We are deeply pleased and proud to invite you to our last ISTA Lecture of this year with the author, journalist, and former Digital Security Journalist of the Year, specialised in cyber security, geopolitics, criminology, and broadcasting, Misha Glenny.

Russia, Cybercrime, and the problem of Scale

In this highly original lecture, the Rector of the Institute for Human Sciences in Vienna, Misha Glenny, traces the relationship between Russia’s Security Services and Russian and Ukrainian cyber-criminal groups and individuals since they first encountered each other in 2001. The symbiotic relationship has been critical in building Russia’s firepower in cyber offensive capability.

In recent years, the criminal operations have developed a sophisticated ability to deploy ransomware which combine extortion with the interests of Russia’s national security community. This has developed into an acute problem for the Western network security, in part because of Russia’s ability to exploit the issue of scale, which represents an exponential rise in the damage that can be inflicted on networks with very little investment. As Misha Glenny concludes, this is having a significant impact behind the scenes on the nature of the Russo-Ukrainian war.

About Misha Glenny

Misha Glenny is a journalist, author and public intellectual. Since May 2022 he is the Rector of the Institute for Human Sciences (IWM - Vienna). In 1989 revolutions and wars in Yugoslavia for The Guardian and was the BBC’s Correspondent. In 1993, he received the Sony Gold Award for Outstanding Broadcasting, and in 2012 he was named BT Information Security Journalist of the Year. His internationally acclaimed publications include his account of Yugoslavia’s descent into war with The Fall of Yugoslavia: The Third Balkan War, and The Balkans 1804–1999: Nationalism, War, and the Great Powers.
His books *McMafia* and *DarkMarket* were shortlisted for several awards. *McMafia* has been adapted into a major television drama.