

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

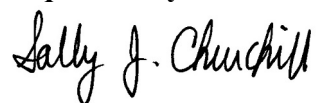
Tomoko Masuzawa, Ph.D., professor of comparative literature and professor of history in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2020.

Professor Masuzawa received her B.A. (1975) degree from the International Christian University, Tokyo, her M.A. (1979) degree from Yale University, and her Ph.D. (1985) degree from the University of California, Santa Barbara. She joined the University of Michigan faculty as an associate professor in 1999, and was promoted to professor in 2005.

Professor Masuzawa was a preeminent scholar in religious studies, specializing in nineteenth-century discourses on religion, critical theory and hermeneutics, and history of the human sciences. She authored *In Search of Dreamtime: The Quest for the Origin of Religion* (1993) and *The Invention of World Religions: Or, How European Universalism Was Preserved in the Language of Pluralism* (2005). Her forthcoming books include *Making of the Academic Secular* (on the nineteenth-century university movement) and *Promise of the Secular* (on W. Robertson Smith and the historical constitution of biblical studies). She was also the editor and translator of “Translating Japan,” a forthcoming collection of essays about the discourse of religion and the making of modern Japan. At the University of Michigan, she organized scholarly initiatives on “Religion and the Secular” and received the University of Michigan Humanities Award (2000). She was awarded fellowships by the Guggenheim Foundation and by the School of Social Science at the Princeton Institute for Advanced Study, and was the recipient of the Association of American Publishers’ 2005 Award for Excellence in Professional and Academic Publishing. From 2005-08, she served as elected president of the North American Association for the Study of Religion. She was active on numerous editorial and advisory boards for the study of religion, and was a member of the American Academy of Religion.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar by naming **Tomoko Masuzawa, professor emerita of comparative literature and professor emerita of history.**

Requested by:



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

December 2020