

Dear esteemed members of the CURI committee,

It is my pleasure to recommend Kazimierz Goodman ('25) for a Steen Fellowship this coming summer 2024 to explore trans narratives of self through the analysis of (mostly anonymous) submissions to the *Jahrbuch für sexuelle Zwischenstufen* (Yearbook for Intermediate Sexual Types), published between 1899-1923. This project will enable Kazimierz to convert his long-time research interest in Trans and Queer Studies into a project that would both inform the discipline, provide a strong basis for his future research beyond St. Olaf, and make narrative data accessible to students, faculty, staff, or community members outside of St. Olaf who may not have the reading skills in German.

Academically, Kazimierz is an excellent candidate for this type of independent research. As a German and History major, he successfully completed or is currently enrolled in coursework that will serve the outcome of his project. Out of his coursework for History, in particular HIST 299A (topic: queer lives in Europe) and HIST320 (topic: history of the body) support Kazimierz personal strong interest and familiarity with the topic. In German, he completed GERM272 (topic: GDR narratives from both sides of the border) and is currently enrolled in GERM372 (topic: work cultures) - course levels at which refined German language skills are imperative for success. We read, discuss, and interpret complex pieces of text in their socio-historical contexts and critically engage with primary and secondary sources in German. These skills prepared Kazimierz to analyze letters produced 100 years ago and *how* these served as research data in transsexual studies in the 1920s. I believe that Kazimierz proposed project work can contribute critically to understanding the circularity of knowledge and the discourse around gender, sex, and sexual orientation.

I can also attest to Kazimierz rigor in his academic work. He is currently enrolled in the third class with me, and in each class, he stood out as one of the top three students: He comes prepared beyond the mere required homework, poses critical questions that further any discussions in class, and always strives to making connections with his other academic interests in Gender and Sexuality Studies, History, and Social Justice.

In sum, the Steen Fellowship would allow Kazimierz to immensely advance his learning experience at St. Olaf. Not only would it provide a great research opportunity to deep-dive into the intricacies of the German written language and its history, understanding terminology and how knowledge is (not) transported through time, but it would also give him the opportunity to understand his own history as a trans-man in different terms. From a research methods perspective, he would gain intense knowledge on working with archived journal material, how to extract the relevant information from a larger corpus, and building a small archive in itself that has the potential to shift the focus from talking *about* transsexuality to centralizing *voices of* transsexual writers. Last but not least, this project work would equip Kazimierz with professional skills like navigating conversations with archival staff abroad and at the University of Minnesota libraries.

I can recommend Kazimierz without reservation.

Sincerely,
Dr. Nora Vosburg