

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Ruth Tsoffar, Ph.D., professor of women's and gender studies, professor of comparative literature, and professor of Judaic studies in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2025.

Professor Tsoffar attended Haifa University, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts in 1981. She then attended the University of California, Berkeley, where she earned a Master of Arts in 1985 and Doctorate in 1993. After being assistant professor at the University of Utah - Salt Lake City, Professor Tsoffar joined the faculty at the University of Michigan as an assistant professor in 1999, and was promoted to associate professor in 2006, and professor in 2020

Professor Tsoffar is an innovative interdisciplinary scholar who extends the study of Hebrew literature into anthropology, cultural studies, biblical studies, and gender studies. Her award-winning first book (*The Stains of Culture: An Ethno-Reading of Karaite Jewish Women*, 2006) introduced the concept of "ethnoreading," a methodological innovation further developed in her influential second book (*Life in Citations: Biblical Narratives and Contemporary Hebrew Culture*, 2019). Beyond her scholarly achievements, Professor Tsoffar has distinguished herself as an inspiring and dedicated educator, advancing feminist pedagogy that foregrounds religious, ethnic, linguistic, and geographic diversity. She has also served the college and the university in a number of service roles, particularly those involving initiatives that have fostered a sense of belonging in the Department of Comparative Literature. Professor Tsoffar's research, teaching, and commitment to community have made a lasting impact in her fields and at the University of Michigan.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Ruth Tsoffar, professor emerita of women's and gender studies, professor emerita of comparative literature, and professor emerita of Judaic studies.**

Requested by:



Jon Kinsey
Vice President and Secretary of the University

November 2025