



Ca' Foscari
University
of Venice

Department of Asian
and North African Studies



Professor **Antonia Soriente**, University of
Naples L'Orientale

Relations, fascinations and exchanges between Italy and Indonesia, yesterday and today: Why breaking the language barriers matters!

30 October 2026, 12:15-13:45

Aula D, Ca' Capello

This lecture explores intercultural relations between Italy and Indonesia, emphasizing the role of language in overcoming cultural barriers. Early Italian travellers to Indonesia and the Malay world documented local languages, cultures, religions, environments, and societies, revealing both Eurocentric perspectives and a fascination with cultural difference. From the late 1960s, Italian scholars began systematically studying Indonesian language and culture. More recently, translation has helped bring Indonesian voices and literature to Italian audiences. The presentation traces these developments over two centuries and considers how literary translation has contributed to changing perceptions of Indonesia while supporting deeper intercultural understanding and exchange.

Organizer: Trang Phan (DSAAM)