



In connection with the award of an *honorary doctorate* to

## **Prof. Cécile Michel**

Directrice de Recherche (1ère classe) au CNRS, Histoire et ARchéologie de l'Orient Cunéiforme (HAROC) and Hamburg Universitet, Center for the Study of Manuscript Cultures

The Centre for Textile Research, Saxo institute and Tors kindly invite all to attend her public lecture

## **Textiles and Gender in Cuneiform Texts**

**Friday 17 November 10.15-11.15, Room: 27.0.09**

Cuneiform sources represent a unique textual corpus for anyone working on antiquity because of its abundance, its variety and the information it provides on a wide range of topics from different perspectives, whether texts have been found in palaces, temples or private houses. The topic chosen for this lecture is based on cuneiform texts as a token of recognition for the important role played by Copenhagen in European Assyriology, especially in the Old Assyrian studies. Textiles and gender interweave in various manners from the transformation of raw materials into fabric at one end, to dress and garments and the construction of identity at the other. Textile production in Mesopotamia has often been considered to follow a straight line from a female domestic activity to a more institutional male-governed mode of production. The reality is much more complex. The production of textiles informs us of the relationships between gender, labour, and economics. Textiles transformed into garments express the gender of the wearer. Despite the fact that clothing shapes were simple for both women and men, differences between genders were socially and culturally important. These could be expressed in the type of textile used, the length of the tunic, the manner in which it was decorated or undecorated, belted or unbelted, and in the manner of draping or fastening. This puts gender at the very basis of textile work from the outset to the end product.

