



THE TENTH INTERNATIONAL
KIERKEGAARD CONFERENCE

“Readings of Kierkegaard”

June 15-19, 2026

Hosted by
the Howard V. and Edna H. Hong
Kierkegaard Library
at St. Olaf College



THE HOWARD AND EDNA HONG

KIERKEGAARD LIBRARY

CENTER FOR RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION

About the Kierkegaard Library

The Hong Kierkegaard Library, Center for Research and Publication, is an international hub for scholarship on the Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard and on existentialism more broadly. It houses approximately 20,000 volumes, many of which are editions that Kierkegaard himself owned, as well as periodical and newspaper articles, and archival materials related to Kierkegaard studies.

For half a century, the Hong Kierkegaard Library at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota has served as a Research Center in Kierkegaard studies, welcoming scholars from around the world to gather in a vibrant research community. As a functioning research hub for the global Kierkegaard community, the Kierkegaard Library offers programming, such as lectures, seminars, workshops, Danish instruction, and other academic events, as well as research stays, both during the academic year and summer months.

The Kierkegaard Summer Institute is at the core of the Kierkegaard Library's mission. During June and July an international community gathers at the Kierkegaard Library to exchange ideas, participate in seminars, and conduct independent research. Visitors range from undergraduates and early graduate students to seasoned Kierkegaard scholars. A multiplicity of disciplines, approaches, and perspectives come into dialogue here, and everyone comes away richer for the exchange.

For more information, contact: **HKL@stolaf.edu**



THE TENTH INTERNATIONAL KIERKEGAARD CONFERENCE

“Readings of Kierkegaard”

MONDAY, JUNE 15

2:00-5:00 p.m. — Check-in/Registration for all Conference Attendees
Buntrock Commons, Crossroads

2:00-5:00 p.m. — Check-in for On-Campus Housing (after check-in in Buntrock)
Rand Hall, Main Entrance

5:00-6:00 p.m. — Reception
Buntrock Commons, Ballrooms

6:00-7:00 p.m. — Opening Dinner
Buntrock Commons, Ballrooms

Greetings

Anna Söderquist, Director/Curator, Hong Kierkegaard Library, St. Olaf College

Remarks

Andrew Burgess, Emeritus Professor of Philosophy, University of New Mexico /
Member of the Kierkegaard House Foundation Board

7:00-8:00 p.m. — Plenary Lecture: M.G. Piety
Buntrock Commons, Ballrooms

Dr. M.G. Piety, Professor of Philosophy, Drexel University

“The Secret Note: Unraveling the Central Mystery of Kierkegaard’s Authorship”

“After my death,” wrote Kierkegaard in 1843, “no one will find in my papers (this is my consolation) the least bit of illumination concerning what has really filled my life; [no one] will find that inscription in the core of my being that explains everything, and which often makes what the world would call bagatelles into exceedingly important events to me, and which I, too, view as insignificant, if I remove the secret note that explains them.” Scholars have puzzled over the mystery of this “secret note” ever since this reference to it was first discovered. Since Kierkegaard makes clear that this “note” will not be found among his papers we can only guess at its contents. The contents may be less mysterious, however, than the note suggests. This lecture examines several possible answers to the question of its contents that are well supported by both what we know about Kierkegaard’s life and times and by what he has himself written in both his published works and his journals and papers.

TUESDAY, JUNE 16

7:00-8:45 a.m. — Breakfast (meals served until 8:30 a.m.)

Buntrock Commons, Stav Hall, Third Floor

9:00-10:30 a.m.

Session I (Viking Theater)

Peder Jøthen

St. Olaf College

Reading about Lilies and Birds in an Ecological Era

Jason A. Mahn

Augustana College

Gifted and/but Grateful: Rereading Kierkegaard in America's Tyranny of Merit

Wojciech Kaftanski

Jagiellonian University/Harvard University

Kierkegaard: An Unwilling Social Theorist?

