

THE HONG  
**KIERKEGAARD LIBRARY**  
CENTER FOR RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION

Spring 2023

**STUDENT NEWSLETTER**  
*HIGHLIGHTING STUDENTS*



*Photo by Evan Pak '19*

**KIERKEGAARD LIBRARY OFFERS  
CURI PROJECT THIS SUMMER**

When thinking about my plans for the summer, I was drawn to the Kierkegaard Library's CURI project because of its archival aspect, proximity to Danish culture, and the opportunity to make connections to Kierkegaard alongside my peers at St. Olaf. The Collaborate Undergraduate Research Intensive (CURI) program is renowned at St. Olaf, and presents a unique chance to collaborate with professors and staff: the Kierkegaard Library's CURI project is led by Director of the Kierkegaard Library, Prof. Anna Strelis-Söderquist and Assistant Director Eileen Shimota. Söderquist and Shimota, alongside myself and three other students, will be digitizing the "Danica" collection in relation to Søren Kierkegaard. The project involves curating a comprehensive, interactive digital exhibit that will tell a story about and increase interest in the rare texts and historic materials in the HKL collection.

I was motivated to apply for this CURI program because of the unique chance to gain experience working closely with a large collection of archives, and the rare opportunity to work with faculty and staff as an undergraduate. I've always had an interest in storytelling, and the ability to create an interface that pulls out themes found in Kierkegaard's authorship, while bringing new stories to light, in an interactive way is exciting! And, since the Library is at the very forefront of Kierkegaard studies, this project provides the chance to work closely with Kierkegaard's thought and learn more about its place in and impact on Danish history. I'm thrilled to be a part of this project, and I eagerly anticipate the day when we are able to share our findings.

**Kiara Fitzpatrick '25**

*Even before our exciting CURI project, summer has always been a busy time at the Kierkegaard Library. Junior and senior scholars from all around the world are invited to apply for a two-to-eight-week fellowship at the library. Previously called the Young Scholars program, the Kierkegaard Summer Institute welcomes undergraduate students and recent graduates from institutions worldwide. Undergraduate students jockey for a spot in our intensive four-week Kierkegaard seminar and research program. With so many great opportunities, Abdou Ghanim can't resist joining in this enriching experience.*

## SUMMER STUDENT WORKER TO PARTICIPATE IN UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH AT THE KIERKEGAARD SUMMER INSTITUTE

This summer, I am thrilled to participate in Undergraduate Research at the Kierkegaard Summer Institute while working as a student worker at the Library. As a student who is deeply passionate about the intersection of philosophy and theology, I believe that this opportunity will allow me to dive deeper into Kierkegaard's thought-provoking works and enhance my understanding of his philosophical and theological perspectives. Working at the Library not only complements my participation in the research program but also allows me to actively support and facilitate the academic pursuits of my peers and visiting scholars. I look forward to this summer as a time of growth, discovery, and collaboration, and I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of such a stimulating intellectual atmosphere.

**Abdou Ghanim '23**

*If you've been following along with the Kierkegaard Library, you know that we've finished up our preservation work in the Howard V. Hong Rare Book Room funded by a grant given in 2021. Read below to learn how HKL student workers contributed to this process!*

## STUDENTS REFLECT ON RARE OPPORTUNITY TO DO PRESERVATION WORK



Last year, student workers Abigail Peterson and Ivy Lanz worked alongside rare book conservator Bailey Kinsky on a preservation grant. The grant went towards planning the conservation of the 100 most high-priority books in the Rare Book Room Collection. With the help of Kinsky's knowledge and expertise, Peterson and Lanz learned how to properly assess the level of damage each book had and what was needed for repair and further conservation.

For student worker Ivy Lanz, the grant was not only rewarding but also incredibly useful for her hopeful career in library and archival work. "I deeply enjoyed working with Bailey every Thursday on the grant. Our little team of three had such a good time chatting about our mutual love for old and unique books while getting to see firsthand the wonders of the Rare Book Collection."



As for student worker Abigail Peterson, this experience gave her invaluable insight into rare books and rare book preservation, are tools that she will take into her future pursuing a special collections library science degree after graduating from St. Olaf. "The Hong Kierkegaard Library works well with student workers to foster our individual interests and niches, and this project was a special introduction to rare books and archival work. Ivy and I talked often about how we are the only two St. Olaf students that were gifted this opportunity to explore rare books. I look forward to seeing how my work helps the Kierkegaard Rare Book Room Collection, as well as seeing how this takes me forward in my future endeavors."

