

The Renaissance Studies Program  
“Individuals, Groups, and the Constitution of Renaissance Societies” Series  
Presents the second lecture by

PAULA FINDLEN

*The Death of a Naturalist: Knowledge and  
Community in Late Renaissance Italy*



**6:00 p.m., Monday, September 9, 2013**  
**Oak Room**  
**Indiana Memorial Union**

What was the nature of scholarly community in the Renaissance? In 1556 Luca Ghini (ca. 1490-1556), professor of medicine and medicinal simples and founder of the botanical gardens in Pisa and Padua, died in Bologna. While obscure to us today, Ghini was well known and widely admired in his lifetime for his botanical knowledge. Many Renaissance naturalists regarded Ghini as a crucial source of inspiration, training, and information. His absence left a void in a thriving but contentious intellectual community and his legacy was fiercely contested. This talk explores how Renaissance naturalists perceived their activities in an era in which individuals more than institutions shaped the nature of community.

Paula Findlen is Ubaldo Pierotti Professor of Italian History at Stanford University

This lecture is made possible through the support of the College Arts and Humanities Institute, the College of Arts and Sciences, the Office of the Provost, the Mary-Margaret Barr Koon Fund of the Department of French and Italian, the Department History and the Department of History and Philosophy of Science. There will be coffee, tea and light refreshments.