

## HISTORY DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES (MAY 2021)

In the field of history, a successful scholar demonstrates scholarly development, accomplishment, and promise by producing high-quality, original, published works of scholarship and by participating actively in scholarly discourse with professional peers. “High-quality” scholarship generally means original research that has been published after peer review with a reputable academic press or academic journal. History department faculty also determine quality with reference to the evaluations of outside experts, the candidate’s self-evaluation, and direct assessments of the materials included in the scholarship portfolio.

As a result of the COVID-19 global pandemic, historians, like colleagues in other fields, face a new set of professional responsibilities (more time spent on teaching and service work), personal demands (additional caring responsibilities without sufficient support), and mental health and wellness challenges that are likely to severely limit the time and energy for scholarly research and writing as well as the opportunities for conference presentations, scholarly networking, and publications. Further, as historians, the impact of the pandemic is particularly devastating because our scholarship typically relies upon our ability to conduct research in distant archives and libraries that are currently closed or unreachable due to public health and travel restrictions. Even after “regular” travel resumes, the funding for and staffing of such institutions and the grant money to get to them is in peril. So too the academic publishing industry is facing added pressures that will likely both slow down and limit the amount of publications that can be reasonably achieved by the candidate and expected by our department and PTR at the time of tenure review. As the American Historical Association stated in July 2020, “sustaining historical research during the COVID-19 crisis requires flexible and innovative approaches to the conduct of research itself as well as to how we gauge productivity.” We encourage the faculty member under review to document and describe the negative effects of the pandemic on their ability to conduct research and publish scholarship. Members of the Departmental Review Committee commit to considering seriously those (and other more generalized) impacts of COVID during our reviews.

### PRODUCTION OF SCHOLARSHIP

The history department at Lafayette College possesses a deep commitment to the production of peer-reviewed scholarship based on the analysis of primary sources and in conversation with other secondary analyses. The history department expects faculty to actively engage in the production of various forms of historical scholarship, such as historical monographs, peer-reviewed journal articles, chapters in edited collections, editorship of a compilation, authorship of a teaching text, digital publications, publicly facing scholarship, and conference papers. Within these genres, we value most highly works that have gone through a peer-review process in which an expert whose identity is normally hidden from the author offers an evaluation of the merits of a scholarly work and plays a role in the publication decision.

At tenure time, candidates should have demonstrated an ability to do both long form and shorter form manuscripts, and to have moved some of them through the peer review process to publication. The balance of books, articles, chapters in edited collections, and other types of scholarship may vary from candidate to candidate. Faculty with books in print (or late in the production process) at a reputable academic press (either university or trade with a peer review process) will be expected to have at least one additional peer-reviewed article, and those with an unpublished, book-length manuscript will be expected to have at least two additional peer-reviewed publications (at least one of which should be a peer-reviewed journal article). It is expected in the field of history for scholars to publish portions of their book manuscripts in different venues (such as journals and edited collections). Those texts normally differ in substantial ways from one another. In cases where there are sufficient differences to merit consideration of the two pieces as separate publications, candidates should explain how they have changed the arguments, scope, sources, and/or other elements of the work. If the texts are largely similar, the department will still value the article-length publication and consider it carefully as part of the dossier but will not “count” it for the purposes of the minimum publication standard outlined above.

The department recognizes that history is generally considered a "book discipline" and that our standards should reflect those broadly held at peer institutions. Nationwide, the process of transforming a dissertation into a book manuscript in the field of history is central to earning

tenure, including at top research universities. We expect, in the normal course of events, that candidates complete a monograph for submission in the tenure file. As one of many genres of historical writing, the monograph demonstrates a historian's ability to pose and answer large questions, to develop sustained arguments, and to make significant contributions to the historical record. It is the result of a long-term project requiring years of planning and execution. We recognize that COVID-related travel restrictions and archival closures will significantly delay and impair the work necessary for first-time authors to fully write and revise their book manuscripts.

While the department values acceptance of a book manuscript by a high-quality peer-reviewed press, we recognize that relying on the judgment of the increasingly profit-driven academic publishing industry should not be the only mechanism for determining the scholarly merit of a book manuscript. Academic presses were under great pressure to show increased profitability even before 2020, and all signs point to COVID making this problem much worse, especially for first-time authors.

