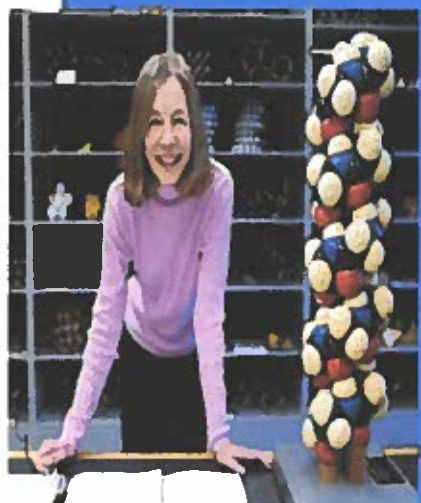


The University of Oregon Department of History and the Stan and Joan Pierson Lecture Fund
are pleased to sponsor a free public lecture



**Mary
Jo
Nye**

Marxism and the 1930's Origins of the Social Construction of Science

May 1, 2012

3:30-5:00 pm

UO Knight Library Browsing Room

- Ph.D., History, University of Wisconsin
- Emerita Horning Professor in the Humanities,
Oregon State University
- Recipient of History of Science Society's Sarton Medal for
Lifetime Scholarly Achievement, 2006
- Author of book *Michael Polanyi and his Generation:
Origins of the Social Construction of Science*
(Chicago, 2011)

Mary Jo Nye investigates the emergence of the social turn in the philosophy of science. This turn involved seeing science as a socially based enterprise that does not rely on empiricism and reason alone but on social communities, behavioral norms, and personal commitments.

Nye argues that the roots of the social turn are to be found in the scientific culture and political events of Europe in the 1930s, when scientific intellectuals struggled to defend the universal status of scientific knowledge and to justify public support for science in an era of economic catastrophe, Stalinism and Fascism, and increased demands for applications of science to industry and social welfare.

Nye explains how natural scientists and social scientists have forged a politically charged philosophy of science, one that newly emphasized the social construction of science.

