The second reading group session will focus on silence. We will pair a chapter from Alain Corbin’s *History of Silence* (Paris: Albin Michel, 2016; English translation Cambridge: Polity, 2018) with a curated selection of recent contributions to the discussion by various authors. Through these readings, we aim to understand how individuals and communities perceived and crafted silence throughout history. Given the numerous calls to integrate silence into historical research, and considering silence’s inherent relativity, how can we include it in our work surpassing the usual clichés?

**Jamie Savan and Helen Roberts (Birmingham): Introducing Aural Histories: Coventry c.1451-1642**

The AHRC-funded project, *Aural Histories: Coventry, c.1451-1642*, investigates the experience of music in late-medieval and early modern Coventry through performance and recording in digital reconstructions of its lost performing spaces. The research centres on music that might have been heard within and between the buildings at the civic and ecclesiastical centre of the city, most notably including St Michael’s parish church (and later cathedral) which was destroyed in the blitz of 1940. Holy Trinity parish church and St Mary’s Hall. Taking a long chronological view over two centuries of religious and political upheaval, these buildings can be understood as dynamic spaces that change both through different phases of construction and furnishing, and in their use as ritual and performative space. This paper will introduce some of the interdisciplinary methodologies underpinning the project, and will demonstrate some of the audio-visual reconstruction work undertaken to date.