

*School of Arts and Aesthetics
and
Centre for Comparative Politics and Political Theory, SIS*

Securofeminism and the saving of the Muslim Woman

a lecture by

Prof. Lila Abu Lughod

Joseph L. Battenwieser Professor of Social Science at Columbia University

The talk will be chaired by Prof. Romila Thapar, Professor Emerita, JNU



Increasingly, democratic feminists have been troubled by some gender experts and women's rights advocates clamoring for inclusion in a new "soft" branch of the global security enterprise that goes under the trademark CVE (Countering Violent Extremism), or PVE (Preventing Violent Extremism). Critical feminists are raising concerns about the advocacy by what I call "Securofeminists" for mainstreaming gender and installing women in leadership positions in the expanding field of counter-terrorism. Although most women's rights advocates bend over backwards not to name or specifically frame Muslims for violence, we need to ask how Governance Feminists (Feminists who work closely with institutions of international and state power, in Janet Halley's definition) can take care not to contribute to a dangerous framing of this community and religious group, erasing the agency of diverse women and the political histories and contexts of contemporary gender violence.

Date: 2 November 2019

Time: 11 a.m.

Venue: School of Arts and Aesthetics Auditorium