

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

TIMOTHY HAMPTON

*“An ambassador for myself”: Diplomatic Exchange and
Political Community in Early Modern Theater*



4:00 p.m., Friday, November 15, 2013
University Club (downstairs)
Indiana Memorial Union

This lecture will explore a group of early seventeenth-century plays from France and Spain in which ambassadors or legates appear—unexpectedly and suddenly—to upset the dynamics of courtly communities. At issue will be what the penetration of a stable community by a potentially disruptive political agent can teach us about the relationship between small communities and an emerging European “family of nations” (to recall the language of the diplomatic theorist Callières). What can the theatrical representation of such moments of intervention teach us about the changing politics of Europe at the end of the Renaissance? What can it teach us about the role of theater in the redefinition of political space?

Timothy Hampton is Professor of French and Comparative Literature at UC Berkeley

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