

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Judith T. Irvine, Ph.D., Edward Sapir Distinguished University Professor of Linguistic Anthropology and professor of anthropology in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2019.


Professor Irvine received her B.A. degree from Harvard University in 1966 and her Ph.D. degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1973. She served on the faculty of Brandeis University from 1972-99. She joined the University of Michigan faculty as a professor in 1999.

Professor Irvine's research topics included the role of language in the social life of speakers, ideologies and politics of language, and language's engagement in social history. She conducted ethnographic and sociolinguistic research among Wolof people of Senegal, Wolof-speakers in the United States, and isiZulu-speakers in Soweto, South Africa. She has also done documentary research, focusing on early 20th century American anthropology and linguistics, and on colonial-era studies of African languages. She published many articles and chapters in linguistic anthropology, co-edited a volume on *Responsibility and Evidence in Oral Discourse* (1993) and two volumes of *The Collected Works of Edward Sapir* (1994 and 1999) and reconstructed Sapir's book, *The Psychology of Culture* (1994, 2nd edition 2002). She served as editor of the *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* and associate editor of *Language in Society*. Recently she coauthored *Signs of Difference: Language and Ideology in Social Life* (2019), which examines how difference, in language and in the structuring of social life, is both made and unmade.

Professor Irvine taught undergraduate and graduate courses in linguistic anthropology, and directed or served on the committees for a number of dissertations and honors theses in anthropology, linguistics, and history. She chaired the Department of Anthropology (2006-09), served on many departmental committees as well as the LSA Executive Committee. Involved with the African Studies Center since its inception, she served as its associate director from 2016-17. The recipient of various grants and awards, she was elected a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences as well as the National Academy of Sciences. Professor Irvine was named the Edward Sapir Distinguished University Professor of Linguistic Anthropology in 2019.

The Regents now salute this distinguished teacher and researcher by naming **Judith T. Irvine, Edward Sapir Distinguished University Professor Emerita of Linguistic Anthropology and professor emerita of anthropology.**

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

December 2019