THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN  
Regents Communication  

ACTION REQUEST  

Subject: Report of Faculty Retirement  
Action Requested: Adoption of Retirement Memoir  

Kathleen M. Canning, Ph.D., Arthur F. Thurnau Professor, Sonya O. Rose Collegiate Professor of History, professor of history, professor of women’s studies, and professor of Germanic languages and literature in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, retired from active faculty status on January 2, 2018.

Professor Canning received her Ph.D. degree from The Johns Hopkins University in 1988. She joined the University of Michigan faculty as an assistant professor in 1988, and was promoted to associate professor in 1995, and professor in 2004.

Professor Canning is a preeminent scholar in the fields of modern German and European history, gender history, and histories of citizenship and political subjectivity. Her prize-winning first book Languages of Labor and Gender: Female Factory Work in Germany, 1850-1914 (1996) broke new ground for European social history of the time. Its crucial contribution was to move beyond the adversarial differences of social and cultural historians to show how “materialist” and “discursive” approaches might join together. She followed this with Gender History in Practice: Historical Perspectives on Body, Class and Citizenship (2006), likewise a benchmark volume. A co-edited volume, Weimar Subjects/Weimar Publics (2010), has shaped the ways in which early 20th century German history is now being addressed. Her forthcoming third book, Citizenship Effects: Gender and Sexual Crisis in the Aftermath of War and Revolution in Germany, 1914-1930, will be another field-defining event. Professor Canning taught undergraduate and graduate courses in German and European history, gender and women’s history, and the history of citizenship. She was an outstanding, award-winning teacher in both the graduate and undergraduate classroom. Professor Canning served as chair of the Department of History, director of the Eisenberg Institute of Historical Studies, and founding director of the Center for European Studies. She was a dedicated mentor to a generation of undergraduate and graduate students in history and women’s studies.

The Regents now salute this distinguished scholar and teacher by naming Kathleen M. Canning, Arthur F. Thurnau Professor Emerita, Sonya O. Rose Collegiate Professor Emerita of History, professor emerita of history, professor emerita of women’s studies, and professor emerita of Germanic languages and literature.

Requested by:  

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

February 2018