

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Margaret Ramsay Somers, Ph.D., professor of sociology and professor of history in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on September 30, 2016.

Professor Somers received her B.A. (1971) degree from the University of California, Santa Cruz and her Ph.D. (1986) degree from Harvard University. She joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1987, and was promoted to associate professor in 1995, and professor in 2005.

Professor Somers is widely regarded as one of the discipline's most theoretically innovative scholars. She worked at the intersection of cultural sociology, historical methods, and social theory where she made original and highly visible contributions to all three areas. Broadly concerned with the place of citizenship in modern democratic theory, Professor Somers has boldly followed some of the greatest minds of the last century in exploring the ways in which markets, legal practices, the state, and even theoretical knowledge itself have advanced (or not) the modernist project of expanding individual and collective rights. Professor Somers' intellectual influence is evident in a slew of academic awards and honors. Her book *Genealogies of Citizenship: Markets, Statelessness, and the Right to have Rights* (2008) was awarded the 2009 Giovanni Sartori Book Award in Qualitative Methodology from the American Political Science Association. She won the Best Article Award in Political Sociology (1994) and the Best Article Award in Cultural Sociology (1997) from the American Sociological Association (ASA). In 2006, she was selected as the inaugural winner of the Lewis A. Coser Award, conferred by the Theory Section of the ASA, for "innovation and agenda-setting in social theory."

The Regents now salute this distinguished teacher and scholar by naming **Margaret Ramsay Somers, professor emerita of sociology and professor emerita of history**.

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.
Vice President and Secretary of the University

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