The idiom of “Muslim woman” has emerged in European public debates on multiculturality, migration and the so-called European values. Even though social scientists have attempted to show the variety in women's lives living under Muslim normativities, the idea of a “Muslim woman” has persisted also in scholarly writings to such an extent that the American literature scholar Miriam Cooke has coined the term “the Muslim woman”. In my paper, I will explore idiomatic uses of women, Islam and veiling in texts by the American anthropologist Lila Abu-Lughod and the Turkish sociologist Nilufer Göle. Idiomatic uses attempt to pave a way to understanding veiling as a universal practice while concrete legislation work in European countries collides with very practical impediments.

Christina Research Seminar
Tuesday 16.2.2010 at 4-6 pm
Topelia D112 (Unioninkatu 38)