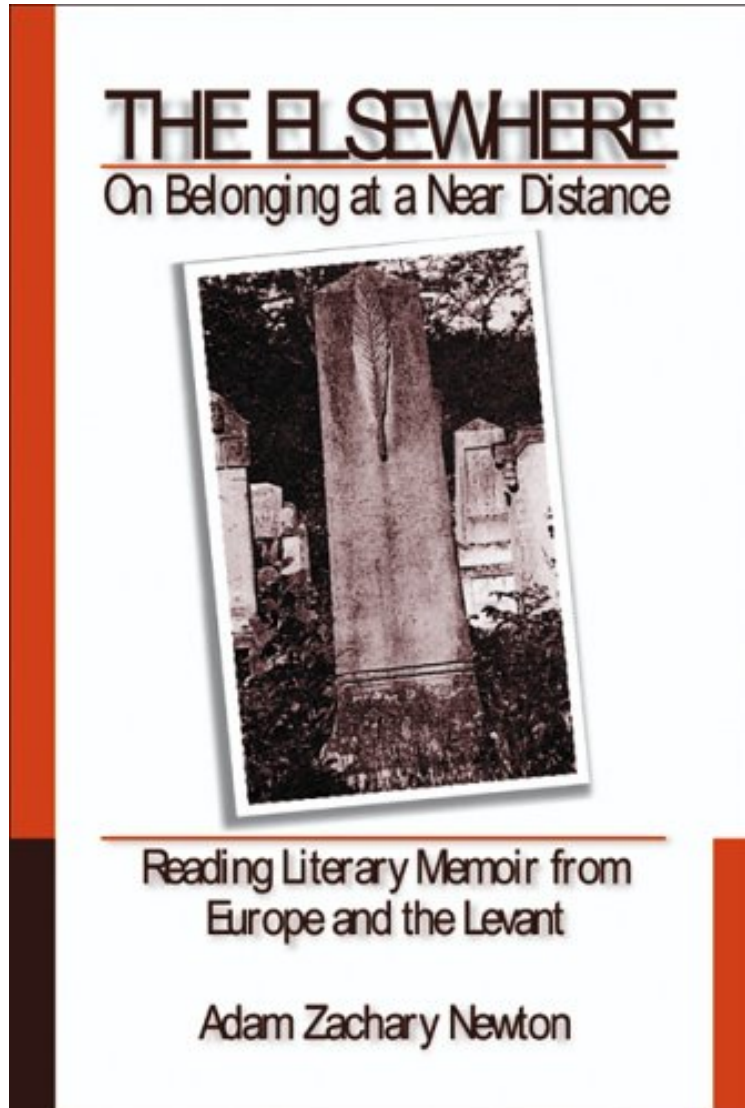


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The Elsewhere: On Belonging at a Near Distance

Adam Zachary Newton

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Adam Zachary Newton : The Elsewhere: On Belonging at a Near Distance before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Elsewhere: On Belonging at a Near Distance:

"The Elsewhere." Or, midbar-biblical Hebrew for both "wilderness" and "speech." A place of possession and dispossession, loss and nostalgia. But also a place that speaks. Ingeniously using a Talmudic interpretive formula about the disposition of boundaries, Newton explores narratives of "place, flight, border, and beyond." The writers of

The Elsewhere are a disparate company of twentieth-century memoirists and fabulists from the Levant (Palestine/Israel, Egypt) and East Central Europe. Together, their texts-cunningly paired so as to speak to one another in mutually revelatory ways-narrate the paradox of the "near distance."

"If for Kafka writing was a form of prayer, literary criticism is similarly for Adam Zachary Newton a quest for the sacred, for the primordial space in which the divine voice was once heard. His journey through the literary landscapes of the diverse writers with whom he shares this quest is itself wholly human and terrestrial-its own 'archive of the feet'-but therefore also profoundly inspiring. He has written an extraordinarily intelligent and probing work."-Paul Mendes-Flohr, University of Chicago Divinity School
Adam Zachary Newton brings remarkable insight and sensitivity to his reading of place and identity-both Jewish and otherwise-across an impressively wide range of literatures and intellectual terrains. His book reveals a depth of understanding and an ethical scrupulosity that is rare among contemporary interpreters. A beautiful and moving contribution, learned and profound."- Susannah Heschel, author of *Abraham Geiger and the Jewish Jesus*"A striking, original piece of work that combines ethical imperative and modernist imagination to produce a beautiful constellation of historical memories. Intelligent and elegant, a book that will be admired for its imaginative style and compassionate critical voice."-Rebecca L. Walkowitz, University of Wisconsin-Madison
"As one of the most provocative and insightful discussions of exilic, fugitive, or displaced literature . . . this book reveals new, unexpected angles and insights."Marcel Cornis-Pope, Virginia Commonwealth University
From the Inside Flap
"A striking, original piece of work that combines ethical imperative and modernist imagination to produce a beautiful constellation of historical memories."--Rebecca L. Walkowitz, Assistant Professor of English at University of Wisconsin-Madison
About the Author
Adam Zachary Newton is Jane and Rowland Blumberg Centennial Professor in English at the University of Texas at Austin. His previous books include *Narrative Ethics*, *Facing Black and Jew: Literature as Public Space*, and most recently *The Fence and the Neighbor: Levinas, Leibowitz, and Israel Among the Nations*.