Session II (Center for Art and Dance 305)

John Lee

Geneva School of Manhattan

Being an Author and Becoming a Self

Michio Ogino

Central Bible College, Japan

Reading Kierkegaard as Mirror: From Curiosity about the Author to Self-Examination of the Reader

Troy Wellington Smith

Independent Scholar

The Medium of the Maieutic: Readings of Kierkegaard's Books

10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Session I (Viking Theater)

Roe Fremstedal

NTNU, Trondheim

Postulating God's Existence: Hemsterhuis, Kant, Ørsted, and Kierkegaard

Heiko Schulz

Goethe-University Frankfurt

The Truly Christian and the Truth of Christianity: Reading Kierkegaard as a Philosopher of Religion

Kyle Roberts

United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities

Misrelations and Alienation: Reading Kierkegaard for a Constructive Theology of Sin

Session II (Center for Art and Dance 305)

Thomas J. Millay

Hong Kierkegaard Library

Novels as a Place of Prayer

Robert Manzinger

Geisinger Medical Center

An American Baptist Kenotic Reading of the Holy Spirit in Søren Kierkegaard's For Self-Examination and Judge for Yourselves

Andrew Nam

University of Northwestern, St Paul

Kierkegaard as a Prophetic Philosopher

12:15-1:30 p.m. – Lunch (meals served until 1 p.m.)

Buntrock Commons, Stav Hall, Third Floor

1:45-3:15 p.m.

Session I (Viking Theater)

Jonas Roos

Universidade Federal de Juiz de Fora, Brazil

Faith as Resting Transparently in Love: Reading Kierkegaard from the Relationship Between Christianity and Secularization

Noel Adams

Marquette University

What Does it Mean to be a 'Cultural Christian;' and What Would Kierkegaard Think of It?

Dana Rognlie

Old Dominion University

Beauvoir and the Secularization of Kierkegaard's Concept of Sin

Session II (Center for Art and Dance 305)

Casey Spinks

University of Texas at Austin

Reading Kierkegaard's Edifying Esotericism

Michael Steinmetz

Missouri Baptist University

Kierkegaard—A Classic Evangelical?

Jaeha Woo

Evangelia University

Kierkegaard's Anti-Lutheran Christianity in Philosophical Fragments

3:30-5:00 p.m.

Session I (Viking Theater)

Sharon Krishek

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

The Triangle of Meaning

Michael Strawser

University of Central Florida

Kierkegaard and the Question of Nihilism

Elizabeth X. Li

Søren Kierkegaard Research Centre, Copenhagen

Kierkegaard's Female Readers

Session II (Center for Art and Dance 305)

David Charles Gore

University of Minnesota Duluth

The Spiritual Practice of Attentiveness in Søren Kierkegaard's Upbuilding Discourses in Various Spirits

Nickolas A. Fox

Crown College

Existence Before God: Kierkegaard and the Prospects of Christian Existentialism Today

Angelo D'Amato, Jr.

Poet

Suffering as Salvation: Kierkegaard and the Practice of Christian Love

8:00-9:00 p.m. — Dance Performance, “Leaps in Place”

Buntrock Commons, The Pause

Irina Kruchinina performs a solo dance performance, “Leaps in Place,” based on the figure of The Tax Collector. This piece explores Kierkegaard's words as vectors of movements, his writings as performative, and it brings embodied, sensory experience to the Kierkegaardian idea of the leap of faith.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 17

7:00-8:45 a.m. — Breakfast (meals served until 8:30 a.m.)

Buntrock Commons, Stav Hall, Third Floor

9:00-10:30 a.m.

Session I (Viking Theater)

Maria Binetti

CONICET (International Council for Scientific and Technical Research), Argentina

Kierkegaard in a Neo-Existential Context: Markus Gabriel's Reading

Matthew Kirkpatrick

University of Oxford

On the Possibility of a Dialogical Relationality in Kierkegaard's Work

Frances Maughan-Brown

College of the Holy Cross

Giving Ear: Kierkegaard's Readings of 'Freedom'

Session II (Center for Art and Dance 305)

David Tamez

University of Kansas

A Kierkegaardian Analysis of Authenticity in The Present Digital Age

Milan Petkanič

Trnava University

Kierkegaard as a Critic of Mass Society & Mass Media

John Haman

University of Dayton

Kierkegaard as a Moral Theorist of Digital Media and AI

10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Session I (Viking Theater)

