PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan-Dearborn
College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters

Diana Y. Ng, associate professor of art history, with tenure, Department of Language, Culture, and the Arts, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, is recommended for promotion to professor of art history, with tenure, Department of Language, Culture, and the Arts, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.

Academic Degrees:
Ph.D.   2007   Classical Art and Archaeology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
B.A.   2000   Classics and Fine Arts, New York University, New York, NY

Professional Record:
2016-present   Associate Professor, University of Michigan-Dearborn, Dearborn, MI
2010-2016   Assistant Professor, University of Michigan-Dearborn, Dearborn, MI
2008-2010   Mellon Post-doctoral Fellow, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL
2007-2008   Visiting Assistant Professor, Brown University, Providence, RI

Summary of Evaluation:
Teaching: Professor Ng's teaching is excellent. Professor Ng teaches all courses in the ancient/classical area: surveys of Greek and Roman art and architecture; specialized courses about myth and religion, and ancient urbanism; and art, memory, and cognition. In a rotation with her colleagues, she teaches required courses for majors involving writing about art and creating an art exhibition. The content of those courses changes depending on the exhibitions available in the local area and region. These classes are time-consuming courses to develop, but students find them very engaging. These practice-based courses are an important feature of the new art history and museum studies curriculum introduced in fall 2023.

Professor Ng has taught eleven different courses. She has taught 100, 200, 300, and 400-level courses in art history, and she also taught History 101 when there was no history faculty available to teach the course. Professor Ng developed and regularly teaches a course in the Foundations program, Foundations 1302: Art, Power, and Persuasion. Professor Ng learned how to create online versions of her courses during the pandemic, and she continues to offer some courses online, some as hybrid courses, and others in person. Her courses are challenging and constantly updated to meet the needs of current students. Professor Ng was peer-reviewed two times. Her student evaluations are positive, and the written comments reveal that students appreciate her efforts to create meaningful assignments. Her student evaluations indicate her excellent results when teaching with question one scores ranging from 4.61 to 5.0, and question two scores between 4.67 and 5.0.

Research: Professor Ng's research is excellent. Professor Ng developed a new research agenda in the emerging field in which cognitive theory and research are applied when investigating the ancient corpora of evidence, including texts and images. Professor Ng's has two co-edited books, with co-written introductions. In one of the books, Future Thinking in Roman Culture:

<u>New Approaches to History, Memory, and Cognition</u>, Professor Ng also contributed a chapter (2021). In addition, Professor Ng contributed chapters to three books*:* <u>The Routledge Handbook of Classics and Cognitive Theory (2019); Distributed Cognition in Classical Antiquity</u> (2018), and <u>Roman Artists, Patrons, and Public Consumption: Familiar Works Reconsidered</u> (2018). Her work is published by top-tier publishers, and all are peer-reviewed.

Professor Ng's expertise and international reputation is evidenced in that she has been asked to serve as a peer reviewer for important journals in her field, including the *American Journal of Archaeology*, *Memoirs of the American Academy in Rome*, *Journal of Roman Archaeology*, and *Phoenix*. In 2023, she was asked to join the board of editors for *Helios* with a five-year term. In addition, she was chosen as a faculty fellow at the Institute for the Humanities at University of Michigan-Ann Arbor, and despite challenges during the height of the pandemic made progress on her research. She remains committed to continuing to produce high-level scholarship and to being engaged in professional activities at workshops and at conferences.

<u>Recent and Significant Publications:</u>
M. L. Popkin and D. Ng (Eds.), <u>Future Thinking in Roman Culture: New Approaches to History, Memory, and Cognition</u>, Routledge, London, 2021, 206 pages.
Popkin, M. L., and Ng, D. "Introduction: new approaches to future thinking in the Roman world," M. L. Popkin and D. Ng (Eds.), <u>Future Thinking in Roman Culture: New Approaches to History, Memory, and Cognition</u>, Routledge, New York, 2021, pp. 1-22.
Ng, D. "Prospection in the wild: Embodiment, inactivity, and commemoration," in M. L. Popkin and D. Ng (Eds.), <u>Future Thinking in Roman Culture: New Approaches to History, Memory, and Cognition</u>, Routledge, New York, 2021, pp. 150-165.
Ng, D. "Thinking with Statues: The Roman Public Portrait and the Cognition of Commemoration," in P. Meineck, W.M. Short, and J. Deveraux (Eds.), <u>The Routledge Handbook of Classics and Cognitive Theory</u>, New York, 2019, pp. 359-372.
D. Ng and M. Swetnam-Burland (Eds.), <u>Reuse and Renovation in Roman Material Culture: Function, Aesthetics, Interpretation</u>, Cambridge University Press, New York, 2018, 288 pages.
Ng, D., and Swetnam-Burland, M. "Introduction: Reuse, Renovation, Reiteration," in D. Ng and M. Swetnam-Burland (Eds.), <u>Reuse and Renovation in Roman Material Culture: Function, Aesthetics, Interpretation</u>, Cambridge University Press, New York, 2018, pp. 1-23.
Ng, D. "Roman-period Theatres as Distributed Cognitive Micro-ecologies," in M. Anderson, D. Cairns, and M. Sprevak (Eds.), <u>Distributed Cognition in Classical Antiquity</u>, Edinburgh University Press, Edinburgh, 2018, pp. 117-131.
Ng, D., "The Salutaris Foundation: Monumentality via Period Rehearsal," In B. Longfellow and E. Perry (Eds.), <u>Roman Artists, Patrons, and Public Consumption: Familiar Works Reconsidered</u>, University of Michigan Press, Ann Arbor, 2018, pp. 63-87.

