



2019 Scholar on Campus Nominee: Sarah Ann Standing, PhD

As ecological concerns (including issues of ecological justice, migration, and genocide—all profoundly environmentally linked) become more urgent in our world, many emerging fields have stepped forward into a previous void. Dr. Sarah Ann Standing is a pioneer in the emerging field of eco- theatre, or the intersection of theatre and ecology. With rigorously peer-reviewed publications from Johns Hopkins University Press, MIT Journals Press, Palgrave Macmillan, and Routledge, her scholarship has become known in the wider world and cited by scholars in Germany, Finland, Canada, Turkey, England, Spain, and the United States.

Because of her original and cutting-edge scholarship, Dr. Standing was invited to the University of Pennsylvania as the featured speaker of a two-day “Symposium on Performance, Politics, and Climate Change.” While there, she also taught two innovative classes in different aspects of eco-theatre. Afterwards, she was commended by the Ivy League university as having “started a whole new conversation at Penn!” Dr. Standing has also presented papers at peer-reviewed conferences at Stanford University; Carnegie-Mellon University; University of Toronto; Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand; and University of Melbourne, Australia.

In 2013-14, Dr. Standing was selected as one of six from across CUNY in the sciences, social sciences, and humanities for a year-long Faculty Fellowship at the Center for Place, Culture and Politics at the CUNY Graduate Center. Since that time, academic journals in the United States, Australia, and England have specifically sought out Dr. Standing to peer review other scholars’ work in the field of eco-theatre and eco-performance. Also since that time, Dr. Standing’s work has been taught in classes on contemporary theatre at University of Washington, Macalester College, and University of London, England, among other institutions.

At City Tech, Dr. Standing worked hard in the area of Assessment under Dr. Tammie Cumming’s leadership. Dr. Standing began as Humanities Department Representative for the School of Arts and Sciences Assessment Committee in 2011, became co-chair of that committee in 2013, and won an Assessment Leadership Award in 2017. She was invited by Provost August to serve on the Middle States Educational Effectiveness Assessment Committee 2016-18. The Middle States reaccreditation report particularly commended City Tech in the area of assessment.

Dr. Standing also served as the City Tech representative of the CUNY/Theatre Development Fund partnership from 2011 to 2017. In 2014, TDF wrote that Dr. Standing was an “exceptional partner who has taken the initiative to develop the program at NYCCT that has now become the model for all of our other campuses.”

In the Humanities Department, Dr. Standing has directed six student shows, always as cross-department initiatives. In 2015, Dr. Standing directed *Fallen Sparrow* (an original play by retired

professor Victoria Lichterman) which examines the topic of genocide. Dr. Standing created *Telling Our Stories* to investigate intersections between environment, heritage, and location. This series included “Always We Begin Again” 2013; “Love and Other Storms” 2012; “Food for Thought and Action” 2011; “Emerging into Light” 2010; and “What Surrounds Us” 2009. Comments about the shows include: “imaginative and moving,” “entertaining, even gripping performance,” “students demonstrated their learning, both dramatically and through their own transformations.”

Dr. Standing has helped students find their own voices as writers in *City Tech Writer* and speakers in the Humanities Department Speech Competition. Although she consistently has students in the Speech Competition finals, this year her students took both first and second place in the Competition.