In cases in which candidates present an unpublished, book-length manuscript, the department will consider the manuscript on its merits and the feedback of external reviewers who specialize in the candidate's field. Doctoral dissertations in history, without substantial revisions, are rarely accepted for review by reputable academic presses. Reflecting this practice, the history department does not consider unpublished, unrevised, doctoral dissertations to be "monographs" for the purposes of tenure review. In cases where candidates submit revised dissertations as unpublished monographs, the candidate must explain clearly how the submitted manuscript is distinctive from the dissertation and explain what has been done to revise the dissertation into a book manuscript. In these instances, as stated above, the department requires additional published articles as evidence of scholarly development, accomplishment, and promise.

Nearly all historians, nationwide, base their first book on their dissertation. Most History PhDs write dissertations on topics of their own choosing, almost always quite far removed from the specific work conducted by their dissertation advisors. Nationwide, the process of transforming a dissertation into a book manuscript in the field of history typically lasts the entire probationary

period of pre-tenure faculty. In the vast majority of cases, dissertations are not considered for publication by high quality academic presses unless they have undergone a substantial process of revision that includes new research and writing. Furthermore, the process of securing a contract from a publisher can be very lengthy. Publishers normally require that authors give them the exclusive right to consider a manuscript. This can tie up a manuscript for months, even years, as the decision to publish depends not only on the comments of peer reviewers but also on the views of the marketing department and ultimately a broader board of editors. Once accepted (in normal, pre-COVID times), the manuscript then frequently takes two years or more of additional work as authors do revisions, work with copyeditors, secure permissions agreements from rights holders, work on indexes, illustrations, maps, and glossaries, and tend to other publication details requiring significant attention from the author. It seems reasonable to expect that this process will take even longer in the COVID era.

For all of these reasons, the history department understands that transforming a dissertation into a book manuscript is a substantial intellectual project that, in itself, demonstrates both active engagement in the advancement of knowledge and promise of further professional growth. However, because scholarly disciplines differ in this regard, candidates must supply in their self-evaluations an explanation for how their first monograph differs from the dissertation and describe their new research, revisions, and additions. To complement the first book manuscript, the History Department also expects evidence that a new project has been initiated. This evidence of a new project, which might include elements such as a grant proposal, talk, or research trip, will be combined with the evidence of the first book manuscript to constitute a demonstration of “future promise.”

When the department hires a new faculty member who has already established a record of peer-reviewed publications, all such earlier publications are considered as evidence of their scholarly ability. We expect that all departmental faculty, including new faculty, will continue to demonstrate their ability to actively pursue a scholarly agenda by producing high-quality scholarship after starting to work at Lafayette. Therefore, tenure and promotion candidates should specify which portion of their scholarship portfolio was initiated, advanced, or completed while in the employ of Lafayette College. The number and type of publications that demonstrate

scholarly accomplishment and provide evidence for the active pursuit of a scholarly agenda will vary depending on the length of time the candidate has spent working at Lafayette College.

In most cases, historians produce scholarship as individual authors, although the department recognizes that co-authored research can make significant contributions to the field. For co-authored works, department members are expected to make their own contributions explicit when describing such publications for a tenure or promotion file. In cases where a department member's contributions merit such consideration, co-authored work may be weighted equally to a single-author piece. Similarly, when authors publish their work and/or participate in the labor of translating it in contexts other than the United States and in languages other than English (both of which are encouraged, where relevant), they should make clear their processes and contributions, as well as the nature of these publications. The department does not privilege works written in English for Anglophone audiences over those written in other languages for other audiences. The department does not expect faculty to co-author works with undergraduate students.

### ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN SCHOLARLY DISCOURSE

The history department expects faculty to be continuously engaged with the larger scholarly community. A record of continuous scholarly engagement, as demonstrated through work in venues such as conferences, reviews, blogs, invited talks, and grant or fellowship applications, is an important element of a candidate's tenure file.

### PROMOTION TO FULL PROFESSOR

The College standard for promotion to the rank of full professor is the demonstration of a “continuing record of high achievement as a scholar.” With regard to the first standard (“Production of Scholarship”) we expect that after a candidate has completed a successful monograph (earlier in their career) they will have written a second book manuscript or its equivalent in other forms of publication, such as a substantial suite of peer-reviewed articles or a major digital humanities project. In cases where the second book manuscript is finished but not

yet published, we will apply the same procedures indicated above regarding the first book manuscript. We hope that at the time of promotion to full professor, a candidate has established themselves as a significant and widely recognized scholar in their respective subfield. As a result, we highly value (but do not require) efforts to expand the reach of one's scholarship within, and where relevant, beyond the United States.