<u>Service</u>: Professor Ng's service is excellent and exemplary at all levels. At the campus level, she is an active supporter of the Stamelos Gallery and serves as a member of the Mardigian Library Art Acquisition Committee. At the college level, she was a dedicated member of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters Executive Committee (2017-2019, and winter of 2022). At the department level, Professor Ng has served as the discipline representative (2020-2021,

and again since fall 2023). She stepped up when the applied arts discipline needed a supervisor. She coordinated the hiring of student assistants in the art studio, the required occupational safety and health training, the schedule of course offerings, and all course development in the art curriculum. Professor Ng is an active member of the art history discipline where she shares responsibilities with her colleagues (course development, curriculum changes, conversion of all courses to four credits; annual reviews of lecturers; planning of special events for majors; and participation in the digital/urban arts planning committee). She also coordinated art history's participation in the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters digital education initiative. Her leadership has been important in many discipline initiatives, including improvements made to the art history website. She is dedicated to mentoring students and has advised students when they apply for graduate school or revise research papers to participate in the Meeting of Minds conference. Professor Ng also performs service to her profession by serving as a peer reviewer for journal submissions and by serving on the board of editors for the journal, *Helios*.

External Reviewers:
Reviewer A: "What is remarkable about Dr. Ng's intellectual trajectory is the fact that it is both an organic development of long-standing research interests of hers and an expansion into directions that are uncharted both personally and from the perspective of the field as a whole. In other words, Dr. Ng's new publications on the one hand confirm her profile as a specialist (but not in a narrow sense) of the art and architecture of the eastern regions of the Roman empire. On the other hand, the pursuit of her new interests is leading her to disclose hitherto under-investigated domains, with the potential to shape the study of Roman art in original and productive ways."

Reviewer B: "One of the most exciting aspects of the application of cognitive science to the study of ancient Roman monuments and texts is both the new scholarly vistas it opens and, at the same time, in bringing together art and science, it also holds the potential to reignite student interest in a myriad of ways. Despite the often-insurmountable obstacles presented by the COVID pandemic which brought research to a halt, Professor Ng has triumphed. She is now a recognized expert in the emerging field of classics and cognitive science."

Reviewer C: "Ng is a solid contributor to the field. Her work is clear, persuasive, and advances the conversation. In addition to the merits of her individual papers, one important thing about her work is her concentration on material evidence. Applying cognitive theory to texts is perhaps the easier path (and I have myself fallen into this), but logically material culture should be approachable in the same way, and so it is good that Ng is putting in the hard work."
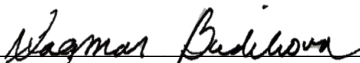
Reviewer D: "With this body of work she lays claim to a realm of inquiry within Roman material culture studies that is very much her own but changing quickly. On the one hand, she is immersed in a field of study—often called distributed cognition—that is advancing at a ferocious pace, thus requiring much energy just to keep up with the bibliography. On the other hand, she remains something of a rarity within the realm of material culture and visual arts studies, which have been slower to take up these methods than other humanistic disciplines such as literary and theater studies. Within the discipline of classical art history, she is rather unique; yet the number of scholars who have turned in this direction is testament to the significance of both her scholarship and (just as important) her capacity to generate synergy by organizing conferences
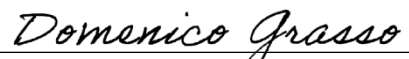
and editing thematic volumes to showcase her work… The fine quality of her work so far also speaks of continuing productivity and advancing stature in the future, whether she chooses to remain within her professional wheelhouse or to set out in a new direction."

Reviewer E: "My overall impression of the materials is that Professor Ng is an innovative and creative scholar who has made a significant contribution to classical studies. Ng's work is distinctive for its intelligent and informed integration of recent research in the cognitive sciences into pressing questions of relevance to Roman history and culture. Her work represents no mere 'application' of one discipline onto another; rather, she exhibits a clear-sighted understanding of both the strengths and weaknesses of research into the cognitive sciences and makes careful historically specific arguments based upon these insights.... Ng's work is in conversation with the most important work in the field and shows great potential to advance this important conversation."

Reviewer F: "Her role in creating the subdiscipline of Cognitive Classics has been and will continue to be influential, changing the conversation and scholarly consideration of this material. Her publications represent superb analysis providing insights that, thanks for her masterly [sic] of a range of evidence including portraits, inscriptions, architecture, and public spaces, are more persuasive and likely to be correct than those of scholars who focus on a single type of evidence. Dr. Ng's scholarly work is quantitatively and ☐ more importantly ☐ qualitatively excellent. She has built a career that has already demonstrably changed the field."

<u>Summary of Recommendation</u>: Professor Ng is excellent in the areas of teaching, research, and service. She is an engaging teacher, an innovative scholar who is a leader in the field of cognitive theory and research applied when investigating the ancient corpora of evidence, including texts and images, and a highly valued member of the university community. We are pleased to recommend, with the support of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters Executive Committee, Diana Y. Ng for promotion to professor of art history, with tenure, Department of Language, Culture, and the Arts, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.

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Dagmar Budikova, Dean   Domenico Grasso, Chancellor
College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters   University of Michigan-Dearborn

May 2024