

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

*Regents Communication*

**ACTION REQUEST**

**Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement**  
**Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir**

**Leslie Pincus, Ph.D.**, associate professor of history in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2018.

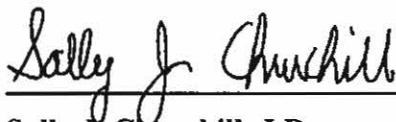
Professor Pincus received her B.A. degree from the University of California, Los Angeles in 1972, her M.A. degree from the University of California, Berkeley in 1975, and her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Chicago in 1984 and 1990, respectively. She joined the University of Michigan faculty as an associate professor in 1995.

Professor Pincus was a scholar of modern Japanese history, especially intellectual and social history, cultural studies in nationalism and colonialism, and social movements. Her Lilienthal Prize winning book, *Authenticating Culture in Imperial Japan* (1996), is an intriguing, multilayered analysis of the interwar Japanese philosopher Kuki Shuzo, who built on European phenomenology from Bergson to Heidegger in writing an influential 1930 work on the aesthetics of the old Edo pleasure quarters, intending thereby to demonstrate or “authenticate” a sense of Japanese uniqueness capable of resisting Western hegemony. She went on to study postwar cultural history, especially in her guest-edited special issue of the journal *positions*, dealing with conceptions of art, the public, the nation, and the state in 1950s-1960s Japan.

Professor Pincus was active over the years in the university’s Center for Japanese Studies, including serving as its director. She taught a wide range of courses regarding war and memory, Japanese environmentalism, empire, citizenship, and protest—and especially her popular course on World War II in the Pacific. In recent years she took large groups of UM students on summer tours of Japan. Professor Pincus was active in the Eisenberg Institute for Historical Studies’ programming while a faculty fellow there, including by contributing to the symposium, *Topographies of Violence* in April 2009. She was an invited visiting professor at the Kyoto Center for Japanese Studies in the Stanford Overseas Studies Program and a guest professor for the Kyoto Consortium for Japanese Studies at Doshisha University in Kyoto, Japan.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Leslie Pincus, associate professor emerita of history**.

**Requested by:**



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

**December 2018**