

# The Hong Kierkegaard Library Student Newsletter Spring 2025



## Spring Exhibit—“Translating Kierkegaard”

Curated by Kiara Fitzpatrick & Grace Heinz

Søren Kierkegaard had been dead for nearly a century before his works were introduced to the Anglophone world. Originally published in Danish, the pioneer Lee Hollander published the first English excerpts of Kierkegaard’s corpus. Since Hollander’s work in 1923, translation efforts to publish texts in full began, starting with Walter Lowrie in 1941. A quarter century later, Howard and Edna Hong, St. Olaf alumni and Kierkegaard Library founders, set to work on translating Kierkegaard’s entire body of work. Their collection, *Kierkegaard’s Writings*, remains the classroom standard today.

The Hong’s efforts were honored with the National Book Award for Translation in 1968, and they were knighted into the Order of the Dannebrog in 1978. Today, scholars, like Bruce Kirmmse and George Pattison, build off of the work of translators before.

It is in translating that we must stay true to the meaning and essence of the text, rather than the text itself. Word by word translation does not suffice. Passages must be taken as a whole and rephrased for the English language. This is a difficult, yet rewarding, task that has been demonstrated by the translators mentioned. Each one brings a succinct, unique interpretation of Søren Kierkegaard, while remaining faithful to his ideas.

*We invite you to visit our exhibit, located on the upper level of the Kierkegaard Library.*

**“This is also how it is with the lily, it keeps silent and waits. It does not ask impatiently, ‘When is the spring coming?’ because it knows that it will come at the appointed time...”**

***The Lily and The Bird, p. 24***

# Existential Course Offerings in Fall 2025

Registration for fall semester is coming up at the end of April! The Kierkegaard & Existentialism track of the Philosophy Major is an exciting way to integrate more Kierkegaard into your studies. St. Olaf's Norwegian Department can also help to contextualize Kierkegaard to his native Denmark. View the requirements for the integrative major on the [Philosophy Department's website](#), and check out these qualifying courses for some inspiration.

PHIL 235 - Ancient Greek Philosophy - Prof. Danny Muñoz-Hutchinson

PHIL 241 - Philosophical Theology - Prof. K. Brian Söderquist

PHIL 371 - Epistemology Seminar - Prof. Arthur Cunningham

NORST 100 - Nordic Values: Origins to Obstacles - Prof. Caitlin Sackrison

## Philosophy Film Club

Are you interested in philosophy and film? Join like-minded cinephiles and philosophers to watch films, eat dinner, and enjoy discussions! We've had a blockbuster semester so far with showings of *The Seventh Seal* and *2046*. We hope you'll attend our final showing of the semester!

Watch "First Blood" with us on April 17th @ 7pm in Viking Theater

Want to join? Email [revier1@stolaf.edu](mailto:revier1@stolaf.edu) to sign up!  
And follow us on Instagram @[hklstolaf](#) for updates.



## Student Submissions Welcome to the *International Journal of Kierkegaard Research*

In December 2024, the Kierkegaard Library was pleased to publish our first issue of the *International Journal of Kierkegaard Research*. The IJKR was reformed in 2023 from the *Søren Kierkegaard Newsletter*, a long-standing publication. As part of the mission here at the HKL and at the IJKR, we remain committed to the SKN's goal to foster dialogue in Kierkegaard research around the world. Part of that mission is to make our journal open-access, which we've done by making all our issues free to read on [Manifold OEN](#) through the University of Minnesota. And, in each issue, we seek to bring in new perspectives and voices on Kierkegaard and his thought.

The IJKR is pleased to feature an exceptional student submission in each issue.

**Submissions are due on May 1, 2025** for our second issue. Articles should be between 6,000 and 10,000 words and follow the style guidelines. You may find previous issues and our stylesheet [here](#) and at the QR code to the right.



# Upcoming Lectures

## Julia Watkin Memorial Lecture - May 14, 2025

This is a biannual lecture series in memory of Julia Watkin, a Kierkegaard scholar and friend of the Kierkegaard Library. We are delighted to host Prof. Claudia Welz to give this spring's lecture. Claudia Welz is Professor of Ethics and Philosophy of Religion at Aarhus University in Denmark. Her talk is titled, "Where is the Archimedean Point? Kierkegaard on Existential Orientation in Life Crises." Please join us on Zoom, May 14, 2025 at 10:30–11:45 am Minnesota / 17:30–18:45 Denmark. Please see [here](#) for more information on the lecture.

