
Call for Papers: Symposium and Special Issue of the *Journal of Online Trust and Safety* Cryptocurrency and Societal Harm

The use of cryptocurrency has increased dramatically in recent years, and although criminal activity linked to cryptocurrency makes up only a small part of all transactions, it has the potential to cause or abet significant societal harm. These harms include the use of cryptocurrency in ransomware attacks; in scams, Ponzi schemes, and other fraud; and on darknet marketplaces selling illegal drugs, weapons, or other contraband. Alongside these developments, researchers have made important inroads into understanding how cryptocurrency used in illicit transactions is laundered, how cryptocurrency exchanges have responded to and enforce anti-money laundering laws, and mapping the typology of darknet marketplaces. New concerns have also emerged in recent years, including the rise of ransomware attacks and privacy coins like Monero and Dash, whose use remains poorly understood.

1 Symposium and Special Issue

We invite researchers across disciplines to submit their work for a symposium and a special issue on Cryptocurrency and Societal Harm. The purpose of this symposium is to bring together researchers for a conversation on cryptocurrency and its links to crime and other socially harmful activities (broadly defined). Topics of interest include but are not limited to:

- New anti-money laundering laws or other regulations for cryptocurrency
- Money laundering and cryptocurrency
- Money mixing or “tumbler” services
- Ransomware groups, including tracing payments to these groups and mapping connections between them
- Darknet marketplaces
- Cryptocurrency scams (typosquatting, exit scams, pump and dump of cryptocurrency coins)
- Analysis of social media and messaging posts about illegal activity or evading regulations tied to cryptocurrency
- Understanding the use of “privacy” coins like Monero, Dash, and Zcash
- Terrorism financing linked to cryptocurrency

2 Submission Instructions

Authors interested in submitting an article for the symposium and/or the special issue should follow the journal’s [standard submission process](#) by sending a letter of inquiry

by February 15, 2022. Authors should note in their submission whether they wish to be considered for the symposium, special issue, or both. The symposium will be non-archival (no published proceedings), and attendees are not required to submit a full paper nor to make a submission for the special issue. Attending the symposium is not a prerequisite for submitting an article for the special issue.

The symposium will be hosted by the Stanford Internet Observatory in April 2022. We hope this can be a hybrid in-person and remote symposium, though this will depend on COVID-19 protocols. Full paper submissions for the special issue are due May 15, and if accepted will be published near the end of August 2022. Questions about the special issue or symposium may be directed to the guest editor, Karen Nershi, Postdoctoral Fellow at the Stanford Internet Observatory (nershi@stanford.edu).

3 Timeline

- Letter of inquiry submission deadline: February 15, 2022
- Desk decisions: March 1, 2022
- Symposium date: April 15, 2022
- Paper submission for special issue: May 15, 2022
- Publication date of special issue: August 31, 2022