**Singing the News in Sixteenth-Century Cologne: The German Broadside Ballads of Nikolaus Schreiber**

In the late sixteenth century, Cologne was a leading city of the German Catholic Reformation, home to prominent Catholic authors, lay devotional associations, and the residence of the archbishop of Cologne. At the same time, Cologne was a mixed confessional environment in which Protestantism not only became an ever-present threat to the existing order but also maintained various toeholds in the city. It was in this pluri-confessional city that Nikolaus Schreiber, a prolific printer of German news sheets, was active and published numerous broadside ballads, whose topics ranged from sensational happenings to songs about the Eighty Years’ War raging in the Netherlands. Using the bibliographic work of Doris Stoll as a starting point, this paper will be the first in-depth analysis of Schreiber’s German broadside ballads. Examining the textual, musical, material, and devotional dimensions of surviving news sheets, I will investigate Schreiber’s ballads in light of the city’s wider soundscape and locate them within the culturally and religiously mixed environment of Cologne, *c*.1580-1600.