

SCHOLARSHIP GUIDELINES

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Statement regarding Research Disruption Added April 2025

The Department of Religious Studies seeks to tenure and to promote outstanding teacher-scholars who are active members of the department, college, and professional academic Communities.

I. Scholarship Guidelines for Tenure and Promotion to Associate Professor

Candidates for tenure and promotion in Religious Studies are expected to have established themselves as active, recognized, and respected scholars in the field(s). Scholarship will be judged on the basis of quality, quantity, and trajectory. The work must show evidence that the candidate has made and is likely continuing to make significant contributions to the field. Assessment of quality will be based on reports from external reviewers, assessment by tenured members of the department, and publication venues. Books published by respected presses (normally academic presses) and articles in reputable peer-reviewed print and/or online journals will receive the greatest weight, followed by articles in anthologies (edited books), articles in non-refereed journals, and other kinds of publications such as translations, encyclopedia articles, book review essays, and book reviews, as well as conference papers. Given the multi-and interdisciplinary nature of Religious Studies, we recognize that the theoretical and methodological orientation of research done in the field can vary widely in accord with the particular discipline(s) and/or sub-discipline(s) involved, and that the venues of publications may vary depending on the candidate's primary disciplinary training and on the expectations within his/her field(s).

By the time of the tenure review, successful candidates for tenure and promotion ordinarily will have had at least one monograph published or demonstrably accepted and contracted for publication, as well as at least several scholarly articles, or will have published a substantially larger set of articles. Candidates who have produced co-authored work will be expected to clarify their level of contribution to the publication(s). Work that is under contract but not yet published will be made available by the candidate for assessment by external reviewers and the Department Review Committee.

Additionally, serving as an editor of scholarly collections, academic journals, and/or book series will be assessed in the candidate's favor, as will publication of pedagogical articles in peer-reviewed journals and/or peer-reviewed textbooks. Candidates who have produced co-edited work will be expected to clarify their level of contribution to the publication. Co-authoring and/or co-editing articles and books with undergraduate students is not expected in religious studies. The question of whether or not a student assistant has been engaged in one's research is not normally a criterion used to assess the work. While the quality of the work being assessed is of primary importance, the quantity will also

be considered. Trajectory of scholarly activity will be assessed on the basis of progress on the research project(s) beyond the dissertation as evidenced by publications, conference papers, grant applications, etc. Clear evidence of an ongoing program of research and publication during the scholar's time at Lafayette will be expected.

In addition to publications, candidates are expected to demonstrate active engagement in their field(s) of expertise through, for example: presenting papers at international, national, or regional conferences; and/or serving as discussants at those same conferences; and giving invited talks at other academic institutions.

II. Scholarship Guidelines for Promotion to Professor

Candidates for promotion to Professor should demonstrate sustained achievement in scholarship. The department will look for the same kinds of evidence for this outline above for tenure, and there should now be evidence of a national or international reputation earned in the candidate's field(s) of specialization. Candidates may, if they choose, continue in the same area of scholarly work as before tenure, but, minimally, they must demonstrate that they have now moved beyond the body of work submitted during the tenure review. This new work should show sustained progress on a major project or projects and have resulted in significant publications.

III. Research Disruptions:

The department recognizes that global events, such as pandemics, geopolitical conflicts, government shutdowns, border closures, and trade wars affect the landscape of research infrastructure and support in higher education and may significantly impact an individual faculty member's scholarly activities. These effects can include but are not limited to accessibility to funding, availability of data sources, participation in professional conferences, ability to collaborate, presentation and publication venues, and work-related travel. These circumstances, uncertainty, and lack of clarity over any future adverse developments may require faculty members to shift their areas of scholarly expertise, topics or regions studied, methods employed, and distribution of their research. Such shifts involve substantial investments of time and resources and may produce delays and/or gaps in the scholarly record. It will be the responsibility of faculty members under review to describe the negative impacts of such disruptions on their scholarship. It will be the responsibility of the department to consider those impacts during reviews of the individual's scholarship file.