

Kevin Wolfe

**Lecturer in Religion
Princeton University**

EDUCATION

Princeton University

- Ph.D. Department of Religion, 2014.
- M.A., Religion, 2008.
- Concentration: Religion, Ethics, and Politics.

Freie Universität Berlin

- Introductory German, Summer 2006

Harvard Divinity School

- M.T.S., Christianity and Culture, 1999-2002.

Bowdoin College

- A.B., Religion, 1995–1999.

Ph.D. DISSERTATION

Title

- *Justifying Democracy beyond Nietzsche's Critique*, June 2014.

Committee

- Eddie S. Glaude, Jr., William S. Tod Professor of Religion and African American Studies, Princeton University.
- Leora Batnitzky, Professor of Religion, Princeton University.
- Jeffrey Stout, Professor of Religion, Emeritus, Princeton University.
- Cornel West, Professor of the Practice of Public Philosophy, Harvard Divinity School.

GENERAL EXAMINATIONS

- “Pragmatism, Racial Solidarity, *Exodus!*: A Rejoinder to Gooding-Williams,” (Eddie S. Glaude, Jr.).
- “Only as Creators: Nietzsche, History, Genealogy, and Overcoming Nihilism,” (Alexander Nehamas).
- “Talking about Rights: Responding to the Post-Colonial Challenge,” (Jeffrey Stout).
- “Kafka and Social Criticism: ‘The Metamorphosis’ as Prophetic Tragicomedy,” (Cornel West).

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PUBLICATIONS

- “Pragmatism, Racial Solidarity, and the Negotiation of Social Practices: Evading the Problem of ‘Problem Solving’ Talk,” *Critical Philosophy of Race*. (2017. Vol. 5. #1).
- “Nietzsche, Overcoming Nihilism and the Criticism of Democracy,” Revise and Resubmit with *The Journal of Religion*.

Articles in Progress

- “Pragmatism, Genealogy, and Nietzsche’s Pragmatism,” in preparation for submission to *The Graduate Faculty Philosophy Journal*.
- “On Hope and Action: Responding to ‘Struggle Over Hope’” in preparation for submission to *Critical Philosophy of Race*.

Books in Progress

- *Nietzsche’s Critique and Democratic Reasoning*.
- *Democratic Criticism beyond Jeremiad*.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Princeton University 2017-

Courses

- Religion Department, Juniors Colloquium (Fall 2017 & 2018).
- *Hip Hop, Reggae, and Religion: Music and the Religio-Political Imagination of the Black Atlantic* (Spring 2018, 2019, & 2020).
- *Religion and the African American Political Imagination* (Fall 2019)
- *The Post-Colonial Imagination and Africana Thought* (Spring 2020)

Senior Thesis Advised

- Nathan Christopher Leach, “The Kingdom of God is Within You: Tolstoy, Jesus, and a social ethics of peace”

Carleton College 2014-2017:

Courses:

- *Religion and the Post-Colonial Imagination*.
- *Pessimism and the Affirmation of Existence*.
- *Hip Hop, Reggae, and Religion: Music and the Religio-Political Imagination of the Black Atlantic*.
- *The Post-Colonial Imagination and Africana Thought*.
- *Prophecy and Social Criticism in America*.

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- *An Introduction to African American Culture, Practice, and Religion.*
- *Black Power to Present: Contextualizing Black Lives Matter.*

Senior Theses Directed

- Brianna Gray, “This Is Not a Drill: Chicago’s Toughest Youth Take to Hip-Hop in the Midst of Violence” (2017)
- Jeffrey Bissoy-Mattis, “The Fresh Prince of Bel-Air: A Narrative on Race, Class, and Black Brotherhood” (2016)
- Todd Campbell Jr., “A Sideline Church: The Role of the Black Church in Social Movements and its Unfortunate Shift” (2016)
- Lee Gonzales, “Youth Renderings: A Contemporary Black Chicago Renaissance” (2016)
- Lisette Garcia, “Black Jesus- Inhibitor or Empowerer?” (2015)
- Sam Powel, “From Sugar Plantations to Corn Fields: How Transition from The Caribbean to the United States Affects Indo-Caribbean Hindu Expression of Hybridity” (2015, secondary reader)

Princeton University 2007-2012:

- *Political Theory* with Professor Alan Ryan, Spring 2012, Assistant Instructor.
- *Introduction to the Study of African American Cultural Practices* with Professor Eddie Glaude, Fall 2009 and Fall 2011, Assistant Instructor.
- *Christian Ethics and Modern Society* with Professor Eric Gregory, Fall 2010 and Fall 2011, Assistant Instructor.
- *Approaches to the Study of Religion* with Professor Eddie Glaude, Spring 2011, Assistant Instructor.
- *Evil*, Writing Program, Spring 2010, Quin Morton Teaching Fellow.
- *Religion in Modern Thought and Film* with Professor Jeffrey Stout, Spring 2007, Assistant Instructor.

LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS

- “Nietzsche, and African American Social Criticism beyond Jeremiad,” North Carolina State University, January 14, 2019.
- “African American Social Criticism beyond Jeremiad,” University of Rochester, December 5, 2018.
- “Hope and Action,” Salisbury University, November 3, 2018.
- “African American Social Criticism beyond the Civil Rights Imagination,” Carleton College, January 12, 2017.
- “Nietzsche, and African American Social Criticism beyond Jeremiad,” Amherst College, December 7, 2016.
- “Reformulating the Prophetic in Prophetic Pragmatism,” American Academy of Religion, November 21, 2016.

