

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

William J. Glover, associate professor of history, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to professor of history, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	1999	University of California, Berkeley
M.Arch.	1992	University of Washington
B.S.	1983	Stanford University

Professional Record:

2011–present	Associate Professor of History, University of Michigan.
2007–2015	Associate Professor of Architecture, University of Michigan.
2000-2007	Assistant Professor of Architecture, University of Michigan

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Glover is a committed instructor who has offered courses across the curriculum, and whose evaluations evidence high levels of respect for his students. He makes ample use of archival resources on campus and uses the campus itself as an instructional tool to help students understand architecture and spatial relationships. This is also reflected in the “architectural” nature of his courses, particularly the careful scaffolding of materials and assignments and his “layered” approach to pedagogy. Professor Glover has contributed to the development of the department’s core Doing History course initiative and has strengthened offerings that also serve the Center for South Asian Studies. He has served as the chair or co-chair of six dissertations and as a member of twenty additional committees.

Research: Professor Glover is a scholar of South Asian colonial and post-colonial urban history whose work focuses on built environments, knowledge cultures, and urban processes. His interdisciplinary scholarship is influenced by his training in architectural history and by the extensive international archival work he has done on the practices and aesthetics of modernization. In using the agrarian world as a starting point for his novel history of colonial urbanism, Professor Glover’s book will spur a rethinking of major assumptions in the field. We anticipate he will also continue to strengthen ties between the Department of History and the Center for South Asian Studies through his work as a scholar and a mentor for students and faculty here and abroad.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Reformatting Agrarian Life: Urbanism and the Countryside in Colonial India. Manuscript in progress.

Glover, William J. and Kenneth Kollman, eds. Relevant or Obsolete? Rethinking Area Studies in the U.S. Academy. Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press, 2012.

“The Other Agrarian Urbanisation: Urbanism in the Village.” *Urbanisation* 6, no. 1 (2021): 35–48.

“Living in a Category: A History of India’s ‘Census Town’ Problem from Colonial Punjab.” *The Economic and Political Weekly* 53, no. 2 (January 13, 2018): 55–61.

Service: Professor Glover’s leadership style within the department and the Center for South Asian Studies has been marked by a commitment to collaboration, active listening, and inclusive problem-solving, producing notable improvements to the graduate program and to the unit cultures. In addition to serving as the director of the Center of South Asian Studies and associate director for the International Institute, Professor Glover has also served as the director of graduate studies and chair of the unit’s DEI Committee.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A): “[Professor Glover’s ‘Reformatting Agrarian Life: Urbanism and the Countryside in Colonial India’] is an impressive and innovative work arguing a case for the imbrication of urban and agrarian milieus instead of treating them as separate domains.”

Reviewer (B): “I would like to stress several groundbreaking dimensions of this study for understanding development projects under late British colonial regions across South Asia and beyond. Glover’s analysis encompasses multiple registers, including economic conditions, development discourse, aesthetics, and planned built form, all of which immeasurably contribute to the strength of his analysis.”

Reviewer (C): “Contrasting the thinking of those who give primacy to ‘heritage’ versus those who give priority to ‘history,’ Professor Glover’s nuanced analysis of the rebuilt gurudwaras took the reader beyond a simple opposition between these two perspectives. He showed that Sikh architecture continued to encompass both ‘heritage’ and ‘history.’ This [‘*Shiny New Buildings: Rebuilding Historic Sikh Gurudwaras in Indian Punjab*’ (2012)] is a key article not only for the study of Sikh architecture, but for heritage studies in general.”

Reviewer (D): “The book [‘Reformatting Agrarian Life’] is wonderfully written, compellingly argued, well documented, and highly innovative, and I think it promises to be another important contribution to studies of the colonial state and the evolution of urbanism in South Asian. Indeed, Glover has a magical way of summing up difficult ideas in short, evocative prose that will send you rushing off to scribble in your notebook. And while it’s a book that grounds itself in the rural spaces of the Punjab it also says much about broader processes of rural rehabilitation and the workings of the colonial state throughout the Indian subcontinent. Honestly, I learned a lot from reading it, from his history of the canal colonies of Punjab and their spatial organization to attempts to create a model rural community in Gurgaon (now part of Greater Delhi)—I had no idea about the Gurgaon experiment!”

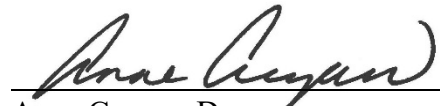
Reviewer (E): “But Glover’s book [‘Reformatting Agrarian Life’] is also important for challenging the categories ‘urban’ and ‘rural’ in more fundamental ways. It is not that the power of this dichotomy disappeared as these categories were repeatedly reworked across the late colonial and post-colonial periods. Rather, Glover shows us how negotiations of the boundaries between these categories came to be intertwined with some of the most fundamental debates

about modern transformation in Punjabi society. To my mind, the most innovative part of his book comes in Glover's use of this lens to rethink the transformations associated with the history of the Punjab canal colonies in the decades between the 1890s and the 1930s."

Reviewer (F): "Glover is the first to point out that Indian cities and agrarian areas, especially in the Punjab, were contributing to each other's co-constitution, long before the 'rurbanization' of India countryside became recognized by scholars. This is a major conceptual and empirical breakthrough, one that as far as I am aware has no counterpart anywhere in the literature on South Asian history."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Glover is widely regarded to be among the most significant historians of colonial and post-colonial South Asia currently working in the field of urban and architectural history. He has also made important contributions to our understanding of Sikh architecture and culture while providing inclusive leadership for the Center for South Asian Studies. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Associate Professor William J. Glover be promoted to the rank of professor of history, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



Anne Curzan, Dean
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