**Abigail Peterson '23 and Ivy Lanz '24**

# STUDENT WORKER SERVES AS A CO-AUTHOR ON NEH DIGITAL HUMANITIES GRANT

*After the immense success of our past grant, the Kierkegaard Library looks forward to our next opportunity. The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) is a prestigious organization that offers multiple generous grants in areas that do everything from support climate conscious humanities organizations to initiatives at historically black colleges and universities (HBCU). In our continued efforts to increase access and appeal through digitization, the Kierkegaard Library is in the process of applying for a Humanities Collections and Reference Resources (HCRR) grant. Liz Mills, a sophomore at St. Olaf and a student worker at the HKL, has been busy writing this complex and detailed application. Here's more of her perspective:*

It's been such an honor to serve as a student co-author on this grant the past couple months. The NEH Digital Humanities Grant will give the Hong Kierkegaard Library the resources to digitize archives associated with the Library. The Library is an international center for scholarship on Kierkegaard and existentialism, and with that responsibility I believe that we have a duty to make the sources we have accessible to a greater audience. When I first visited the Rare Book Collection, it was like stepping into a time machine. My favorite relic was the small poetry book Kierkegaard would keep in his shirt pocket as he walked around Copenhagen; these artifacts bring Kierkegaard to life like no other, and other people deserve to share this excitement!

It is truly a privilege to be able to work closely with Eileen on this grant, especially as an undergraduate. I know how rare these opportunities are, and how important this work is. I'm thankful that Eileen has put so much trust in me on this project. I would also like to thank Melissa Hager for all her help with this process. This grant is a daunting task, and Melissa has a knack for breaking it down into feasible steps. This grant has a lot of personal significance for me because I would love to be an Archaeologist in the future, and grant writing is essential for contributing to the field of research. I feel very fortunate to get my foot in the door with grant writing. I'm excited to see where this project contributes to the future of the Kierkegaard Library!

**Liz Mills '25**

## PROFESSORS ANNA AND BRIAN SÖDERQUIST LAUNCH NEW STUDY ABROAD COURSE!



And we're off to Copenhagen! This upcoming Interim Professor Anna and Brian Söderquist will lead a brand-new study abroad class to Copenhagen, Denmark. The course will take a deep dive into how Kierkegaard lived and learned in the city he called home. Anna and Brian Söderquist will teach Kierkegaard's writings along with his contemporaries by exploring the places that were most influential to him: Copenhagen and surrounding areas. Students will live in central Copenhagen, and have the opportunity to experience the city on bikes, like a native Dane. The Søren Kierkegaard Research Centre is in close proximity, and students will visit and attend lectures with Danish university students.

The program is organized on-site based learning; it includes visits to places significant to Kierkegaard with live reading of his texts. One anticipated highlight is the week-long tour around the rest of "Kierkegaard Denmark." St. Olaf students will be able to better contextualize his thinking, while discussing his work in the places he loved and wrote about. Philosophy 266: Kierkegaard in Copenhagen will be one for the books!



# KIERKEGAARD AND EXISTENTIALISM TRACK

Exciting news for Kierkegaard lovers! There is a new “Kierkegaard and Existentialism” track within the Integrative Philosophy Major. Students explore key themes of existential philosophy in an interdisciplinary approach to philosophical study. Key themes include: anxiety, despair, identity, meaning, nihilism, and freedom. What's more, participants are able to learn about these themes not only through courses offered by the philosophy department, but other departments as well.

**Want a sneak peek into this fall's qualifying courses? You're in luck!**  
**The "Kierkegaard and Existentialism" track courses include:**

PHIL 233 - Kierkegaard  
and Existentialism  
Prof. A. Söderquist

FREN 273 - 18th Century  
Literature  
Prof. S. Killackey

PHIL 241 -  
Philosophical Theology  
Prof. B. Söderquist

PHIL 235 - Ancient Greek  
Philosophy  
Prof. D. Farnham



Calling all St. Olaf clubs! Are you looking for a comfortable place to meet? Look no further than the lower level of Steensland Hall!

Please email  
Assistant Director Eileen Shimota  
([shimota@stolaf.edu](mailto:shimota@stolaf.edu)) to  
reserve the space.



## Looking for a new study space? Want more information on the individual sections of the Hong Kierkegaard Library? We have the answers for you!

Upon entering the upper level library door, there is a little room on the right titled 'The Lending Library.' It houses books by Kierkegaard and other essential philosophers. All of the books can be taken outside of the HKL, just let a student worker or staff member know what you need and you can check it out for three weeks! Looking for a specific philosophy book?

Be sure to check out The Lending Library!

As you walk further into the HKL there are some decisions to be made. Do you want to go straight towards Kierk 1, left towards Kierk 2, or right towards Related Thinkers, ? To make your decision easier, here's what each section has to offer.

- Kierk 1 houses a vast collection of Kierkegaard's own texts in multiple languages and translations.
- Kierk 2 is the place for texts that have sizable Kierkegaard sections in them.
- Related Thinkers contains texts by Kierkegaard's contemporaries that either influenced him or were influenced by him.

Which part of the library will you go to first?

Don't forget, there are multiple comfy and studious chairs/tables just waiting to be your next favorite study spot! As soon as you feel like you have taken in all that the upper level has to offer, head on down to the lower level. Here you will find a whole plethora of philosophical knowledge. Sections include; Dissertations, Oversized, Periodicals, Reference, Copy Two, Julia Watkin Collection, Danica Collection, and other donations. After grabbing a book of your choice, consider plopping down on a huge blue bean bag or sitting on one of the wheely chairs.

The Hong Kierkegaard Library is open on weekdays from 10am-4pm during the academic year, extended summer hours are 9 am - 7:30 pm. **We hope to see you in Steensland soon!**