



THE HOWARD AND EDNA HONG

# KIERKEGAARD LIBRARY

CENTER FOR RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION

Student Newsletter

Fall 2023

## "Curating the Digital Exhibit: From the Archives of the Hong Kierkegaard Library (HKL)"

This summer at the HKL, four students welcomed the incredible opportunity to research, write, and digitize materials about the life and work of Søren Kierkegaard. Through St. Olaf's Collaborative Undergraduate Research and Inquiry (CURI) program, Kiara Fitzpatrick, Ruth Hailey, Elie Kayobe, and Vera Sablak spent eight weeks creating a collaborative digital exhibition that offers unique insight into the most enigmatic areas of Kierkegaard's writings. To supplement the research found in their exhibits, they showcase fragile and historic resources that are found in the Rare Book Room at St. Olaf College. Each student created an individual exhibit, which allowed them to focus on aspects of Kierkegaard's writing that appealed to their individual interests. Sablak scoured through Kierkegaard's journals to learn about his personal life and vocational journey while Kayobe studied two texts, *Fear and Trembling* and *The Concept of Anxiety*, to piece together Kierkegaard's philosophies of anxiety and faith. Hailey honed in on Kierkegaard's philosophy of music, and Fitzpatrick surveyed Kierkegaard's pseudonymous works to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the authorship as a whole. The exhibition in its entirety is now available on [the HKL website](#). The student researchers had opportunities to present their research to both Kierkegaard scholars and the St. Olaf College community. At the end of their eight weeks, they shared their findings with Kierkegaard scholars, St. Olaf students, faculty, staff, and community. They had a similar opportunity at the Friends of the Kierkegaard Library Fall Dinner in October. This semester, they also participated in the CURI Fall Showcase, which offers all CURI students a platform to share their research. Finally, they presented their findings in a special presentation to the St. Olaf Board of Regents.



Left to right: Sablak, Kayobe, Fitzpatrick, and Hailey present their research at the Kierkegaard Library in July 2023.  
Photo credit: Abdon Gbanim.

To view the complete digital exhibit, please click [here](#) or scan the QR code:



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### Check out our website!

Check out the hyperlink above, or scan the QR code to the right:



### Find us on social media:

Instagram: @hklstolaf  
Facebook: The Hong Kierkegaard Library



# Introducing the *International Journal of Kierkegaard Research*

## CURRENTLY ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2024 ISSUE:

The Kierkegaard Library is pleased to announce the plan to bring the *Søren Kierkegaard Newsletter* to a new platform as an open-access, peer-reviewed academic journal of philosophy: the *International Journal of Kierkegaard Research*. While the SKN has a long-standing history and tradition as the Library's well-received publication, we believe that the IJKR will make the content more accessible to students, scholars, faculty, and readers of Kierkegaard. Our reformation covers every aspect of the journal, from content, depth, and reach, including increased accessibility to libraries and search engines.

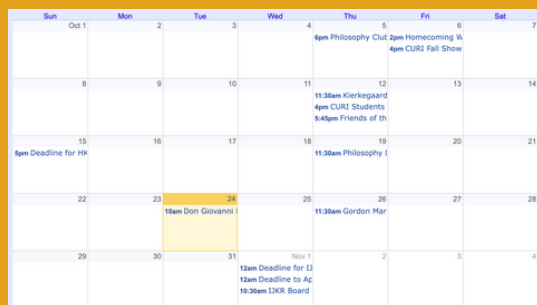
Although our format is changing, the *International Journal of Kierkegaard Research* will continue to foster dialogue in Kierkegaard research around the world. We support efforts to bridge various disciplines of thought, traditions, and methods of scholarship, and welcome the opportunity to bring in new and diverse perspectives.

The *International Journal of Kierkegaard Research* invites all those interested to submit original works on any topic relating to Kierkegaard. Authors and creators of any discipline and country are welcome to apply. Besides promoting rigorous scholarship, we are committed to bringing in new voices and perspectives on Kierkegaard and his thought.

**Submissions for the 2024 issue are due on November 1, 2023.** Submission guidelines can be found [here](#), and at the QR code below:

## STUDENT SUBMISSIONS WELCOME!:

In each volume, the *International Journal of Kierkegaard Research* will choose a contribution from an undergraduate or graduate student, whenever deemed appropriate. St. Olaf students are welcome to submit an original piece pertaining to Kierkegaard. Submissions must be between 6,000 and 10,000 words, follow the style guidelines, and be **emailed to [shimota@stolaf.edu](mailto:shimota@stolaf.edu) by November 1, 2023**. More information can be found [here](#), and at the QR code to the right.



