

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Wang Zheng, Ph.D., professor of women's and gender studies and professor of history in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2020.

Professor Wang Zheng earned her Ph.D. from the University of California, Davis in 1995. She arrived at the University of Michigan in 2002 as a faculty associate in the Center for Chinese Studies. She was promoted to the rank of associate professor of women's and gender studies with tenure in 2005 and held a courtesy appointment in the Department of History since 2008. She was promoted to professor in the departments of women's and gender studies and history in 2016.

Professor Wang Zheng is a leading scholar in Chinese women's studies and institution building. Mediating between Western and Chinese academia, she has deftly straddled three different worlds - that of U.S.-based China scholars, of Anglophone feminist scholars from various regions of the world, and of China-based scholars in the relatively new field of women's studies in China. Through two influential books, *Women in the Chinese Enlightenment: Oral and Textual Histories* (1999) and *Finding Women in the State: A Socialist Feminist Revolution in the People's Republic of China, 1949-1964* (2017), and essays appearing in the foremost feminist studies journals in the U.S. and China, she has recovered, reanimated, and rehistoricized the lives and achievements of Chinese women activists and leaders for gender equality and gendered agency across the long Twentieth Century by charting key transformative moments from the Republican, the Maoist, through to the contemporary post-Maoist period. Her work deploys a complex methodology, making rigorous and expansive use of source materials and using them to tell powerful stories that are enlivened by her interdisciplinary approach and her simultaneous commitment to theoretical, activist, and pedagogical modes of scholarly communication.

Professor Wang Zheng has been instrumental in advancing the study of gender in China and transforming curriculum across Chinese higher education institutions. She built a transnational network of scholars of China through her work published in Chinese, her editorial and translation projects, and her mobilization of these networks. With a succession of faculty training grants funded by the Ford and Henry Luce Foundations, she transformed the lives of feminist scholars at Michigan and other institutions who have taught the graduate program offered by the UM-Fudan Joint Institute for Gender Studies that she founded and directed at Fudan University in Shanghai.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar by naming **Wang Zheng, professor emerita of women's and gender studies and professor emerita of history**.

Requested by:



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

December 2020