This presentation will outline the main features of Scandinavian broadside ballads: The print formats, the main themes, the contextual, historical backdrops of ballad culture, as well as the musical, literary and journalistic functions of Norwegian, Swedish and Danish ballads.

The presentation draws upon the insights from the research project *Norwegian skilling ballads, 1550–1950: Recovering a cultural heritage*, funded by the Norwegian Research Council (2018–2022). The project is the first of its kind to investigate the neglected ballads as part of Norwegian cultural heritage. The project involves digitizing, archiving, and database construction, as well as research and outreach for a specialized and broad audience. The presentation will also outline a new project, tentatively called *Singing the news of natural ballads in Europe, 1550–1950*. This project will compare the Scandic tradition of natural disaster ballads with similar traditions in other European countries, aiming to map disaster ballads as a pan-European and long-durée genre, and arguing that these ballads can increase our knowledge of environmental history from below.

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