

Service Learning in Sylvia Plath Studies

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Purpose:

To travel to Belfast, Northern Ireland to present on Service Learning in Sylvia Plath Studies at the Sylvia Plath: Letters, Words, Fragments Conference.

For this conference I researched how learning service projects are not opposed to, but an extension of literature, specifically in Sylvia Plath Studies. The project came out of the Sylvia Plath Studies course which I took the Fall 2016 semester, as well as an Introduction to Poetry class I took in the Spring of 2017. I conducted outside research to supplement what I had already learned, then attended the Sylvia Plath: Letters, Words, and Fragments Conference in Northern Ireland in November of 2017 where I presented on service learning in Plath Studies, community outreach, and feminism in various dimensions. The purpose of my research project was to further women's studies and Sylvia Plath Studies, as well as address the impact that service learning can have in these areas of research and literature. Presenting at and attending this conference forged new areas we can venture into in Plath Studies, and allowed me to make connections with the top Plath scholars of today.



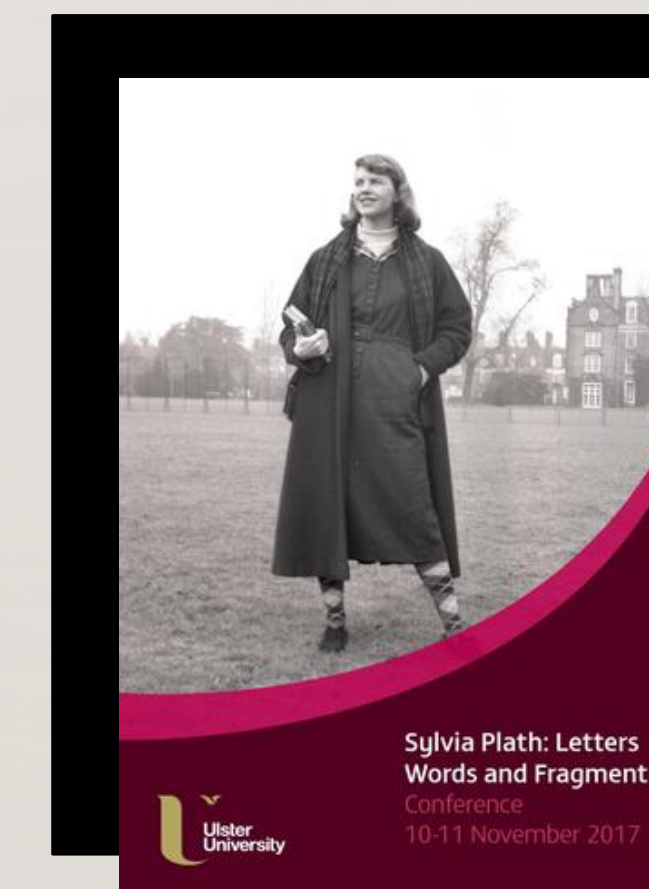
What does service learning look like in literature?

Plath Studies worked together to bring two service learning projects to our community. The first was a mounted library exhibition, in which we made a visual display of books, poems, photos, and explanations for each. We focused on Sylvia Plath, Assia Wevill, and Ted Hughes.

For the second service learning project, we held a community discussion in the county public library. Our goal was to bring what we had learned in class to our community, not only to dispel the myths of these three literary figures, but to shine a light on issues that still affect us as a society today.



Peter K. Steinburg and Karen Kukil, editors of The Letters of Sylvia Plath Volume 1



Cover of conference program featuring Sylvia Plath in 1955



Presenting at the Sylvia Plath Conference, Ulster University