The Medieval and Renaissance Studies Program at the University of Pittsburgh welcomes:

GERARD PASSANNANTE

February 18—19, 2016

LECTURE: "LEONARDO'S DISASTERS"

Thursday, February 18

5:00 PM

602 Cathedral of Learning

Passannante will discuss Leonardo da Vinci's lifelong fascination with images of natural catastrophe—men and women swept up in hurricanes, cities demolished in a single violent stroke, the earth rendered a mere speck of dust by a sudden shift of scale. Moving from the artist's instructions on how to paint a deluge (which would capture the imagination of filmmaker Sergei Eisenstein) to his astonishing late sketches of the flood, Passannante will consider the philosophical questions that haunted Leonardo as he pictured scenes of destruction.

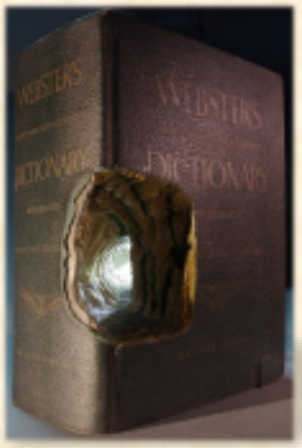
SEMINAR: "THE EARTHQUAKE AND THE MICROSCOPE"

Friday, February 19

12:00 PM

602 Cathedral of Learning

In this seminar, Passannante will discuss the conceptual intimacy of the earthquake and the microscope in the mind of English virtuoso Robert Hooke, showing how the image of catastrophe emerged from (and responded to) the material constraints of Hooke's instruments and the philosophical fantasies that attended their use.



Gerard Passannante is Associate Professor of English and comparative literature at the University of Maryland, College Park. He is the author of *The Lucretian Renaissance: Philology and the Afterlife of Tradition* (Chicago, 2011) and has been a fellow at the American Academy in Rome and the Cullman Center for Scholars and Writers at the New York Public Library.

For more information please contact Jennifer Waldron:
jwaldron@pitt.edu or visit **www.medren.pitt.edu**

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