

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

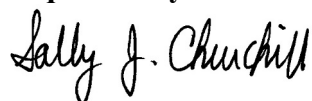
Jonathan E. Freedman, PhD., Marvin Felheim Collegiate Professor of English, American Studies and Judaic Studies, professor of English language and literature, professor of American culture, and professor of Judaic studies in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on September 30, 2021.

Jonathan Freedman attended Northwestern University where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1977. He then attended Yale University where he earned a Master of Philosophy degree in 1980 and a doctorate in 1985. Professor Freedman began his instructional career as an assistant professor at Yale University in 1985. He joined the University of Michigan faculty as an associate professor of English and American Studies in 1991 and was promoted to professor in 1999.

Professor Freedman is a highly original theorist and interpreter of the cultures and culture making of modernity, particularly with respect to aesthetic movements in which fraught notions of ethno-racial and gender identity, citizenship, value, beauty, and the body were variously engaged and contested. His most recent book, *The Jewish Decadence: Jews and the Aesthetics of Modernity* (University of Chicago Press, 2021), is a bold, prodigious account of Jewish writers, artists, and intellectuals making their way into Western European and Anglo-American cultural centers and encountering the avant-garde movement known as decadence. Professor Freedman's other publications include *Klezmer America: Jewishness, Ethnicity, Modernity* (Columbia University Press, 2008), *The Temple of Culture: Assimilation, and the Making of Literary Anglo-America* (Oxford University Press, 2000), and *Professions of Taste: Henry James, British Aestheticism, and Commodity Culture* (Stanford University Press, 1990). He was an outstanding, award-winning teacher in both the graduate and undergraduate classroom. He was a senior fellow at the Michigan Society of Fellows and served as the associate chair of the Department of English Language and Literature.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar and teacher by naming **Jonathan E. Freedman, Marvin Felheim Collegiate Professor Emeritus of English, American Studies and Judaic Studies, professor emeritus of English language and literature, professor emeritus of American culture, and professor emeritus of Judaic studies.**

Requested by:



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

December 2021