The Protestant Reformation and its aftermath in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries offer fascinating parallels to questions that presently engage the public. The question of the status and treatment of women and minorities in society, and the multi-faceted problem of the relationship between religion and the call for social justice, most prominently voiced by the peasants during the Reformation era, is no less urgent today than it was in the sixteenth century. And the split of Western Christianity as a result of the Protestant Reformation created religious refugees all over early modern Europe, a familiar problem today as well.

This series seeks to illuminate the social consequences of the Protestant movement in sixteenth-century Europe on the occasion of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation.

Susan C. Karant-Nunn, Director of the Division and Regents' Professor of History, and Ute Lotz-Heumann, Heiko A. Oberman Professor of Late Medieval and Reformation History, will contextualize and comment on each of the lectures.

August 6
“Reforming the Virgin, the Wife, and the Widow: Changing Visions of Womanhood in the Sixteenth Century”
Rachel Small, doctoral student

August 13
“‘Strangers in a Strange Land’: Religious Refugees and Exiles in the Reformation”
Annie Morphew, doctoral student

August 20
“We take it for granted that you will release us from serfdom as true Christians’: The Reformation and the Peasants”
Benjamin Miller, master’s student

August 27
“Persecution and Tolerance: How Anabaptists, Jews, and Roma (‘Gypsies’) Fared in the Reformation Era”

Free and open to the public
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