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Oct 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
			4pm Philosophy Clu	2pm Homecoming W		
				4pm CURS Fall Show		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
			11:30am Kierkegaard			
			4pm CURS Students			
			5:45pm Friends of th			
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
5pm Deadline for HK				11:30am Philosophy I		
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
	11am Don Giovanni			11:30am Gordon Mar		
29	30	31	Nov 1	2	3	4
			12am Deadline for IJ			
			12am Deadline to Ap			
			10:30am IJKR Board			

Check out our new Calendar of Events! You can view the calendar on our website under "Library News and Events," and you can subscribe to it so that it auto-populates in your Google Calendar. Either way, it's a great way to stay up-to-date on the Library's every evolving schedule!

Visit [wp.stolaf.edu/kierkegaard/calendar-of-events/](http://wp.stolaf.edu/kierkegaard/calendar-of-events/)

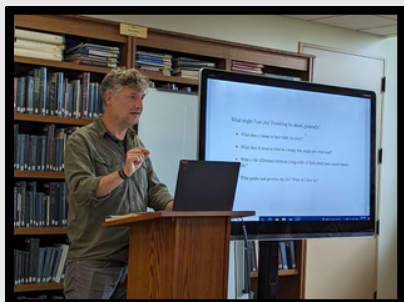
## An Archival Move to Old Main

At the beginning of this academic year, part of the HKL archives found a new home in a converted study room on the second floor of Old Main, the oldest building on campus and home to St. Olaf's Religion department. The archives, now just a short walk from the Kierkegaard Library's primary location in Steensland Hall, allows for more accessibility to staff, students, and scholars. Furthermore, the new location provides for more public-facing digitization efforts; a promising means of evolution and growth for the Kierkegaard Library. With this vision of the archives, the Library hired digital archivist, Marcie Killian. HKL student worker Liz Mills will serve as Killian's Archival Assistant. These two are tasked with pouring through, cataloging, and eventually digitizing the archives. Not only will their efforts allow the Library to share important pieces of its history and development, but the digitization of the archives begins a new chapter of research for the Kierkegaard Library.



*A beautiful shot of Old Main, where some of the archives are now housed. Photo credit: Marcie Killian.*

## Classes in Steensland Hall



Brian Söderquist presenting on Kierkegaard  
Photo credit: Eileen Shimota

It's a pleasure to have Prof. Anna Söderquist's philosophy course, "Kierkegaard and Existentialism," held in the Lower Level of the Kierkegaard Library this fall. In her course, Prof. Söderquist spends a portion of the semester teaching Kierkegaard's *The Concept of Anxiety* before moving onto other existentialists including: Sartre, Camus, and de Beauvoir. Prof. Söderquist is adamant that reading Kierkegaard builds a foundation for further studies of existential philosophy. As a Kierkegaard scholar and Director of the HKL, Prof. Söderquist is well suited to build connections between the "father of existentialism" and the most celebrated existential philosophers of the 20th century.

In addition to Anna Söderquist's regularly scheduled classes, the Enduring Questions Program met in the Lower Level for a plenary lecture by Brian Söderquist. As the Endowed Kierkegaard Chair in Christian Philosophy, Prof. Söderquist delivered an engaging introduction to Kierkegaard's *Fear and Trembling* to the program's second year students. As director of the Enduring Questions Program, Professor Ibtesam Al Atiyat was insistent on hosting the plenary in the Kierkegaard Library in order to foster dialogue and exemplify Kierkegaard's impact and presence on our campus.

Interested in meeting in the Lower Level? All are welcome to contact Eileen Shimota ([shimota@stolaf.edu](mailto:shimota@stolaf.edu)) to inquire about reserving the Lower Level.

## Exciting New Opportunity for Students Interested in Existentialism

In Spring 2023, a new track was added to the Integrative Philosophy major, called "Kierkegaard and Existentialism". As the name suggests, students explore key themes of existential philosophy in an interdisciplinary approach to philosophical study. Key themes include anxiety, despair, identity, meaning, nihilism, and freedom. Since Kierkegaard's thought is so intertwined with existentialism, this also provides a perfect opportunity for students to incorporate more Kierkegaard in their philosophical study! Due to the interdisciplinary nature of existentialism, there are a large variety of courses that count for the integrative major. Below are just a few courses that will be offered next semester, in Spring 2024.

**PHIL 140**  
**Myth, Reason, and  
the Death of the Gods**  
Prof. Brian Söderquist

**PHIL 236**  
**Modern Philosophy**  
Prof. Anna Söderquist

**REL 208**  
**Christian Theology  
and Human Existence**  
Prof. David Stewart

## Countdown to Copenhagen



Monument to Kierkegaard in Forest Gribsskov, Helsingør,  
Denmark. Photo credit: Brian Söderquist.