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- “Nietzsche: Overcoming Nihilism and the Criticism of Democracy,” American Academy of Religion, November 21, 2016.
- *A Public Dialogue about Race in America, Violence, and the Christian Perspective*, with Rev. Alex Lang at First Presbyterian Church, Arlington Heights, IL, August 28, 2016.
- “Genealogy and Nietzsche’s Pragmatism,” American Academy of Religion, Atlanta GA, November 21, 2015.
- “Scapegoating, Sacrifice, and Violence: Making Sense of the Baltimore Riots,” keynote address at #Black Lives Matter rally at Carleton College, May 8, 2015.
- “Pragmatism, Racial Solidarity, and the Negotiation of Social Practices: Evading the Problem of ‘Problem Solving’ Talk,” *Grimke Lecture Series* in African and African American Studies, Carleton College, April 16, 2015.
- “But We Do: The Privilege to Civil Disobedience” lecture on panel for #Black Lives Matter: *Conversations for Change*, Carleton College, January 20, 2015.
- “Moral Imagination for a Post-Soul Politics: Nietzsche and African-American Social Criticism,” Carleton College, April 10, 2014.
- “Nietzsche’s Burgeoning Perspectivism and Rejection of Metaphysics in ‘On the Advantage and Disadvantage of History for Life’” course lecture in *Marx, Nietzsche, and Freud* at the invitation of Assistant Professor Joseph Winters at UNC Charlotte, December 6, 2012.
- “Periodizing Black Power” course lecture in *Introduction to the Study of African American Cultural Practices* at the invitation of Professor Eddie Glaude at Princeton University, November 2011.
- “Keywords in the Study of Religion” course lecture in *Approaches to the Study of Religion* at the invitation of Professor Eddie Glaude, Princeton University, March 2011.
- “Clash of Civilizations? Deconstructing the West-versus-The-Rest Divide,” presented in writing workshop, *Religion and Critical Thought*, November 2010.
- “Tragedy, Greek Cheerfulness, and the Rejection of Pessimism: Nietzsche’s Ethical and Metaphysical Commitments in the Early Writings,” presented in writing workshop, *Religion and Critical Thought*, April 2010.
- “Only as Creators: Nietzsche, History, Genealogy, and Overcoming Nihilism,” presented in writing workshop, *Religion and Critical Thought*, October 2009.
- “Nietzsche, Genealogy, and the Revaluation of All Values,” course lecture in *Religion in Modern Thought and Film* at the invitation of Professor Jeffrey Stout, April 2009.
- “What is Pragmatism?” sponsored lecture series, Princeton University Religion Department, March 2009.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Visiting Research Fellow, Center for the Study of Religion, Princeton University, 2017-2018
- Student Research Assistantship Award, Humanities Center, Carleton College, Summer 2015.

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- Robert A. Oden Jr. Postdoctoral Fellow for Innovation in the Humanities in Religion, Carleton College, 2014-2016.
- Quin Morton Teaching Fellow, Princeton University Writing Program Spring 2010.
- P.U. Preparatory Program Teaching Fellow, Princeton University, 2009-2010.
- Summer research funding, Department of Religion Princeton University, 2005-2008.
- Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies funding for summer travel, 2006.
- Princeton University President's Fellowship 2004.
- Mellon Mays Undergraduate Fellowship (MMUF), 1996-present.

AREAS OF TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTEREST

Areas of expertise

- Religion and Critical Thought; Critical Philosophy of Race; Africana Religious and Political Thought; Religion, Ethics, and Politics; Moral Philosophy; Philosophy of Religion.

Specialization

- Nineteenth and early Twentieth-Century German Philosophy; Classical and Contemporary Pragmatism; Modern Religious Thought; Religious and Political Thought of the Black Atlantic; Critical Theory; Religion and Popular Culture—Music (especially Reggae and Hip Hop), Literature, and Film.

SERVICE

- Acted as a blind referee for an article with *The Journal of Contemporary Religion*, Fall 2017.
- Co-organized and led book group discussions on Ellen Berrey's *The Enigma of Diversity*, Winter, 2017.
- Co-organized lecture panel on the *New Nietzsche for Religious Studies* for the Nineteenth-Century Theology Group at the American Academy of Religion, November 21, 2016.
- Helped organized and leading book groups on Michelle Alexander's *The New Jim Crow*, Fall, 2016.
- Invited and introduced Eddie S. Glaude Jr., the William S. Tod Professor of Religion and African American Studies and chair of the Department of African American Studies at Princeton, to deliver lecture on *Democracy in Black*, February 11, 2016.
- Organized and led book group discussions on Eddie S. Glaude Jr.'s *Democracy in Black: How Race Still Enslaves the American Soul*. Winter, 2016.
- Invited and introduced William D. Hart, the Margaret W. Harmon Chair, Professor of Religious Studies at Macalester College, to deliver lecture, "Black Lives Matter: Remembering Trayvon Martin," Carleton College, October 26, 2015.

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- Invited to give the keynote address at student led rally for #Black Lives Matter, Carleton College, May 9, 2015.
- Served on the Community, Equity and Diversity Initiative (CEDI) action team planning *#Black Lives Matter: Conversations for Change*, Carleton College, January 20, 2015.
- Organized an *Open Conversation on Ferguson*, Carleton College, November 12, 2014.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- American Academy of Religion.