

## KEVIN VOLLRATH

64 Mercer St, Princeton, NJ 08540 • (224) 656-2266 • kevin.vollrath@ptsem.edu

### EDUCATION

**Hebrew University**, Jerusalem, Israel (September 2020- present)

*Visiting Research Fellow*, invited by Dr. Menahem Merhavy and Dr. Shirli Werner

**Princeton Theological Seminary**, Princeton, NJ (September 2017– Present)

*PhD Candidate*, Religion and Society, expected May 2023. Working Dissertation Title: “Occupied Ability”

Honors: Seminary Fellow (full tuition + living stipend)

-Certificate in Digital Pedagogy (August 2020)

**Princeton Theological Seminary**, Princeton, NJ (September 2014 – Present)

*Master of Divinity*, May 2017, Cumulative GPA: 3.61

Honors: Seminary Fellowship (full tuition + stipend)

**The University of Chicago**, Chicago, IL (September 2011 – June 2014)

*Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy*, June 2014, Cumulative GPA: 3.70

Honors: General BA Honors

University Scholar (merit-based scholarship)

Dean’s List (2011 – 2014)

Summer Action Grant Recipient (2013— scholarship for non-traditional, creative summer projects)

**Languages**: Arabic (MSA and Palestinian colloquial, OPI-- advanced low, 9/01/2020); Spanish (basic conversational); Attic Greek (basic reading); Biblical Hebrew (intermediate reading); French (basic reading); German (basic reading)

### ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Raffety, E., Vollrath, K., Harris, E., Foote, L. “Lonely Joy: How Families with Nonverbal Children with Disabilities Communicate, Collaborate, and Resist in a World that Values Words.” In *Journal of Pastoral Theology* (2019). DOI: 10.1080/10649867.2019.1621024. (Available upon request).

Vollrath, Kevin. “Protestantism Welcoming People with Disabilities.” In *Database of Religious History* (2020). <https://religiondatabase.org/browse/915/#/>

Cannon, Mae E.; Vollrath, Kevin. 2021. "Spiritual Synchronicity: Icon Veneration in Evangelical and Orthodox Religious Practices in the 21st Century" *Religions* 12, no. 7: 463.

<https://doi.org/10.3390/rel12070463>

Shamsa, Nadia B.; Ayyad, Said; Shamsa, Ziyad B. *A Beginner’s Course in Palestinian Dialect: Speak Arabic Little by Little* (parts one and two). Translated by Kevin Vollrath. Bethlehem, Bethlehem Univeristy (2022).

Vollrath, Kevin and Mae E. Cannon. “The Cost of Change: Three Social Movements’ Methodologies in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories.” *Yale Journal of International Affairs*, December 5,

2022. <https://www.yalejournal.org/publications/the-cost-of-change-three-social-movements-methodologies-in-israel-and-the-occupied-palestinian-territories>.

Vollrath, Kevin. "Disability-focused Christianity for Palestinians." In *Database of Religious History* (January 9, 2023). <https://religiondatabase.org/browse/1348/#/>.

## GRANTS

Critical Language Scholarship for Advanced Arabic (Noor Majan Training Institute in Oman, virtual, 2020).

## POPULAR ARTICLES

"The Pieces of al-Walajah" in *Medium.com* (July 8, 2022)

<https://medium.com/@kevinmvollrath/the-pieces-of-al-walajah-39f47540ccae>

"School of Joy: Meeting the needs of at-risk children in a challenging corner of the world" in *Read the Spirit* (October 18, 2021) <https://readthespirit.com/explore/school-of-joy-meeting-the-needs-of-at-risk-children-in-a-challenging-corner-of-the-world/>

"Global Diversity of Love for Mary includes Greek Orthodox Bread for the Feast of Dormition" in *Read the Spirit* (August 16, 2021)

<https://readthespirit.com/explore/global-diversity-of-love-for-mary-includes-greek-orthodox-bread-for-the-feast-of-dormition/>

"Commemorating Martyrs in the Ancient Assyrian Church of the East in Iraq" in *Read the Spirit* (August 7, 2021)

[https://readthespirit.com/religious-holidays-festivals/commemorating-martyrs-in-the-ancient-assyrian-church-of-the-east-in-](https://readthespirit.com/religious-holidays-festivals/commemorating-martyrs-in-the-ancient-assyrian-church-of-the-east-in-iraq/?utm_content=buffer9de62&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer)