## Utech Seminars - July 22–23, 2025

Hosted every summer, the Utech seminars bring together junior and senior scholars and the local community for two days of lecture and discussion. Sponsored by a generous donation from the family of George W. Utech '53, this year's seminars will be led by Mark Wrathall. Dr. Mark Wrathall is Professor of Philosophy at Oxford University. With his PhD in Philosophy from the University of California, Berkeley and his JD from Harvard Law, Dr. Wrathall is a leading thinker on Martin Heidegger. His current work is found at the intersections of phenomenology and existentialism.

The Utech seminars will be held on July 22 and 23, each from 2–4pm in Regents 290. The first talk is called, "Time, Eternity, and the Moment: Kierkegaard and the Temporality of Existence," and the second is on the topic of "Kierkegaardian Temporality and 20th Century Phenomenologies of Time." Note that the lectures are in-person on St. Olaf's campus. Please visit [our website](#) for more information.

**"All the forces of life are incapable of resisting time; it sweeps them along with itself—even recollection is in the present." *TDIO*, p. 78**

## Scholars

### Victor - Kierkegaard House Foundation Fellow 2024–2025

Victor Fernandes is a Brazilian PhD in Philosophy who was awarded the Kierkegaard House Foundation Fellowship for September 2024 to August 2025. His master's thesis explored Kierkegaard's critique of the Hegelian system found in *Concluding Unscientific Postscript* (1846).



### Tianwang - Visiting Scholar 2025

Tianwang Jinjian is a visiting scholar from China at the Hong Kierkegaard Library. He will be with us through December 2025. His focus during his time at the library is translation of Kierkegaard's works.



### Heiko - HKL Advanced Research Fellow Spring 2025

Dr. Heiko Schulz is here as the HKL Advanced Research Fellow. He teaches Theology and Philosophy of Religion at the Goethe-Universität Frankfurt.

Beyond his various translations and published works, Dr. Schulz serves as co-editor of various Kierkegaard series, including the *Kierkegaard Studies Yearbook*.



To keep up to date with our upcoming events, please visit our [calendar of events](#).



# Congratulations Seniors!

Congratulations to our seniors! Four of our student workers will be graduating this semester and we are so proud of their accomplishments over the past four years. Each and every one of them left their unique mark on the library, and we will miss their positive presence day in and day out!

**Kiara Fitzpatrick:** Kiara is our lead student worker and Publications Assistant. She will be graduating with her degrees in both Philosophy and French, along with concentrations in Race, Ethnic, Gender, and Sexuality Studies. Kiara has contributed immensely over her three years at the library, most notably for her work on the IJKR, the library's in-house publication.

**Grace Heinz:** Grace, our Library Assistant, will be graduating with her degrees in French and Philosophy. Grace joined us last spring and has done great work cataloging our collection.

**Chloe Revier:** Chloe will be graduating with her degrees in English and Film and Media Studies. In her time at the library, she has worked alongside fellow staff and faculty to create educational videos and promotional materials to highlight different aspects of the library, especially the Rare Book Collection.

**Liz Mills:** Liz is our Archival Assistant and will be graduating with degrees in Classics and Philosophy. Besides working to maintain our archives, Liz brings a great willingness to do just about anything around the library.

## Year in Review

The Hong Kierkegaard Library is a center for discussion, growth, and togetherness. This space fosters a special environment, where people of all different backgrounds come together to share perspectives and engage in dialogue. Communities across generations, nationalities, and ideologies find commonality in Kierkegaard's works. It's been our pleasure to host so many different events over the course of the year, engaging with campus, local, and international communities.



One of the main recurring events here at the library is “Kierkegaard and Coffee,” meeting on Thursdays monthly. The group engages with Kierkegaardian texts, reading and analyzing together to sort through the complex ideas presented by Kierkegaard. This year, the group has worked through *The Sickness Unto Death* and *Either/Or I*. In October we were pleased to host the “Friends of the Kierkegaard Library” dinner, where students, faculty, scholars, and supporters of the library gathered to celebrate the scholarly work done at the library this year. We hosted many Pizza Thursdays this year, which are weekly philosophy seminars where students, faculty, and staff gather during Community Time to discuss over pizza from the Pause. Topics can include anything from Nietzsche's aesthetics to the benefits of anxiety. Beyond the abundance of information housed in the library, it remains a space for interconnectedness, continually fostering new relationships and connections.



The Hong  
Kierkegaard Library



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**Credits: Ella Nielsen '27, Kiara Fitzpatrick '25**

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