Timothy Stock

Salisbury University

"To Envy the Demands of the Unique": Levinas' Unreading of Kierkegaard Vivant

Paul Carron

Baylor University

"The Crowd is Untruth": Kierkegaard's Lonely Road to Authenticity

Jeong In Choi

Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary

Korea Kierkegaard Research Center

Coram Deo: From Luther to Kierkegaard, through Nietzsche, and Back Again

Session II (Center for Art and Dance 305)

Paul Muench

University of Montana

Going to the Movies with Kierkegaard: Seeing Kierkegaard's Pseudonyms through the Lens of Cinema

Giulia Longo

Søren Kierkegaard Research Centre, Copenhagen

The Greatest Hazard: Kierkegaard and the Cinematic Self in Thomas Vinterberg and Paolo Sorrentino

Myriam Moreira Protasio

IFEN - Institute of Phenomenological-Existential Psychology, Rio de Janeiro

Empirical Evidence and Sensitive Evidence: Reflections on Clinical Psychology with Older Adults

12:15-1:30 p.m. – Lunch (meals served until 1 p.m.)

Buntrock Commons, Stav Hall, Third Floor

1:45-3:15 p.m.

Session I (Viking Theater)

Jeffrey Hanson

New College of Florida

Myths of the Understanding: Reading The Concept of Irony as an Interpretive Key to The Concept of Anxiety

Fabio Bartoli

Universidad Nacional de Colombia

Kierkegaard and His Literary Figures: A Hermeneutical Proposal

Erik M. Hanson

University of Colorado, Colorado Springs

Kierkegaardian Anxiety and Hereditary Sin after Kantian Radical Evil

Session II (Center for Art and Dance 305)

Thomas Miles

Assumption University

Reading Kierkegaard's Faces: The Power of Philosophical Portraiture in Plato and Kierkegaard

Matt Dinan

St. Thomas University, Canada

Reading Kierkegaard Socratically

Benjamin Elzinga

Georgetown University

The Dialectic of Indirect Communication: Prescriptive Speech and Capability in Kierkegaard's Lecture Drafts

3:30-5:30 p.m. — Dissertation Panels

Session I (Viking Theater)

Michael Au-Mullaney

Fordham University

Re-reading Kierkegaard's Christian Love through Theunissen's Negativistic Method

Igor Ahmedov

University of Tartu

Kierkegaardian Theology of Education

Leong Chit (Achilles) Au

University of St. Andrews

Going Beyond the Postmodern Condition: Kierkegaard's Paradoxical Faith and "the Upbuilding" as Both/And

Niklas Goldenthal

The New School for Social Research

Faith, Speech, and the Origin: Reading The Concept of Anxiety and Fear and Trembling

Ville Hämäläinen

Tampere University, Finland

A Rhetorical Poetics of Søren Kierkegaard: The Authorial and Scholarly Readings of the Authorship

Sophie Höfer

Radboud University, Nijmegen

Jacobi, Kierkegaard, and the Birth of Existentialism

Susanne Jakobsen Ilskov

University of Southern Denmark

Kierkegaard, Life task, and Task of Self in Either/Or

Clayton Snell

Boston College

Kierkegaard on Philosophy and the Development of Self

Yidi Wu

Boston University

On Individuality and Universality: Reading Kierkegaard's Fear and Trembling as Critique of Hegel

Session II (Center for Art and Dance 305)

Ronald Alvarez Vera

Complutense University of Madrid

Existential Suffering and Cure in Søren Kierkegaard

Ilya Semo Bechet

Universidad Iberoamericana

Criticism and Metamorphosis: A Commentary on The Crisis and a Crisis in the Life of an Actress by Søren Kierkegaard

Jonas Hodel

University of Tübingen, Germany

A Kierkegaardian Response to Nihilism

Kevin Korczyk

University of California, Riverside

Willing the Self & Willing this Life: On Existential Attitudes in Kierkegaard and Nietzsche