In January 2024, Professors Brian and Anna Söderquist will lead a brand-new study abroad class to Copenhagen, Denmark. The course will take a deep dive into how Kierkegaard lived in the city he spent his adult life. The Söderquists will teach Kierkegaard's writings, along with those of his contemporaries, by exploring the places, in Copenhagen and the surrounding areas that were most influential to him. The program is organized on site-based learning: it includes visits to places significant to Kierkegaard with live reading of his texts. Students will live in central Copenhagen, and have the opportunity to experience the city on bikes, like native Danes. The Søren Kierkegaard Research Centre is near by, and students will visit and attend lectures with Danish university students. During the third week of the program, students will travel outside of Copenhagen to Jutland, where Kierkegaard recorded his own travels in his journal. With

stops in Helsingør, Fredensborg, and Ribe along the way, students will experience the Denmark outside of the bustling capital city. This trip will teach St. Olaf students to better contextualize Kierkegaard's thinking, while discussing his work in the place where he penned his writings. Philosophy 266: Kierkegaard in Copenhagen will be one for the books!

# The Kierkegaard Library Celebrates Staff

The Kierkegaard Library is excited to welcome two new part-time staff members to the HKL team this year: Marcie Killian (Digital Archivist) and Elizabeth Black (Librarian).

Elizabeth Black also serves as a Collections Cataloger at Rolvaag Memorial Library and has previously worked across the river, with the Carleton College project "Blue: The Tatter Textile Library". Although she already holds a Master's in Arts Management and Creative Producing, Elizabeth is currently pursuing an advanced degree in library and archival studies. As part of her duties here, Elizabeth helps coordinate class outreach, donation processing, and collection management. She is assisted by student worker and Library Assistant, Ivy Lanz.

As the Digital Archivist, Marcie Killian is in charge of cataloging and presenting the HKL archival collections. Her passion for archives and special collections is driven by her focus on preserving community and supporting public service and engagement. Marcie believes that we can use the past to educate and shape the future. **Welcome Marcie and Elizabeth!**



*The Kierkegaard Library team at our first all-staff meeting (in Barbie Pink) in September 2023.  
Photo credit: Presley Martins.*

To see all the HKL staff, go to the [HKL's directory page](#).

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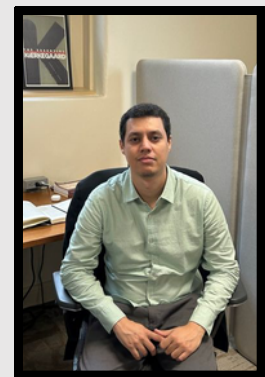
## Current Scholars at the Library

Each summer, the Kierkegaard Library welcomes a multitude of scholars to our space. Scholars range from undergraduate students at St. Olaf, to international graduate students pursuing degrees and renowned senior scholars. Although the Library is not as visited in the cold Minnesota winter, we are delighted to host two fellows in Northfield this semester. No matter the season, the Library continues to be united by an invested interest in Kierkegaard and a passion for learning in community.

### Presley Martins, Kierkegaard House Foundation Fellow

Meet Presley Martins, a Kierkegaard enthusiast from Passo Quatro, Brazil. The Kierkegaard House Foundation Fellowship has hosted dozens of scholars in the last 20 years. Both pre- and post-doctoral scholars are welcome to apply. Through the KHF Fellowship, Presley will live in Northfield and reside in the Library from September 2023 to August 2024. In his year on campus, Presley is hard at work researching the relationship between faith, love, and hope in Kierkegaard's writing. He feels that in order to fully understand these three concepts, we must understand the three in relation to each other.

Martins loves the opportunity to connect with other scholars and students interested in discovering more about Kierkegaard. One of our new scholar's favorite things about his residency at the Kierkegaard Library is having the exciting ability to work with all of the resources the library provides, including the HKL Rare Book Room. The hundreds of texts and materials hosted here are rare or fragile, and thus require a climate-controlled environment. Included in the Rare Book Room are hundreds of books published during Kierkegaard's lifetime (pre-1856), including first editions of his own texts. Contact [shimota@stolaf.edu](mailto:shimota@stolaf.edu) if you would like to visit the Rare Book Room.



*Presley Martins  
Photo credit: Kiara Fitzpatrick*

### Gordon Marino, Hong Kierkegaard Library Research Fellow



*Gordon Marino  
Photo credit: University of Mississippi*

We are thrilled to welcome Dr. Gordon Marino back to the Kierkegaard Library! After his retirement from the HKL and St. Olaf College in August 2022, Marino returns to continue his research. Marino is quite the Renaissance Man, with many years teaching Philosophy and related courses at St Olaf College under his belt. In his previous years as Curator of the HKL, Marino fostered love for Kierkegaard around the world. His work can be found in numerous publications, including *The Atlantic*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *The New York Times Magazine*.

Marino is the Fall 2023 HKL Research Fellow, an essential part of which is working with St. Olaf students. In his time here, he hopes to continue building community in the Library. With his specializations in the History of Philosophy, Philosophy of Religion, and Kierkegaard, Marino is sure to continue to be a helpful and inspiring presence at the Hong Kierkegaard Library.