[iraq/?utm\\_content=buffer9de62&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=twitter.com&utm\\_campaign=buffer](https://readthespirit.com/religious-holidays-festivals/commemorating-martyrs-in-the-ancient-assyrian-church-of-the-east-in-iraq/?utm_content=buffer9de62&utm_medium=social&utm_source=twitter.com&utm_campaign=buffer)

"Not enough for Israel and Palestine: No one wins with (just) a ceasefire," in *Christian Citizen* (June 22, 2021)

<https://christiancitizen.us/not-enough-for-israel-and-palestine-no-one-wins-with-just-a-ceasefire/>

"Celebrating Easter again with Eastern Christians who welcome the Holy Fire in Jerusalem" in *Read the Spirit*

(Front page, May 10, 2021) <https://readthespirit.com/religious-holidays-festivals/celebrating-easter-again-with-eastern-christians-who-welcome-the-holy-fire-in-jerusalem/>

"Welcoming the millions of 'other' Christians around the world as they prepare for Great Lent" in *Read the Spirit* (Cover story, February 28, 2021).

<https://readthespirit.com/explore/welcoming-the-millions-of-other-christians-around-the-world-as-they-prepare-for-great-lent/>

"Ongoing home demolitions in the West Bank don't stop for pandemic" in *Do Justice* (February 12, 2021).

<https://dojustice.crcna.org/article/ongoing-home-demolitions-west-bank-dont-stop-pandemic>

## RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

**Manager of Middle East Partnerships**, Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP, July 2021- present)

- Responsible for meeting with NGO and church leaders to ensure CMEP's US advocacy elevates and accurately supports local voices for peace
- Coordinate with relevant government officials to advocate for CMEP's partners, especially in Israel/Palestine

- Support statement writing, social media presence/ updates

**Arabic-English Translator**, Bethlehem University (June 2021- present)

- Translate introductory Arabic textbook (“Arabic for Foreigners” levels 1-4)

**English-Arabic Translator**, [Representable.org](http://Representable.org), whose mission is “to give communities a voice in drawing voting districts” (November 2020 – February 2021)

**Ambassador Warren Clark Fellow (AWCF)**, Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP, October 2020- July 2021)

- Write popular and academic articles in line with CMEP’s multi-narrative approach seeking peace in the Middle East
- Assist with research for CMEP in accordance with CMEP’s [policy positions](#):

**Online Study Program Manager**, Overseas Ministries Study Center (OMSC, August 2020 – July 2021)

- Coordinate bi-weekly seminars/ lectures, assist with pedagogy, and manage technology

**Reference Librarian Assistant**, Princeton Theological Seminary (September 2019 – June 2020)

- Support students, faculty, and guests in detailed research; maintain the reference collection

**Assistant Art Teacher**, Princeton Arts Council in Princeton, NJ (December 2018 – June 2020)

- Support adults with “special needs” to create expressive art project (weekly class)

**Academic Coach/ Buddy**, Princeton, NJ (August 2016 – March 2020)

- Meet weekly with Isaac (person with a disability) to be friends, develop social and life skills, and find fun things to do

**Assistant**, L’Arche Noah Sealth Seattle (June – August 2013)

- Assisted at an adult family home for those with and without developmental disabilities
- Organized outings and meal plans for core members (those with disabilities)
- Assisted with morning and evening routines, medication management, house cleaning, and daily prayers

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

**EF 3561 Contemplative Listening I**, Princeton Theological Seminary

*Preceptor* (Fall 2020) for Dr. Bo Karen Lee

- Assisted in course design and facilitating weekly seminars; invited lecture on “Writing a Rule of Life”

**TH3705 The Meaning of Revelation in a Postmodern, Post-Holocaust Age**, Princeton T. Seminary

*Preceptor* (Spring 2019) for Dr. William Stacy Johnson

- Assisted with syllabus design, led 6 three-hour seminars, facilitated weekly precepts

**EF 3561 Contemplative Listening I**, Princeton Theological Seminary

*Preceptor* (Fall 2019) for Dr. Bo Karen Lee

- Invited lecture on “Writing a Rule of Life”

**PC 5472 The Minister and Mental Illness**, Princeton Theological Seminary

*Preceptor* (Spring 2019) for Dr. Sonia Waters

**TH 2100 Systematic Theology**, Princeton Theological Seminary

*Preceptor* (Fall 2018) for Drs. Keri Day and William Stacy Johnson

- Facilitated 3 weekly precepts with 10 students each, including lesson planning, grading, and input on course construction

