

The University of Michigan Regents Communication Request for Action

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Sarah Howell, Ph.D., professor of history in the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, University of Michigan-Dearborn, retired from active faculty status on September 30, 2026.

Professor Howell received her Ph.D. degree from the University of Michigan-Ann Arbor in 2009. She joined the University of Michigan-Dearborn faculty as an assistant professor in 2009, and was promoted to associate professor in 2015, and professor in 2023.

Professor Howell is a prolific scholar in the fields of history of Islam in the United States, Arab American history and culture, and Detroit history. Her first team-authored book, *Citizenship and Crisis: Arab Detroit after 9/11* was a groundbreaking study of social life, religious practices, cultural values, and political views of Arab Americans. Her next book, an award-winning edited volume, *Arab Detroit 9/11: Life in the Terror Decade* highlighted the ways the growing Arab and Muslim communities of Detroit responded to the prejudice and political scapegoating they faced in that period. Her third book, the award-winning monograph *Old Islam in Detroit: Rediscovering the Muslim American Past* documents the history of Muslim communities in Detroit. Her fourth award-winning edited volume, *Hadha Baladuna: Arab American Narratives of Boundary and Belonging*, is a collection of creative non-fiction essays focusing on the multitude of experiences of the Arab diaspora in Detroit. Her recently edited book *Beyond Refuge in Arab Detroit*, uncovers the transformation and complexities of Arab and Chaldean communities in Detroit.

Professor Howell also produced a significant body of public scholarship. She curated the *Halal Metropolis* exhibit series and the *Unsettled Lives* exhibition and served as a host and executive producer of the *Halal Metropolis* and *Seen Jeem* podcasts featuring Muslim and Arab American creatives. Professor Howell taught classes on the history of Islam in the US, Arab American studies, US immigration history, Middle Eastern diasporas, Detroit history and culture, and public history. She served as the director of the Center for Arab American Studies at the University of Michigan-Dearborn and as president of the Arab American Studies Association. She was a dedicated mentor to a generation of students in history and Arab American Studies.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Sarah Howell, professor emerita of history**.

Requested by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Kinsey', with a stylized, cursive script.

Jon Kinsey

Vice President and Secretary of the University

September 2026