



THE HOWARD AND EDNA HONG

# KIERKEGAARD LIBRARY

CENTER FOR RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION

Student Newsletter

Spring 2024

## KIERKEGAARD IN COPENHAGEN: STUDENT TESTIMONIAL

This past January, I had the opportunity to study in Copenhagen. The program, led by Brian and Anna Söderquist, featured an intensive study on how the daily life of 19th-century Copenhagen affected Søren Kierkegaard and vice-versa. Our daily routine consisted of morning discussions of his work followed by afternoon visits of schools, churches, or streets Kierkegaard would frequent during his time in the city.

As a novice of Kierkegaard, I was struck by how much I related to this 19th-century existentialist. I had gone into the course with the expectation of reading a few passages, analyzing them, and moving on with my life. Yet the material I read, the places I visited, stay with me now. His musings on anxiety and faith offer solace throughout my often confusing college career. The seaside cliffs where he felt oneness with nature and the city's cobblestone streets allow me to look more fondly at my own surroundings. Furthermore, the course gave me a foundation for my new position at Steensland. I feel a profound sense of connection to Kierkegaard, being amongst his life's work and being with peers who I know feel the same admiration for him. I have been lucky to have participated in this course, and share the excitement of those who will take this course in the years to come.

By Grace Heinz '25

## EXHIBITS IN THE LIBRARY

The Kierkegaard Library has a new piece of furniture this year! A glass case was moved into the main floor of the Library from our old home in Rolvaag. This case has allowed the Library to put interesting items, particularly from the Rare Book Room and Archives, on display. This past February, we got into the Valentine's Day spirit with a "Kierkegaard on Love" display. The display featured a history of Kierkegaard's relationship with Regine Olsen (his one-time fiancée and the holder of his heart for the rest of his life), Kierkegaard's writings on love (particularly focusing on *Works of Love*), and the story of Howard and Edna Hong's marriage. Included in the display were special copies of *Works of Love*, portraits of Regine Olsen, and photos of the Hong's throughout their relationship. Keep your eye on the Kierkegaard Library's Instagram for information about future displays!

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"THE SUBJECTIVE THINKER IS NOT A SCIENTIST-SCHOLAR; HE IS AN ARTIST. TO EXIST IS AN ART"

-SØREN KIERKEGAARD,  
*POSTSCRIPT*

## KIERKEGAARD AND VOCATION GRANT

The Library was honored to be one of the recipients of the Lutheran Center's Vocation Grant this past year. The grant offered funding to bring in Dr. Deidre Green from the Graduate Theological Union in Berkeley, California. Dr. Green presented a three part lecture series on Kierkegaard and vocation. The first lecture took place on March 19th and was on the topic of, "Embracing Uniqueness: Finding and Loving Your 'Essential.'" The second on April 11th centered on self betterment. It was titled, "Self-Development is Not a Sin: The Christian's Calling to Selfhood." Respondents first engaged in a lecture offered by Dr. Green before having time to reflect themselves through the use of a handout, curated by the Library in collaboration with Dr. Green. The final lecture ("Engendering Joy: Kierkegaard as Catalyst for Overcoming Complacency") occurred on May 9th and was held in-person in the Sun Ballroom of Buntrock Commons. We are honored to have had the support of the Lutheran Center and the participation of Dr. Green throughout this project.



*For more information on the lectures, visit the QR code to the right:*

## SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES AT THE KIERKEGAARD LIBRARY

The Kierkegaard Library's "Kierkegaard Summer Institute" program welcomes applications from junior and senior scholars, students enrolled in graduate programs, and current or recent undergraduates. St. Olaf students are especially encouraged to apply. The KSI fellowships include access to resources of the Kierkegaard Library as well as on-campus housing in St. Olaf dorms.

The undergraduate research program is aimed at students who are self-motivated and driven to dedicate time to intensive study of Kierkegaard and related thinkers. Accepted students are invited to join a four-week research

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"WHAT IS IMPORTANT IN CHOOSING IS NOT SO MUCH TO CHOOSE THE RIGHT THING AS THE ENERGY, THE EARNESTNESS, AND THE PATHOS WITH WHICH ONE CHOOSES"

-SØREN KIERKEGAARD,  
*POSTSCRIPT*



*A close-reading with KSI participants, 2023.*

program, studying Kierkegaard's works and learning independent research skills. Participation includes attending lectures, preparing assigned readings, and the close-reading and discussion of a Kierkegaard text with students from around the world.

Students are encouraged to join other academic activities together with visiting scholars, such as close reading of Kierkegaard in Danish. Visiting scholars present their own research periodically throughout the summer, offering students an exciting opportunity to interact with and learn from academics, ranging from the study of philosophy to theater to religion. Undergraduate researchers also work in peer groups, and conduct independent reading, research, and writing on a topic of their choice.

## FAREWELL IVY - HAPPY GRADUATION!

Student worker Ivy Lanz has been an essential piece of the Library for the past three years. Her work has mainly focused on the archives and rare books, which she's diligently cared for. Ivy is graduating with a degree in history and plans to continue working within the world of libraries and books. We're so sad to see Ivy go, but eager to hear all about what comes next for her. Thank you, Ivy!



