

THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Regents Communication

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement

Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir

Valerie Traub, Ph.D., Frederick G.L. Huetwell Professor, Adrienne Rich Distinguished University Professor of English and Women's and Gender Studies, professor of English language and literature, and professor of women's and gender studies in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on December 31, 2024.

Professor Traub earned her B.A. degree in American studies and women's studies from the University of California-Santa Cruz (1982) and her Ph.D. degree from the University of Massachusetts-Amherst (1990). She was appointed assistant professor of English at Vanderbilt University (1989) and promoted to associate professor (1994). Professor Traub joined the University of Michigan (1996) as an associate professor and was promoted to professor (2001). At the University of Michigan, she served as chair of the Department of Women's Studies (2003-2009) and again in 2019. She also served as graduate chair for both the Department of English (1998-2001) and the Women's and Gender Studies Department (2020).

Professor Traub's work in early modern studies, with special expertise in queer and gender studies, has had a profound impact on the theorization of personhood and sexuality in scholarship devoted to Europe in the years 1500-1700. Indeed, in many ways, Professor Traub has created the theoretical vocabulary that scholars now use when trying to explore the variegated ways in which early modern subjects thought about themselves as social, cognitive, and sexual beings before the creation of concepts such as "normality" and "hetero/homosexual" came into being. Professor Traub has also explored the evocation of, and reliance upon, sexual embodiment in discourses where it had previously been largely overlooked: for example, early modern cartography. Her three books, her four edited or co-edited collections, and her innumerable articles have made essential and foundational contributions to the study of sex and gender in the Renaissance. Professor Traub's teaching spanned all levels of the curriculum and included courses on Renaissance Sexuality, Gender Across the Disciplines, Critical Theory, and Shakespeare. During her career, she chaired or was a member of more than 45 doctoral committees. At the University of Michigan, she received a Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award (2010), served on the Michigan Society of Fellows (2001-2004), and received a Michigan Humanities Award in 2023.

As a leader in the fields both of early modern and gender and sexuality studies, Professor Traub delivered more than 150 keynote and plenary addresses and was regularly invited to present her research in North America and Europe. Her research has been supported by the Radcliffe Institute at Harvard University (2013), and the National Endowment for the Humanities (1997-1998). She has also been awarded fellowships from the American Council of Learned Societies (2016-2017) and the Guggenheim Foundation (2017-2018).

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar by naming **Valerie Traub, Adrienne Rich Distinguished University Professor Emerita of English and Women's and Gender Studies, professor emerita of English language and literature, and professor emerita of women's and gender studies.**

Requested by:



Jon Kinsey
Vice President and Secretary of the University

December 2024