

# THE HONG KIERKEGAARD LIBRARY CENTER FOR RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION

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## STUDENT NEWSLETTER

### MEET THE NEW CURATOR

With the retirement of the beloved Gordon Marino comes the reign of the Hong Kierkegaard Library's new Curator, Anna Söderquist. Söderquist has settled into her role comfortably, and her current "Kierkegaard and Existentialism" philosophy course is in high-demand and was even before her arrival.



For those of us who aren't quite lucky enough to learn from her this semester, Söderquist was so kind as to reveal the best introductory texts for anyone looking to get into the poetic, existential philosophy of Søren Kierkegaard.

Article by Kiara Fitzpatrick  
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### APPLY FOR THE SUMMER UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH PROGRAM

**Undergraduate Research at the Kierkegaard Summer Institute:** Undergraduates and recent grads join an intensive, three-week close-reading and discussion group of Kierkegaard's works, as well as producing an independent research paper. They also participate in weekly seminars with visiting scholars at the Kierkegaard Library, and may optionally join the Kierkegaard in Danish reading group. As participants in the program, students will gain access to resources of the Kierkegaard Library,

**CURI Summer Research Program:** St. Olaf students have the opportunity to apply for support from the Collaborative Undergraduate Research and Inquiry (CURI) office for participation in Undergraduate Research at the Kierkegaard Summer Institute. Such funding will typically require 6-8 weeks in residence at the Kierkegaard Library.

For more information on these opportunities, please go to our website <https://wp.stolaf.edu/kierkegaard/> or email [shimota@stolaf.edu](mailto:shimota@stolaf.edu)

# IN OTHER NEWS...

## MEET THE NEW CURATOR (CONT.)

Although not her personal favorites, Söderquist recommends a beginner to start with *Either/Or* or *Works of Love*. Söderquist describes *Either/Or* as a strange but playful text. She says it is a “good introduction to the peculiar way in which Kierkegaard writes.” With a varying but always eloquent structure, *Either/Or* introduces readers to the central concepts and paradoxes of his philosophical thought. Since Kierkegaard published so often under pseudonyms, this text, written by an author named Victor Eremita, introduces this unique method of

philosophical exploration.

A departure from *Either/Or*'s jovial nature, Söderquist says *Works of Love* is a text that can change your life. This is a non-pseudonymous text which, as the title might suggest, discusses love and personal ethics. Kierkegaard investigates the neighborly Christian love, erotic love, and preferential or filial love. Söderquist reports that *Works of Love* is “a work about our duty to others and ourselves.” Söderquist reports that *Works of Love* is “a work about our duty to others and ourselves.” Many translations of these texts can be found in the Hong Kierkegaard Library.



One of the student workers at the Kierkegaard Library, Kiara Fitzpatrick, recently had the opportunity to sit down with Curator Anna Söderquist and pick her brain about all things regarding Kierkegaard, modern existentialism, and the importance of community. Head over to our Student Blog to check out the full article!

Written by Kiara Fitzpatrick

## GRANT UPDATE

While you may have seen our vast collection of Kierkegaardian texts while coming to study, we also have some incredibly valuable texts in the Howard V. Hong Rare Book Room, which is located in Rolvaag Memorial Library. In 2021, we were awarded a grant which has allowed us to begin preservation efforts for some of the most rare and priceless texts in our Rare Book Room. In the future, we hope to be able to make these texts accessible to you for research or just to learn more about Kierkegaard. Check out our Instagram (@hklstoaf) for the most recent updates on all Kierkegaard Library events! For more information about accessing these texts, please e-mail the Library Curator, Prof. Anna Soderquist ([soderq3@stolaf.edu](mailto:soderq3@stolaf.edu)) or the Special Collections Coordinator, Jill Fisher ([fisher@stolaf.edu](mailto:fisher@stolaf.edu)).

# HELPFUL INFORMATION

## STUDENT FAQ'S

**Can I check out a book from the library?** - The only books that can leave the library are those in the Lending Library (located right by the main door). However, you're more than welcome to come to the library to read books not within the Lending Library!

**What is the Hong Kierkegaard Library?** - The Hong Kierkegaard Library, Center for Research and Publication is the second largest collection of Kierkegaard's works in the world. It was founded by Howard and Edna Hong who both graduated from St. Olaf, and the pair returned to the Hill when Howard accepted a job as a professor in the Philosophy Department.

**When can I visit the Kierkegaard Library?** - We are open from 10-4 Monday through Friday.

**How many books are in the Kierkegaard Library?** - The collection is home to almost 19,000 volumes.

**Where can I get more information on the Library?** - Check out our webpage at <https://wp.stolaf.edu/kierkegaard/> and follow us on instagram @hklstolaf, and on Facebook.

**More questions?** - We'd love to help! For student general inquiries please email [madsen8@stolaf.edu](mailto:madsen8@stolaf.edu). For all else please email [shimota@stolaf.edu](mailto:shimota@stolaf.edu).

## WEEKLY KIERKEGAARD LIBRARY CONTESTS

Stop into the Kierkegaard library each week to answer the Kierkegaard-related Contest and Poll of the Week displayed on the bulletin board inside the door! The Contest of the Week features a Kierkegaard-related question, and all those who submit the right answer will be entered into a drawing for a prize at the end of each week. The Poll of the Week features a more creative question, and the best answers will be published on our Instagram.

We also offer tours by request each Friday from 2-4. If you'd like a tour of Steensland Hall, home of the Kierkegaard Library, send us an email and we'll arrange the date and time!

## EVENTS TO WATCH FOR

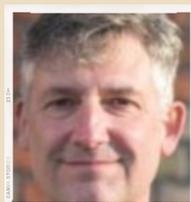


# MEET THE FACES OF THE LIBRARY

## FACULTY



Anna Söderquist,  
Curator &  
Associate  
Professor



Brian Söderquist,  
Endowed  
Kierkegaard Chair  
in Christian  
Philosophy



Eileen  
Shimota  
Assistant  
Director



Jill Fisher  
Special  
Collections  
Coordinator

## PART-TIME STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

Lise Faillettaz,  
Collections  
Associate  
Don Janke,  
Library  
Assistant  
Bailey Kinsky,  
Conservation  
Consultant  
Troy  
Wellington  
Smith,  
Consultant  
for the Rare  
Book  
Collection



Abdou Ghanim  
'23  
Computer  
Science Major



Kiara Fitzpatrick '25  
French, and  
Philosophy Major



Else Madsen  
'25  
Political  
Science Major



Liz Mills '25  
Philosophy and  
Ancient Studies  
Major

## LOOKING FOR LIBRARY MERCH?



T-Shirts



Mugs



Stickers



Stop by the  
Kierkegaard  
Library to  
purchase!

## HOURS AND CONTACT INFO

The Hong Kierkegaard Library is open from 10am - 4pm, Monday through Friday.  
For more information on and inquiries about the library, please contact Eileen Shimota at  
[shimota@stolaf.edu](mailto:shimota@stolaf.edu)

And follow us on instagram @hklstolaf and on Facebook!