

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

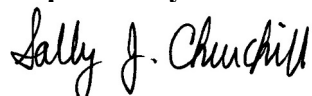
Twila Tardif, Ph.D., professor of psychology and professor of Asian languages and cultures in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2023.

Professor Tardif received her B.Sc. (1986) degree from the University of Toronto and her M.S. (1988) and Ph.D. (1993) degrees from Yale University. She joined the University of Michigan faculty as a fellow in the Michigan Society of Fellows and visiting assistant professor of psychology from 1993-1996. She served on the faculty of the Chinese University of Hong Kong from 1996-2002. She returned to the University of Michigan as an associate professor in 2002, and was promoted to professor in 2007. In the Center for Human Growth and Development, she had an appointment as a research associate professor (2002-2007) and was promoted to research professor in 2007, serving as program director (2002-2009) and director (2009-2011). She served as the LSA associate dean for social sciences from 2011-2014. She became a faculty associate in the Lieberthal-Rogel Center for Chinese Studies in 2002, associate director (2019-2020) and was named the Kenneth G. Lieberthal and Richard H. Rogel Professor of Chinese Studies from 2020-2021 while serving as the academic program director. She was a faculty associate for the Center for Eastern European and Eurasian Studies (2019-2023). In 2021, she received an additional appointment as a professor of Asian languages and cultures.

Professor Tardif is renowned for her ground-breaking research examining children growing up in different cultural contexts, with special expertise in China. Her many contributions shed light on the “whole child”, including brain and behavioral bases of language and literacy development in monolingual and bilingual children, early emotion regulation, and how best to design online learning environments. She discovered that the trajectory of vocabulary learning differs substantially for children learning Chinese vs. English, thus upending prior assumptions of universality. Her research has been continuously funded over a period of 30 years, with sponsors including the National Institute for Child Health and Human Development, the National Science Foundation, the Robert Wood Johnson Health and Society Scholars Program. She has authored nearly 100 peer-reviewed scientific papers, and has been invited to present her research in talks and keynote addresses around the world. Professor Tardif was a skilled administrator in various positions and was named a fellow of the Association for Psychological Science and a senior fellow of the Sweetland Writing Center, among other honors and awards.

The Regents now salute this distinguished faculty member by naming **Twila Tardif, professor emerita of psychology and professor emerita of Asian languages and cultures.**

Requested by:



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

December 2023