

PROMOTION RECOMMENDATION
The University of Michigan-Dearborn
College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters
Department of Social Sciences

Ahmad A. Rahman, assistant professor of history, Department of Social Sciences, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters, is recommended for promotion to associate professor of history, with tenure, Department of Social Sciences, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.

Academic Degrees

Ph.D. 2006	University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
M.A. 1998	University of Michigan-Ann Arbor
B.G.S. 1977	Wayne State University

Professional Record

2006 - present	Assistant Professor, Social Sciences, History, University of Michigan-Dearborn
2004 - 2006	Instructor, Social Sciences, History, University of Michigan-Dearborn
2003 - 2004	Visiting Assistant Professor, African Studies Program, University of Toledo
Fall 2000	Adjunct Lecturer, Eastern Michigan University

Summary of Evaluation:

Teaching: Professor Rahman is rated excellent in teaching. He has provided two new courses for the History and African and African-American curricula. He covers both American and African history (a unique combination that derives from his research expertise in African diaspora studies) at both the survey and upper-division levels. Student evaluations of his teaching are quite positive. On average, students rated him 4.48 as an instructor, with 5 being the highest. Students' overall evaluation of Professor Rahman's courses average 4.45. Students are both challenged and impressed by him, and we see their appreciation for his commitment to teaching and his philosophy. Professor Rahman views the teaching of history as not just a personal passion, but also as a social duty to inform. In this light, he has developed from experience various ways to teach history so that it broadens students' minds to the fullest degree during the hours they spend in his classroom. Using the dialectical method of Hegel, he has sought to help students arrive at what they see to be "true" amidst a flurry of interpretations of various historical data. This approach is reflected in the diverse and challenging assignments Professor Rahman requires from his students: group cooperation, group and individual tests, and written assignments based on examinations of first person accounts from various historical periods. Both his teaching methods and philosophy represent models for excellence in teaching according to the common standards formally adopted by the history discipline in 2005.

Research: Professor Rahman's research is rated excellent. For the history discipline, the gold standard for promotion from assistant to associate professor is a peer-reviewed, book-length, research monograph, rather than a series of articles. This is not an idiosyncratic approach by the History Discipline at UM-Dearborn, but represents the standard in the field of history

generally. Professor Rahman's book, *The Regime Change of Kwame Nkrumah: Epic Heroism in Africa and the Diaspora*, is the centerpiece of his research case. It is a careful study, based on archival research and interviews, and well situated within the new historiography of African American Diaspora studies. The high quality of this work, as much as the very rapid pace in which Professor Rahman was able to bring his work to publication, is clear evidence of excellent performance as a researcher. In addition, his new book chapter, "Marching Blind: The Rise and Fall of the Black Panther Party in Detroit, 1942-1971," in *Liberated Territory: Untold Local Perspectives on the Black Panther Party*, anticipates his book-length project of the same title, and so, prospects for his future research productivity are excellent.

Recent and Significant Publications:

Rahman, A., "Marching Blind: The Rise and Fall of the Black Panther Party in Detroit, 1942-1971," Chapter in Book of Readings, *Liberated Territory: Untold Local Perspectives on the Black Panther Party*. {Duke University Press, 2008}.

Rahman, A., "African American Freemasonry and African Liberation: An Unknown History," January 2009, American Historical Association, New York, N.Y.

Rahman, A., *The Regime Change of Kwame Nkrumah: Epic Heroism in Africa and the Diaspora*, (Palgrave-Macmillan Publications, 2007).

Service: Professor Rahman's service is rated significantly capable. He has shown a dedication to campus-wide and college-wide service that is both unusual in an assistant professor and impressive. In his more than four years on this campus, he has served on the University Budget Committee, Faculty Senate, and the African/African American Studies and Criminal Justice Advisory Boards. In addition as a faculty advisor in CASL and mentor for the Women's Resource Center Program, Professor Rahman has engaged in service that provides the most direct and beneficial influence a professor can have with students outside of the classroom.

External Reviewers:

Reviewer A: "He is among a handful of scholars that have successfully navigated both African and African American history... Rahman's approach in *The Regime Change of Kwame Nkrumah* is quite novel. His analysis is fresh and intellectually stimulating. [He] has made a lasting contribution to both African history and African American history... Professor Rahman's book chapter 'Marching Band' is at the cutting edge of new scholarship on revolutionary Black organizations... The quality of Professor Rahman's work is comparable to the best of his cohort... Given the date when he received his doctorate and his quick production of a book, I surmise that Professor Rahman will be quite productive throughout his career."

Reviewer B: "Judging by the quality of this essay [i.e. 'Marching Band'], it would seem to me that, as Professor Rahman deepens his research in primary sources, the project is quite likely to result in a significant scholarly contribution."

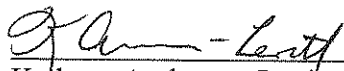
Reviewer C: "There is little doubt that his signature work is a major contribution to numerous fields-History, African History, Political Science and Black Studies more broadly... [I am] equally impressed with Professor Rahman's excavation of the history of the Black Panther Party in Detroit... I dare say that when published, this article will quickly be seen as the most revealing article on this controversial organization yet to be written"

Reviewer D: "I view his thesis in *The Regime Change of Kwame Nkrumah* as the distinguishing element in his career thus far, and as an excellent piece of scholarship that will have continuing relevance in the same way that Basil Davidson and Ronald Chilcote's work on Amilcar Cabral remained key references for over 20 years... Rahman established a place for himself among some of the most important scholars and scholarship of the past ten years... [With 'Marching Band'] he is also constructing a new narrative within this literature that serves to extend some of its major assumptions by fleshing out incomplete arguments and by adding to developing critiques of some of the old positions... I am convinced that Professor Rahman is producing durable, and provocative work that will hold up over time and will continue to provide insights for those interested in diaspora politics and histories."


Reviewer E: "Professor Rahman's productivity and engagement in the field has been exceptional... [H]e has published a first rate book manuscript... This book is an excellent and compelling monograph that offers new insights into the significance, impact and origins of Nkrumah's unique philosophy and leadership style... In terms of research methodology, Professor Rahman proves himself to be a meticulous historian... He has relied on numerous primary sources... The inclusion of actual documents, personal letters, declassified FBI reports, and even Nkrumah's college transcripts, in the actual text makes the history all the more palpable, and makes the book a very useable and compelling teaching tool... [T]he book is 'outstanding,' and a remarkable scholarly achievement."

Summary of Recommendation:

Professor Rahman merits an excellent rating in research and teaching and significantly capable in service. We are pleased to recommend, with strong support of the College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters Executive Committee, Ahmad A. Rahman for promotion to associate professor of history, with tenure, Department of Social Sciences, College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters.


Kathryn Anderson-Levitt

Dean
College of Arts, Sciences, and Letters



Daniel Little
Chancellor
University of Michigan-Dearborn

May 2009