

## *Observing Women's History Month*

The Hellenic Association for American Studies (HELAAS) and the Fulbright Foundation cordially invite you to the inaugural event of their **annual online lecture series**.

**Friday 18 March 2022 at 6:30pm (GR time) / 12:30pm (US EST time)**

Guest Speaker **Emily Van Duyne** will present a lecture entitled

### *"They waited like sweethearts": Domestic Violence and Sylvia Plath*

Information about Professor Van Duyne's talk and bio follow below.

Attendance for this online event is limited.

Please **fill in the form** made available [here](#) in order to secure registration.

**Zoom link** will be sent to all attendees the day before the event.

\*\*\*\*

#### **ABSTRACT**

Images of intimate partner violence litter the poetry, fiction, journals, and letters of the American poet Sylvia Plath, who was married to the British poet laureate Ted Hughes from 1956 until her death by suicide in 1963. Plath wrote frankly about Hughes' violent nature and behavior, yet the general tendency to disbelieve female survivors of violence and assault has historically hounded her work and reputation, despite her fame and renown. This talk will explore Plath's images of bruises, cuts, and strangulation through the lens of contemporary feminist theory by analytic philosophers Kate Manne and Kristie Dotson. It poses two questions: Why are we so unwilling to take Sylvia Plath at her word? And what does this mean for other victims and survivors of intimate partner violence, today?

#### **BIO**

Emily Van Duyne is an Associate Professor of Writing at Stockton University in New Jersey. A 2022 Fulbright Scholar at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, she is the author of *Loving Sylvia Plath*, forthcoming with W.W. Norton & Co. Her work on Sylvia Plath has appeared in the *Harvard Review* and the *American Poetry Review*, most recently. Other work has appeared, or is forthcoming, in *Literary Hub*, *Women's Studies Quarterly*, *Profession: The Journal of the Modern Language Association*, and elsewhere. She is also a poet, with poems in *The Rumpus* and elsewhere. She lives, at the moment, in Greece with her husband and their three children.