

Call for Papers – Management Science

Special Issue on Blockchains and Crypto Economics

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Distributed systems as seen in blockchains have been one of the most important technological innovations in the business world. The rise of blockchains and digital tokens leads to rethinking of how consensus is generated and stored, how an ecosystem or online community can be governed, how managerial and operational processes can be improved, how entrepreneurial projects can be financed, and how contributors and on-demand labor are compensated. At the same time, blockchain applications may take multiple iterations to perfect, and wise regulations and guiding framework are in dire need. The emergence of blockchain-based applications calls for new theory and comprehensive empirical studies to enable sound designs of the systems and to guide applications as well as regulatory policy.

The Special Issue on Blockchains and Crypto Economics seeks to attract top quality research on the economics and applications of blockchains and related issues. To be considered, papers should examine significant decision-making problems in any of the research areas represented by *Management Science* such as accounting, finance, healthcare, marketing, and operations, including—but not limited to—financial technology, supply chain, computer system design, digital currencies, etc... Interdisciplinary studies are also highly encouraged. A partial list of topics, both theoretical and empirical, includes the following:

- Consensus games and mechanism design issues of blockchains and other open systems.
- The interface of supply chain modeling and blockchains, including food supply chain, transportation systems, transparency, and benefits of entry.
- Properties of cryptocurrencies as an asset class and the use of crypto tokens for information aggregation, coordination, financing (e.g., ICOs), developing digital platforms, etc.
- Distributed technology in education, medical applications, political science, etc. that combines technical breakthroughs and business economic insights.
- Implications of blockchains and Decentralized Finance (DeFi) on social issues such as financial inclusion, gender bias, racial discrimination, and inequality.

- The economics of data privacy, encryption, edge computers, and multi-party computation.
- Network security, market manipulation, and regulation related to digital platforms and cryptocurrencies.
- Studies on electronic payments, stablecoins, and digital currencies (blockchain-based or not), focusing on their relationship to monetary economics, banking and financial intermediation, and international finance.
- Other application topics highly advertised by private corporations, but with limited rigorous academic research produced.

Submission

To be considered for the Special Issue on Blockchains and Crypto Economics, submit your manuscript online via <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/ms>. Select “Special Issue Blockchains and Crypto Economics” as the Manuscript Type in Step 1 and select one of the issue’s co-editors (listed above) in Step 6. Manuscripts will be assigned to one of the Editors for this issue and you may recommend guest Associate Editors. Deadline for submission is May 15, 2021. The special issue aims to provide timely outlets for cutting edge research on the aforementioned topics. In particular, we will make all final acceptance decisions by the end of January 2022.

Dual Submission: Manuscripts can also be submitted through a dual submission process at the inaugural Crypto and Blockchain Economics Research (CBER) Conference with a conference submission deadline of Feb 1, 2021. The conference follows a virtual format and is organized by Maureen O’Hara, Andreas Park, Julien Prat, Fahad Saleh, and Gerry Tsoukalas, in collaboration with Management Science, FinTech at Cornell --- an Initiative of SC Johnson College of Business, and FinHub at the University of Toronto Rotman’s Financial Innovation Lab. The special issue co-editors serve as collaborating editors for the conference, which is to be hosted by Cornell University and University of Toronto on April 16-17, 2021, with a program of about eight interdisciplinary research papers examining topics within the scope of blockchain and crypto economics, broadly defined. The conference will also feature one best paper prize and one best discussant prize with the generous support from the FinTech Initiative at Cornell. More information about the conference is available at www.cber-forum.org/conference.

Authors submitting through the dual submission will be notified by March 15, 2021 as to whether the paper is invited for submission to the special issue (regardless whether the paper is included in the conference program). Invited papers must be submitted to the Special Issue on Blockchains and Crypto Economics by May 15, 2021, the deadline for the journal’s special issue submissions. Any invited submission to the special issue through the dual submission will undergo the standard journal review process, but any paper rejected in that process may submit to Management Science again in the future.