

CALL FOR PAPERS

IIAS-SEAPP

DOHA CONFERENCE

2023



6-9 February

**on Developmental States and Professionalization
of Public Administration and Public Policy**



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Blockchain and Governments

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Blockchain is a networked **database** technology that has three distinctive properties :

- First, it is tamper-resistant: cryptographic techniques and structural features of the network make extremely difficult and/or costly to alter historical records. In other words, Blockchain is an **append-only** database: only new records can be appended, earlier ones cannot be deleted;
- Second, it is **resilient**. The live state of the database being shared with all connected network nodes, as long as at least one network node remains connected, the database keeps recording data. By the same token, updating the rules by which the database is governed depends on the cooperation of most network nodes.
- Third, it is **transparent**. The data recorded in the database can be consulted anytime by connected users. By lack of additional design decisions, it implies that a Blockchain database is not anonymous: users and transactions are publicly available.

The present call aims at **exploring Blockchain from a public administration perspective**.

Therefore, three research avenues are distinguished:

- The first concerns the **regulation of the private Blockchain sector**. It invented and is using the technology to record exchanges of virtual assets between users: floating (cryptocurrencies) or pegged (stablecoins) fungible assets, or non-fungible ones (NFTs). For various policy objectives (i.e.: environmental and user protection, implementation of monetary policies, fighting terrorism and money laundering...), regulatory initiatives are being taken by governments regarding, i.e.: nodes (ban on Bitcoin mining in China), the authentication of users and the compulsory reporting of transactions (travel rule and ban on unhosted wallets in EU), the licensing and operations of virtual assets providers (Markets in Crypto-Assets directive proposal in EU), the criminalization of transactions and development (ban on gifts to truck protesters in Canada, censorship guidelines on Ethereum, arrest of Tornado Cash developer...), the conditions under which stablecoins can be issued... These initiatives try to achieve some balance between legitimate government concerns and the protection of economic innovation in a context hallmarked by regional competition for

dominance of an emerging industry and an ongoing range of scandals (Terra, FTX/Alameda, Celsius...) in the sector in question. Papers examining the emerging global framework for blockchain regulation, are called for.

- The second concerns the **innovative potential of the Blockchain technology for public service delivery**. Government's business is much concerned with building, maintaining, using and publishing databases. Three major areas which could harness the specific properties of Blockchain include: the delivery of authentic documents (identity, diplomas, licenses, property certificates, vaccination attests...), public archive systems (bills, judiciary decisions, urbanism plans...), and the financial management systems (taxes, budget, accounting, subsidies...). Case studies of ongoing initiatives of blockchain-powered public sector innovation are looked for, emphasizing lessons learned and challenges ahead, in the line of Berryhill et al., (2018)
- Third is the development by governments of **Central Bank Digital Currencies (CBDC)**. Various projects are being initiated in different parts of the world to complement fiduciary money emission by central banks with the emission of monetary instruments on the blockchain. Such projects find their appeal in the need for governments to maintain their monopoly over money emission, in the transparency of transactions on the blockchain, and in the need for central banks to enforce their monetary policies in a changing macroeconomic and technological context. Papers analyzing ongoing projects in different jurisdictions through concepts such as privacy, fraud detection,... and emphasizing different types of approaches, are especially welcome.

Overall, fresh perspectives examining the relation between government and blockchain are looked for. Special issue publication opportunities will be searched along the way.

References

Berryhill, J, T Bourgery, et A Hanson. « Blockchains Unchained: Blockchain Technology and Its Use in the Public Sector ». OECD Working Papers on Public Governance. Vol. 28. OECD Working Papers on Public Governance, 19 juin 2018. <https://doi.org/10.1787/3c32c429-en>.

Nakamoto, Satoshi. « Bitcoin: A Peer-to-Peer Electronic Cash System »

Practicalities

- Submissions should be made in English or Arabic.
- The call-for-papers and panels will remain open until November 30th.
- Notifications of acceptance will be sent by December 15.
- Full papers will be expected by January 8th.

The conference will take place on February 6-9, 2023, in the School of Economics, Administration and Public Policy (SEAPP) of the Doha Institute for Graduate Studies, in Qatar. The PhD symposium will take place on February 6; all plenary and parallel sessions on the themes, proposals and panels will be scheduled on February 7-9.

The IIAS Open Access Publication platform offers an array of publication opportunities. These include edited manuscripts in the [IIAS Public Governance Series](#), in IIAS online journal “[Developments in Administration \(DinA\)](#)” and in special issues of partner journals. For more information on publication opportunities in our partner journals, please access the [OAP-Informative Flyer](#).

Furthermore, one or several edited manuscripts through the [Palgrave IIAS Book series](#) as well as submission to [IRAS \(International Review of Administrative Sciences\)](#) are possible.

All information on the conference can be obtained at:

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- <http://www.iias-seapp-dohaconference2023.org/>