## FALL REGISTRATION INFORMATION

The courses below are each offered in Fall 2024, and count towards the “Kierkegaard and Existentialism” track of the Integrative Philosophy Major. This track, which was announced last year, allows students to supplement their philosophy courses with courses related to Kierkegaard and the study of existentialism in other departments, including English, French, Religion, and Russian Studies.

**PHIL 140: DEATH OF GODS — PROF. BRIAN SÖDERQUIST — MWF 2:00-2:55**

**PHIL 245: PHILOSOPHY AND FEMINISM — PROF. NICOLE YOKUM - TU/TH 11:45-1:10**

**REL 208: CHRISTIAN THEOLOGY AND HUMAN EXISTENCE - PROF. DAVID STEWART -  
MWF 8:00-8:55 OR 9:05-10**

In addition, the Kierkegaard Library Director and Curator Anna Söderquist is teaching a seminar on the Philosophy of Love, which will include study of Kierkegaard's writing.

**PHIL 372: SEMINAR: PHILOSOPHY OF LOVE - TU/TH 9:35-11**

Visit <https://wp.stolaf.edu/philosophy/majors-concentrations/integrative-philosophy-major/>, or scan the QR code to the right for more information.



## PHILOSOPHY FILM CLUB

A new initiative this year, the Philosophy Film Club has been a big hit among students. Supported by the Philosophy Department and the Kierkegaard Library, the club aims to bring together lovers of both film and philosophy for interdisciplinary discussion. Past films include *Portrait of a Lady on Fire*, *Hedwig and the Angry Inch*, and *Little Miss Sunshine*. Dinner and drinks are provided, and a faculty member or student leads discussion. The last showing of the spring semester was the film *Aguirre, the Wrath of God*, led by Prof. Dan Farnham.

WE HOPE YOU'LL JOIN US IN FALL 2024 FOR THE NEXT SHOWING

## RECENT LECTURES AND EVENTS

### MAY 1 - JULIA WATKIN MEMORIAL LECTURE

This is a biannual lecture series in memory of Julia Watkin, scholar and friend of the Kierkegaard Library. We were delighted to host Prof. Joakim Garff on May 1st. *Learn more about this year's lecture at <https://wp.stolaf.edu/kierkegaard/spring-2024-watkin-lecture/>.*

### MAY 9 - KIERKEGAARD AND VOCATION LECTURE SERIES - ENGENDERING JOY

The Kierkegaard Library hosted Deidre Green in her final lecture of a three-part series. Prof. Green spoke to a crowd of Kierkegaard scholars and friends in the Sun Ballroom on the topic "Kierkegaard as Catalyst for Overcoming Complacency".

### JUNE 27 & 28 - UTECH LECTURE SERIES

This is a summer lecture series made possible by the Utech Endowment. This summer's speaker is Begonya Sáez Tajafuerce, a member of the Philosophy department at Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona.

*For more information, please scan the QR code to the right or visit: <https://wp.stolaf.edu/kierkegaard/current-events/>.*



## FAREWELL TO EILEEN

This past month, the Kierkegaard Library saw the end of an era as Assistant Director Eileen Shimota resigned from the Library after accepting a new position at Carleton College. Eileen diligently served at the Kierkegaard Library for the past eight years and a total of twenty-seven years at the College. Her time at the Library spanned two curators: former curator Gordon Marino and present curator Anna Söderquist. Eileen was a constant force of good at the Library. While she cared deeply about the mission of sharing Kierkegaard's works, she really shined at making the Library welcoming to all. Anyone who walked into the Library was greeted by Eileen's warm presence. She impressed upon students

and scholars alike that they were more than welcome at the Library and needed only ask if they had questions. Student workers knew that her office was always open - whether for questions about work or life guidance. And all students were welcomed into Library events planned by Eileen: these events were instrumental in orienting the campus community to our new location and our bounty of resources. We are so eager to see where life takes Eileen next in her new position at Carleton College's Gould Library. However, we will miss her and be ever grateful for her many contributions. Good luck, Eileen!

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"WHAT IS IT, NAMELY, THAT  
CONNECTS THE TEMPORAL AND  
ETERNITY, WHAT ELSE BUT  
LOVE, WHICH FOR THAT VERY  
REASON IS BEFORE EVERYTHING  
AND REMAINS AFTER  
EVERYTHING IS GONE"  
-SØREN KIERKEGAARD, *WORKS  
OF LOVE*

## YEAR RECAP

This year was one of change at the Kierkegaard Library. Beyond saying goodbye to Eileen Shimota, we temporarily welcomed Marcie Killian as Archivist and Elizabeth Black as Librarian. They were both wonderful additions to our team, and we were grateful to have them for most of this year. Student worker Ivy Lanz graduates this spring, and we are so excited to see what her next step is.

We also welcomed many new faces to the library this year! Chloe Revier and Grace Heinz both joined our team of student workers. And in April, Dawna Hendricks came on as Kierkegaard Library Coordinator. A student of both philosophy and libraries, Dawna is the perfect fit for our space. Learn more about our wonderful staff at the link below:

<https://wp.stolaf.edu/kierkegaard/directory-2>

## BY THE NUMBERS

13

Events held

50

Summer Scholars  
Visiting in 2024

5

Academic  
Year Scholars

1

Grant Recieved

17

Rugs added to  
the Library

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The Hong Kierkegaard Library



Website