

Emory University Center for Ethics,  
The TAM Institute for Jewish Studies, Department of Comparative  
Literature, The Institute for Liberal Arts, Department of English and the  
Department of Philosophy

present



with

## **Adam Zachary Newton, Ph.D.**

***An Extreme Attention to the Real:  
The September 11th Memorial, Pascal's postmortem, and the  
Ethics of Reading***

Date: Tuesday, November 29, 2011

Time: 4:00pm

Location: Seminar Room 162

Emory Center for Ethics

What are the ethics of reading--as claims and responsibilities? What is "the ethics of reading"--as a program or critical practice? Taking its cues from a passage of non-fiction by philosopher Anthony Appiah, a passage from literary fiction by novelist W. G. Sebald, the newly opened September 11th memorial, and a little-known discovery about the death of Blaise Pascal, Dr. Newton will tie ethics to the *event* of reading, where "rubbing the text," in Emmanuel Levinas's unusual phrase, represents what that philosopher also calls "an extreme attention to the Real."

Adam Zachary Newton, Chair of the Department of English at Yeshiva University, is the author of four books, including his award-winning first book, *Narrative Ethics*. A fifth book is forthcoming.