Ariel LaFayette

University of Toronto

From Schelling to Kierkegaard: The Relationship Between Freedom, Divine Providence, and Self-Love

Changwoo Lee

Kierkegaard Research Center, Korea

Kierkegaard's Ecclesiology of Saeng-Existence: A Dialectical-Phenomenological Study on the Becoming and Spiritual Formation of the Inward Church

Presley Henrique Martins

University Federal of Juiz de Fora / St. Olaf College

When Locusts Fall from the Sky: Faith, Love, and Hope as the Meaning of Existence in Kierkegaard

Orrin Page

School of Divinity, University of St Andrews

Kierkegaard's Concept of Innocence

Kelby Uebelhor

Fordham University

Reconsidering Kierkegaard's Relation to the Personalist Tradition

THURSDAY, JUNE 18

7:00-8:45 a.m. — Breakfast (meals served until 8:30 a.m.)

Buntrock Commons, Stav Hall, Third Floor

9:00-10:30 a.m.

Session I (Viking Theater)

Dolors Perarnau Vidal

University of Santiago de Compostela

The Thought of the Unknown: Kierkegaard and Blanchot in Relation

Randi Lundell

Independent Scholar

Byron's "Manfred" and Defiance in Kierkegaard

Oscar Parcerro Oubiña

University of Santiago de Compostela

Reading Kierkegaard with Bataille

Session II (Center for Art and Dance 305)

Robert Oh

Kierkegaard Research Center, Korea

K-Philosophy and Kierkegaard: Asian Readings on Faith, Suicide, and the Hope of Love

David Heckerl

Saint Mary's University, Canada

Primitive Kierkegaard: Reflections on the Unconditional

Donald Fox

Lutheran Pastor

The Cover Girl and Kierkegaard: How Reading Purity of Heart Changed One Woman's Life

10:45 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Session I (Viking Theater)

Adam Buben

Leiden University

Misreadings of Kierkegaard on Death

Tomas Bokedal

NLA University College, Bergen

Objectivity vs Subjectivity: Kierkegaard on the Epistemological Domains of Science, Scripture, & Theology

Aaron P. Edwards

Watchorn College, UK

A Christendomian Reading of Kierkegaard

Session II (Center for Art and Dance 305)

Eleanor Helms

California Polytechnic State University

Type, Group, Concept . . . What is a Category?

Seth Daves

University of North Florida

A Prolegomena to Kierkegaard's Account of Alterity in the Climacus Writings

Jakub Marek

Charles University, Prague

Reading Kierkegaard Ontologically

12:15-1:30 p.m. – Lunch (meals served until 1 p.m.)

Buntrock Commons, Stav Hall, Third Floor

1:45-3:15 p.m.

Session I (Viking Theater)

Antony Aumann

Northern Michigan University
Kierkegaard on the Aesthetic Ideal

Irina Kruchinina

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Poietic Acts: Devising with Kierkegaard

Walter Wietzke

University of Wisconsin, River Falls
The Aesthetic Validity of Marriage Reconsidered

Session II (Center for Art and Dance 305)

Z Quanbeck

New York University
Contextualism, Interpretive Charity, and Methodology in Kierkegaard Scholarship

Abraham Khan

University of Toronto
Lexical Terms Shaping Kierkegaard's Conception of Boredom

Alexander Jech

University of Notre Dame
Kierkegaard's Words

3:30-5:00 p.m.

Session I (Viking Theater)

Vanessa Rumble

Boston College
Kierkegaard and the Time of Transformation

K. Brian Söderquist

St. Olaf College
Kierkegaard's Stages and Kierkegaard's Double-Movements

Kevin Newmark

Boston College
"Read me": Kierkegaard's Unreadable Secret

Session II (Center for Art and Dance 305)

Valérie Roberge

Université Laval, Québec, Canada
Roth's Discussion on and with Kierkegaard

Joe Larios

Hollins University
Thinking and the Task of Literature: On Kierkegaard's Virtual Publics

Patrick Hoburg

University of Nebraska, Omaha
The Temporal Multiplicity of Commitment in Kierkegaard

