Engebretsen’s presentation at the Christina Research Seminar concerns sexual subject formation in China, on the part of same-sex desiring (lala) women in Beijing. Drawing on anthropological studies of cross-cultural sexual diversity in modernizing contexts, feminist theories of storytelling’s transformative and productive potential, and critical queer theories of identity and difference, Engebretsen examines personal narratives about sexuality, love and intimacy told in lala social spaces, including informal social community events and activist digital storytelling projects.

For the purpose of this paper, Engebretsen is particularly interested in demonstrating how central thematic patterns in lala personal storytelling must be contextualized within a larger social and political context of Chinese modernization and changes in gender and social norms. By extension, her paper engages an analysis of gender and sexual non-normativity in the larger context of Chinese modernization and societal transformation, where sex and gender play fundamental roles in shaping dominant definitions of desirable and ‘quality’ (suzhi) citizenship (Rofel 2007, 2010).

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WELCOME!

Christina research seminar pays tribute to Gender Studies, and the history of Queen Christina’s name connected to this field of studies at the University of Helsinki.

The seminar is open to everybody with an interest in research questions related to gender studies. The Seminar is chaired by prof. Tuija Pulkkinen.