





BOOK TALK

Ivan Franceschini, Ling Li, Mark Bo Scam: Inside Southeast Asia's Cybercrime Compounds

(Verso, 2025)

A probing investigation of Southeast Asia's online scam industry – told through the voices of survivors

Running the gamut from the infamous 'pig butchering' romance con to sophisticated online extortion and investment fraud, Southeast Asia has emerged as the global hub for cybercrime. Based on years of field research, Scam takes an in-depth look at the history and inner dynamics of the region's online scam industry. Revealed are the appalling working conditions — akin to modern slavery — in the hundreds of prisonlike compounds that have mushroomed throughout multiple countries. The result is a shocking exposé of victims forced to be perpetrators, a tragic modern tale.

Laura De Giorgi and Edoardo Siani will discuss the book with authors Ivan Franceschini (University of Melbourne) and Ling Li (Ca' Foscari University of Venice)

23 September 2025, 10 a.m.

Sala Conferenze, San Sebastiano Dorsoduro 1686, Venice