FRIDAY, JUNE 19

Rand Hall Check-Out (for on-campus housing)
King's Dining Room (luggage storage available)
11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

7:00-8:45 a.m. – Breakfast (meals served until 8:30 a.m.)
Buntrock Commons, Stav Hall, Third Floor

9:00-9:45 a.m. – Lecture, “Kierkegaard and Words,” Speaker TBA
Viking Theater

9:45-11:00 a.m. – Translation Workshops

Everyone with an interest in Kierkegaard's use of language, Kierkegaard's Danish, and issues in reading and doing translations is welcome to attend one of the below Translation Workshop sessions. Discussion leaders with expertise in translating Kierkegaard will facilitate conversation.

Session I (Viking Theater)
Romance languages group

Session II (Center for Art and Dance 305)
Germanic languages group

11:15 a.m.-12:15 p.m. – Meeting
Kierkegaard Library International Advisory Board
Norway Room

Appointed by the St. Olaf's President, the Kierkegaard Library's International Advisory Board is composed of scholars from around the world who provide an international perspective on Kierkegaard studies. Board members will meet in person to discuss Kierkegaard Library business.

LAST CONFERENCE EVENT

12:30-2:00 p.m. – Closing Luncheon
Buntrock Commons, Valhalla, Third Floor

Rand Hall Check-Out (for on-campus housing)
King's Dining Room (luggage storage available)
11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

INFORMATION

KIERKEGAARD CONFERENCE VENUES

- Information Desk:** Buntrock Commons, Norway Room
Tuesday – Thursday, 8:30 a.m.–4 p.m.
- Sessions:** Buntrock Commons, Viking Theater
Center for Art and Dance, Room 305
- Meals:** Buntrock Commons
- Residential:** Conference Participants: Rand Hall
Kierkegaard Summer Institute Fellows: New Hall
- Recreation:** Tostrud Center; the Natural Lands to the west of Tostrud Center

Kierkegaard Library Hours

Monday–Friday, 9:00 a.m.–9:00 p.m.

Saturday–Sunday, 12–6 p.m.

The Kierkegaard Library will be closed during paper presentations. It will be open from 5:30–9:00 p.m.

Rølvaag Memorial Library Hours

Monday–Thursday, 7:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.

Friday, 7:30 a.m.–noon

Saturday–Sunday, closed

St. Olaf Bookstore

Monday–Thursday, 10 a.m.–3 p.m.

Friday, 10 a.m.–noon

Saturday–Sunday, closed

FOOD

Stav Hall Hours

Monday–Sunday:

Breakfast: 7:00–8:30 a.m.

Lunch: 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.

Dinner: 5–6:30 p.m.

Cage Hours

Monday–Thursday, 7:30 a.m.–3 p.m.

Friday, 7:30 a.m.–1 p.m.

Saturday–Sunday, closed

FACILITIES & SERVICES

Tostrud Recreation Center/Skoglund Athletic Center

Monday–Thursday, 11 a.m.–7 p.m.

Friday, 11 a.m.–3 p.m.

Saturday–Sunday, closed

Health Services

The Student Health Center is not open during the summer months. Medical services are available from local Northfield physicians in their offices at your personal expense during the summer. In case of emergency, please contact Public Safety (507-786-3666) or dial 9-1-1.

Wireless Networks at St. Olaf

If you are a guest of the college coming from other eduroam participating institutions, your computer should automatically connect to the 'eduroam' wireless network. If prompted, use your home institution's credentials to connect to eduroam. Please make sure you configure and test your connection at your home institution before visiting. For all other guests and visitors, please connect to the 'St. Olaf Guest' wireless network. For more information, visit

<https://stolafcarleton.teamdynamix.com/TDClient/1893/StOlaf/KB/ArticleDet?ID=133266>

