviewer (F): “Specifically, Dr. Gemedā’s work is part of a group of Oromo Studies scholars, among them, Mohammed Hassen Ali of Georgia State University and Asafa Jalata of the

University of Tennessee, who have changed the trajectory of Ethiopian history and our understanding of its social and political identity from one defined primarily as a Christian Abyssinian Kingdom to a more multiethnic and culturally diverse nation.”

Reviewer (G): “What sets ‘Development Without Democracy?’ apart is its evenhandedness, the way Prof. Guluma Gemedra takes the reader into the social, cultural and political matrix of the current situation and objectively allows the reader to perceive politics from the Oromo perspective.”

Summary of Recommendation:

The CASE executive committee and I agree that Professor Gemedra’s scholarly achievement in African history, particularly in Oromo and Ethiopian historiography, is significant. His service is extensive and demonstrates his dedication to the discipline, campus, and community. I therefore recommend Guluma Gemedra for promotion to professor of Africana studies, with tenure, Department of Social Sciences and Humanities, College of Arts, Sciences and Education.

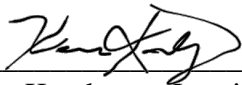
Recommended by:



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Jeannette Stein, Interim Dean  
College of Arts, Sciences and Education

Recommendation endorsed by:



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Yener Kandogan, Interim Provost and  
Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs



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Donna Kay Fry, Interim Chancellor  
University of Michigan-Flint

May 2024