**TH 3390 Marx and Christian Theology**, Princeton Theological Seminary

*Preceptor* (Fall 2017) for Dr. Mark L. Taylor

- Led 3-hour class session independently, including 90-minute interactive lecture; assisted in writing syllabus

## ACADEMIC SERVICE

**Guest Blog Writer** for Churches for Middle East Peace (Sept 2019)

- “Children with Disabilities in Bethlehem” (November 18, 2020) <https://cmep.org/children-with-disabilities-in-bethlehem/>

**Co-Moderator of Koinonia (PhD Student group)**, (Jan 2018— Jan 2020), Princeton Theological Seminary

- Facilitate monthly plenary sessions and represent PhD student concerns to PTS administration
- Issues advocated for include Title IX reforms, housing for 6th year students, funding for IRB approvals, Leave of Absence (including mental health, maternity) policy reform

**Secretary of Association of Disabled Seminarians and Allies**, (Aug 2018— present), Princeton Theological Seminary

- Organize events, coordinate minutes for monthly plenary and officer meetings
- Advocate for students with disabilities on campus
- Co-coordinated panel on being an ally to people who are queer and/or disabled (December 6, 2018)
- Coordinated lunch talk with the Rev. Dr. Sarah Lund of the UCC on churches empowering people with mental health challenges (February 22, 2019)

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

**Research Assistant** for Rev. Drs. Gordon Mikoski and Erin Raffety (September 2020-January 2021), “Thriving Church.” Funded by the Lilly Endowment

- Conducted semi-structured interviews and participant observation over Zoom; transcribed, coded, compiled data, and contributed in writing.

**Research Assistant** for Rev. Dr. Erin Raffety (April 2019-- February 2020), “The Church and Disability.” Funded through the Louisville Institute

- Conducted semi-structured interviews and participant observation independently and in pairs; transcribed, coded, compiled data, etc.

**Research Assistant** for Dr. Bo Karen Lee (May 2018-- June 2019)

- Assisted with research and book editing

**Research Assistant** for Rev. Dr. Erin Raffety (November 2018-- May 2019). Funded through the Templeton Foundation

- Worked with a team of students, faculty, and administrators to explore implementing a Friendship house (a home for seminarians and people with developmental disabilities) at PTS.

**Research Assistant** for Dr. Thomas J. Espenshade (June 2018-- August 2018), “New Jersey Families Study”

- Conducted interviews with families preparing for preschool in Mercer County.

**Research Assistant** for Rev. Dr. Erin Raffety (May 2018-- August 2018), Ethnography on “Joy and Communication among People who are Nonverbal.” Funded through the Templeton Foundation

- Conducted semi-structured interviews and participant observation independently and in pairs; transcribed, coded, compiled data, etc.

## LECTURES

- “Disability Under Occupation: Hope?” (November 28, 2022) at the Seminar on Theology and Disability, Interdisciplinary Research Seminar: Disability theologies– insights for a shaken world

- “Disabled Hope in Bethlehem” (January 8, 2022) at the Insaniyyat Biennial Conference in Beit Jala
- “Pinkwashing Disability in Israel-Palestine” (March 19, 2021) at the Middle East Dialogue annual conference.
- “Interfaith Christianity Under Occupation” (March 4, 2021) at the annual World Christianity conference (panel: “The Future of World Christianity”)
- Lecture title: “Living a Rhythm of Life” (November 13, 2020) for “Contemplative Listening I” taught by Dr. Bo Karen Lee (PTS).
- Lecture title: “Nietzsche and the Gospel” (February 26, 2020) for “The Meaning of Revelation in a Postmodern, Post-Holocaust, Post-Christian World” taught by Dr. William Stacy Johnson (PTS)
- Lecture title: “Christianity and Animals” (February 14, 2020) for “Great Conversations” taught by Dr. Stuart Carroll at The College of New Jersey (TCNJ).
- Lecture title: “Writing a Rhythm of Life” (December 4, 2019) for “Contemplative Listening I” taught by Dr. Bo Karen Lee (PTS).
- Paper title: “Making Nonverbal Communication Explicit” (October 27, 2019) at the North American Association for Philosophy and Education (NAAPE).
- Paper title: “Turning Water into Words and Wine: What Non-verbal People\* Have to Say about God” (May 3, 2019) at the Society of Vineyard Scholars (SVS) annual conference.
- Paper title: “The Instability and Gendering of Disability in Early Modern and Contemporary Islam” (February 20, 2019) at the Princeton Islamic Studies Colloquium (PISC, PU).
- Paper title: “Friendship with Ethan, Friendship with God” (February 23, 2019) at Villanova for the Christian Philosophers at Villanova “Theological Kinship” conference (CPAV, Villanova).
- Presentation title: “Disability and Joy” (presented with Dr. Erin Raffety, July 31, 2018) at the Yale Center for Faith and Culture for the “Joy and the Good Life” conference.
- Paper title: “Disability: Humor and Play” (February 10, 2018) for PTS Grad Conference, “Christianity and the Body.”
- Lecture title: “Intersectionality, Feminism, and Disability” (November 16, 2017) for “Marx and Christian Theology,” taught by Dr. Mark L. Taylor at PTS.

