

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

Jennifer D. Jones, assistant professor of history, and assistant professor of women's and gender studies, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of history, with tenure, and associate professor of women's and gender studies, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.

Academic Degrees:

Ph.D.	2014	Princeton University
M.A.	2010	Princeton University
B.A.	2007	University of Michigan

Professional Record:

2019-present	Assistant Professor, Departments of History and Women's and Gender Studies, University of Michigan
2017-2019	LSA Collegiate Fellow, Department of History, University of Michigan
2014-2017	Assistant Professor, Departments of Gender and Race Studies and American Studies, University of Alabama

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Jones' teaching portfolio is outstanding. She has taught across the curriculum from first-year students to Ph.D. candidates, including five new courses since 2019, and has garnered student evaluations that are among the highest in both units. Professor Jones' non-classroom teaching is best exemplified by work in the Michigan in the World Program, bringing students into the archives as co-creators of public-facing histories of local Black communities. Her courses impart essential diversity in the study of LGBTQ topics by placing Black experience at its center, and simultaneously broaden the curriculum in African American history by asking students to consider LGBTQ experiences.

Research: Professor Jones works across the fields of African American history, women's and gender studies, LGBTQ history, and American political history, especially the study of civil rights organizing in the twentieth century and the forces allied against the inclusion of Black and LGBTQ populations. Her work is necessarily interdisciplinary and seeks to challenge a number of commonly held assumptions about the politics of race, intimacy, sexuality, and struggles for democratic inclusion. Given her current standing as an emerging leader in her fields of study, her innovative contributions to the educational mission of her units, and her service locally and nationally, it is likely that Professor Jones will continue to do field-defining work. Her public scholarship project in progress, Intimate Histories: Black Networks of Care, Exchange, and Sociability in Michigan, 1916-1976, is especially exciting.

Recent and Significant Publications:

*Ambivalent Affinities: A Political History of Blackness and Homosexuality after World War II.*

Chapel Hill, NC: University of North Carolina Press, Justice, Power and Politics Series, 2023.

“Finding Home: Black Queer Historical Scholarship in the United States Part I.” *History Compass* 17, no. 5 (April 17, 2019): <https://doi.org/10.1111/hic3.12532>.

“Finding Home: Black Queer Historical Scholarship in the United States Part II.” *History Compass* 17 no. 5 (April 17, 2019): <https://doi.org/10.1111/hic3.12533>.

“‘To Stand Upon My Constitutional Rights’: The NAACP and World War II- Era Sexual Exclusion.” *Journal of Civil and Human Rights* 2, no. 2 (Fall/Winter 2016): 121-150.

Service: Professor Jones has established a strong and wide-ranging record of service, leadership, and governance within her units and in national organizations. She has served on core committees in both units, including the Executive Committee (Women’s and Gender Studies) and the Undergraduate and Graduate Committees (History); she has furthered the imperatives of DEI work in the MICHHERS program and in her mentoring of underrepresented students, both undergraduate and graduate; and has served for four years on the Committee on the Status of LGBTQ Historians and Histories for the Organization of American Historians.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer (A): “*Ambivalent Affinities* is a book of rare distinction. While it is too early to judge its reception by reviews, I fully expect that it will earn both praise and awards for its transformative impact on the fields of civil rights and queer history. A wholly original intervention, *Ambivalent Affinities* is marked by the strength of its evidence and clarity of argumentation.”

Reviewer (B): “Dr. Jones’s [sic] monograph is titled *Ambivalent Affinities: A Political History of Blackness and Homosexuality after World War II*. Wholly original in its conceptualization and exhaustive in its primary research, Dr. Jones provides a layered history of Black civil rights and conservative movements in the post-WWII period, demonstrating the at once vexed and entwined history of anti-black and anti-LGBT sentiment as well as the often-unexpected ways in which Black activists—gay and not—organized in response. The originality and rigor of this book cannot be overstated.”

Reviewer (C): “Her work on the intersections of race, gender, and sexuality in African American lives of the twentieth century is valuably expansive, in that the insights gleaned from her analyses can be expanded beyond the specifics of Black LGBTQ lives, communities, and intimate bonds. The chief merit in her work in this regard is her insistence on the historical contingency and mutual interdependence of racial, gendered, and sexual expression. In short, Jones’s [sic] work doesn’t simply pay lip service to the idea of ‘intersectionality,’ but instead demonstrates how these categories reinforce each other.”

Reviewer (D): “From the evidence of her new book—appearing in a profoundly influential series at a top-tier scholarly press for U.S. historians—her multiple journal articles in first-rate outlets; her pair of field-wide literature reviews in *History Compass*; her initiative in broadening the Michigan in the World project to center the truly globally significant stories of Black

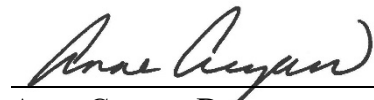
migrants to the industrial Midwest and then securing a major grant to expand on that work, Professor Jones is developing new insights into the structures of domination that organize difference and assign it political meaning. This is vital scholarly work which she is undertaking with consummate skill and marked professional generosity.”

Reviewer (E): “[Professor Jones] is also likely to reach and be appreciated by some non-academic audiences—particularly those interested in Black Queer life and histories. I consider this file to be in the top tier of tenure cases I have reviewed in recent years. Professor Jones presents a very strong case for promotion and tenure, one that I am confident would win her promotion and tenure at my own institution.”

Reviewer (F): “Deeply and impressively researched and full of powerful insights, *Ambivalent Affinities* is certain to secure Jones’s [sic] reputation as a pathbreaking interdisciplinary historian working at the intersection of histories of race, sexuality, and U.S. political history and one of the field’s most exciting and important [junior] scholars. A compelling and important work of historical scholarship, Jones’s [sic] book is enriched by her deep interdisciplinary reading in critical race studies, critical theory, and queer studies. With the book’s publication, Jones embarks on a truly ambitious path, breaking new analytical, theoretical, and historical ground.”

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Jones is an outstanding interdisciplinary scholar who has a rigorous record of high-quality scholarly contributions in her fields. There is every indication that her research trajectory will only continue to rise in prominence and reputation. She is also an accomplished, creative, and dedicated teacher, as well as a thoughtful citizen in her departments. The Executive Committee of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts and I recommend that Assistant Professor Jennifer D. Jones be promoted to the rank of associate professor of history, with tenure, and associate professor of women’s and gender studies, with tenure, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.



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Anne Curzan, Dean  
Geneva Smitherman Collegiate Professor of  
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and Education  
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College of Literature, Science, and the Arts

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