ABOUT ST. OLAF

St. Olaf College

Located on a beautiful 300-acre campus in historic Northfield, Minnesota, St. Olaf College is one of the nation's leading liberal arts institutions. The more than 3,000 students who attend St. Olaf come from 90 countries and every state, and 95 percent live on campus. St. Olaf students choose from more than 85 majors, concentrations, and pre-professional tracks, with access to exceptional internships, research programs, and study-abroad opportunities. An impressive 98 percent of recent graduates are employed, in graduate school, or engaged in full-time service work. While on campus, St. Olaf students also have the opportunity to perform in nationally renowned music ensembles, compete on successful athletic teams, and pursue their interests in any of the more than 200 student organizations available. Founded in 1874, St. Olaf's mission is to challenge students to excel in the liberal arts, examine faith and values, and explore meaningful vocation in an inclusive, globally engaged community nourished by Lutheran tradition. Visit stolaf.edu to learn more.

ABOUT THE HONG KIERKEGAARD LIBRARY

Programs of the Hong Kierkegaard Library

For further information please see stolaf.edu/kierkegaard

The Kierkegaard Summer Institute

Research Fellowship

The Kierkegaard Library offers unpaid research fellowships with on-campus housing included to seasoned scholars and students at the upper graduate level for two to eight weeks during the months of June and July. Acceptance includes extensive access to the Kierkegaard Library and the opportunity to use the other libraries and facilities of St. Olaf College. For more and application details, see <https://wp.stolaf.edu/kierkegaard/ksi-research-fellows/>

Junior Research Fellowship

Junior Research Fellows join a structured program for the month of July that fosters advanced research skills, best practices in self-guided study, close reading of primary and secondary texts, and opportunities for peer-based learning. Participants are upper-level undergraduates (rising juniors and seniors), recent college grads, and early-stage graduate students from around the world. For more information and application details, see <https://wp.stolaf.edu/kierkegaard/junior-research-fellows/>

Danish-Kierkegaard Course

The Kierkegaard Library offers intensive study of Kierkegaard's Danish through a reading comprehension and translation course in July. Participants gain a familiarity with the basic grammatical structure of written

Danish and hone the ability to work through and interpret passages in Kierkegaard's original Danish. Participants also become proficient in translating passages into English. The course is aimed at both new and advanced scholars of Kierkegaard who wish to engage the author in the original language and make informed interpretive decisions. For more program information and application details, see <https://wp.stolaf.edu/kierkegaard/danish-course/>

Visiting Scholars Program

During the academic year, scholars with support from their own institutions or grant-funded projects are welcome to apply for a research stay. Please note that no housing or stipends are provided for visiting scholars. For more information and application details, see <https://wp.stolaf.edu/kierkegaard/visiting-scholars/>

Kierkegaard House Foundation Fellowship

Encouraging the sharing of academic thought in relation to Kierkegaard's writings, the Kierkegaard House Foundation, a private entity, offers support for both pre- and post-doctorate scholars who wish to work in the Hong Kierkegaard Library for extended stays. Residence periods typically extend from September 1 through August 31, although shorter periods will be considered. Fellowships include a stipend of \$1,500 per month and guest housing at the Kierkegaard House. For more information and application details, see <https://wp.stolaf.edu/kierkegaard/foundation-fellows/>

International Journal of Kierkegaard Research

The *International Journal of Kierkegaard Research* (IJKR) is a peer-reviewed, open-access journal founded in 2024 and published by the Hong Kierkegaard Library. The publication is both a continuation and transformation of the *Søren Kierkegaard Newsletter*, which prior to 2023 published articles in Kierkegaard studies for over 40 years. We are open to a broad range of approaches, disciplines, and traditions, and we support efforts to build bridges between different schools of thought. For more information, to serve as a reviewer, and/or to submit work, contact IJKR@stolaf.edu or visit <https://manifold.open.umn.edu/journals/ijkr>

CONTACT INFORMATION

Kierkegaard Library Contact Information

Anna Söderquist, Director/Curator, Associate Professor of Philosophy:

soderq3@stolaf.edu

Angie Ekern, Office and Programs Coordinator:

ekern1@stolaf.edu

Mailing Address

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Hong Kierkegaard Library
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St. Olaf College Campus

For an interactive map, visit:

<https://map.concept3d.com/?id=294#lct/14877,14884,14965,14989,14990,34568,34610,34611,34612?s/>