### PANELS MODERATED

“Mark Jonas & Douglas Yacek Nietzsche’s Philosophy of Education: Rethinking Ethics, Equality and the Good Life in a Democratic Age (Routledge)” (October 27th, 2019) at the North American Association for Philosophy and Education (NAAPE).

### NON-ACADEMIC WORK EXPERIENCE

**YWCA Princeton, Princeton, NJ**, *Welcome Desk Manager and Child Worker* (January 2015 – July 2017, 20 hours/ week)

- Managed billing for YWCA Nursery School (50 students)—send statements, track balance dues, track and bill extra hours
- Managed all administrative intake for Nursery School and continue to assist with After School Program intake

- Various administrative tasks, including processing paper-work and payments for departments throughout the YW
- Substitute in the nursery school (ages 8 weeks—6 years old) and the After School Program (K-5<sup>th</sup> grade)

**Thompson Memorial Presbyterian Church, New Hope, PA**

*Teaching Ministry Intern* (September 2015 – May 2016)

- Wrote and delivered a four-week curriculum on the import of philosophy for Christians
- Taught various other curricula weekly throughout the year to a diverse audience; assisted with pastoral care
- Assisted weekly youth group by teaching theological concepts to middle and high school students, listening to the challenges of their lives, helping organize social events, pastoral care
- Led worship in traditional and contemporary services, including writing prayers of the people, calls to confession, children's sermons
- Preached at two special services and two Sunday mornings and several times at local nursing home

**Chaplain, Advocate Condell Medical Center** (June – August 2015)

- Presented paper on implications of historiographical research for pastoral care in hospital setting
- Provided pastoral care to the Emergency Department and Trauma center including weekly night and/or weekend shift
- Organized care for a high volume of patients with quick turnover in high paced environment
- Demonstrated proficiency in administrative tasks (Power of Attorney forms, charting visits, verbatim reports, weekly reflections)
- Learned to work with a diversity of people and limited knowledge of their context prior to building relationship
- Developed emotional awareness and sensitivity through weekly InterPersonal Relations group, readings, and lectures

**Hyde Park Vineyard Church, Chicago, IL**

*Pastoral Intern* (June – September 2012)

- Coordinated summer BBQs: publicized throughout Hyde Park, coordinated 20 volunteers via email and personal contact, oversaw budget, directed food donations, planned schedule of events
- Assisted in administering preaching and leadership development classes
- Organized weekly lunch/Bible study for 30 homeless community members: grocery shopped and publicized
- Completed independent reading of 12 books and provided weekly staff reports (1-2 pages) including progress updates

REFERENCES (listed alphabetically)

**Nancy Coffin (Arabic)**

Senior Lecturer and Director of the Arabic Language Program at Princeton University

Phone: 609-258-1513

[ncoffin@princeton.edu](mailto:ncoffin@princeton.edu)

**Keri Day**

Associate professor of constructive theology and African American religion at Princeton Theological Seminary

Phone: 609.497.7984

[keri.day@ptsem.edu](mailto:keri.day@ptsem.edu)

**William “Stacy” Johnson**

Arthur M. Adams Professor of Systematic Theology at Princeton Theological Seminary

Phone: 609.497.7922

[stacy.johnson@ptsem.edu](mailto:stacy.johnson@ptsem.edu)

**Erin Raffety**

Lecturer in Youth, Church, and Culture at Princeton Theological Seminary

Phone: 609-497-3634

[erin.raffety@ptsem.edu](mailto:erin.raffety@ptsem.edu)

**Mark L. Taylor (Advisor)**

Maxwell M. Upson Professor of Theology and Culture at Princeton Theological Seminary

Phone: 609.497.7918

[mark.taylor@ptsem.edu](mailto:mark.taylor@ptsem.edu)