

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

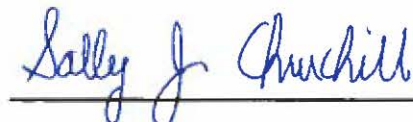
Jennifer Robertson, Ph.D., professor of anthropology and women's studies and professor of history of art in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, and professor of art and design in the Penny W. Stamps School of Art and Design, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2019.

Professor Robertson received her B.A. (1975) degree from Cornell University, her M.A. (1977) degree from the University of Hawai'i, and her M.A. (1983) and Ph.D. (1985) degrees from Cornell University. She joined the University of Michigan faculty as an associate professor in 1991, and was promoted to professor in 1997. She was also a faculty affiliate of the Robotics Institute and the Institute for Research on Women and Gender. In addition to directing the Center for Japanese Studies, Robertson served as associate chair of the Department of Anthropology, and thrice chaired the socio-cultural anthropology subfield.

An anthropologist and historian, Professor Robertson's area of specialty was Japan where she lived and worked for nearly twenty-five years. In addition to three edited volumes, she authored *Native and Newcomer: Making and Remaking a Japanese City* (1991, 1994, 2000); *Takarazuka: Sexual Politics and Popular Culture in Modern Japan* (1998, 1999, 2001; Japanese ed. 2000; Kurt Weil and Ruth Benedict Awards); and *Robo Sapiens Japonicus: Robots, Gender, Family and the Japanese Nation* (2018; Japanese ed. 2019). Her over eighty articles addressed topics as diverse as votive art, eugenics, and "hemato-nationalism." Her work was supported by the Guggenheim, NEH, ACLS, Abé and Japan Foundations, several Fulbrights, SSRC, Wissenschaftskolleg (Berlin), Wenner-Gren, and others, including invited professorships in the U.S., Japan, and Israel. Professor Robertson developed new courses on ethnic and sexual diversity; art, science, and technology; and image-based ethnography, among others. She chaired dozens of M.A. and Ph.D. committees, and served on many committees, including the Provost's Readers Committee on Promotions. In her role as the Japan editor of *Critical Asian Studies*, she also served on several national and international editorial and advisory boards and today remains a sought after speaker at academic and public venues around the world.

The Regents now salute this distinguished teacher and researcher by naming **Jennifer Robertson, professor emerita of anthropology and women's studies, professor emerita of history of art, and professor emerita of art and design.**

Requested by:



Sally J. Churchill, J.D.

Vice President and Secretary of the University

December 2019