

## EDITORIAL

It is with delight that I present this – the sixth – issue of the Journal of the British Blockchain Association. Now into its third volume, the Journal continues to publish important path-breaking research.

The contributions in this issue are truly international with authors coming from, at least, seven different countries across four continents. This highlights the valuable role the Journal has come to play in publishing leading world-class research into this new disruptive and revolutionary technology.

In such a fast moving field the Journal has quickly established a reputation as an outlet for timely, thoughtful, and important research that is of interest to both academics and practitioners. The Journal publishes impact-led and industry relevant research. Importantly, Journal articles are readable, and accessible for a broad audience. Blockchain scholarship is a multidisciplinary endeavour and that diversity is reflected in the broad range of papers that have been published over the past three years.

The papers included in this issue are:

- Who is the Blockchain Employee? Exploring Skills in Demand using Observations from the Australian Labour Market and Behavioural Institutional Cryptoeconomics
- Browser-based Crypto Mining and EU Data Protection and Privacy Law: A Critical Assessment and Possible Opportunities for the Monetisation of Web Services
- Are Blockchain-based Systems the Future of Project Management? A Preliminary exploration
- Academic Certification using Blockchain: Permissioned versus Permissionless Solutions
- Self-executing Contracts from the perspective of the selected Polish regulations and the future potential prevalence of ‘Smarter’ Contracts
- Blockchain - A Panacea For Trust Challenges In Public Services? A Socio-technical Perspective
- Privacy Laws, Genomic Data and Non-Fungible Tokens
- Evidence-Based Blockchain: Findings from a Global Study of Blockchain Projects and Start-up Companies

At first glance, it may appear that the papers cover a broad range of issues in the blockchain space. At the broadest level the papers all consider issues of scaling the blockchain. What are the use cases? What are the challenges? How will it actually work? Who will do the work? What qualifications will they need? What is it precisely that need be scaled?

Blockchain was first developed to provide a native internet money – yet the use cases for the technology go far beyond a payments system. It may be something of an overstatement; trust is the *raison d'être* of the blockchain. It is the industrialisation of trust that makes blockchain such a valuable and important institutional technology. The ability to deploy trust at scale will drive many use cases in future.

Some of those use cases are discussed in this issue of the Journal. Academic credentialing and project management are obvious use cases. But are these use cases being adopted? What impediments are there to adoption? Are managers using the technology? Does it add value? Then there are issues of interaction with outside world institutions. How do smart contracts interact with external legal systems? These are important practical questions that articles in this issue address. What of privacy concerns and data protection? Privacy by design will be embedded into all future digital business models. But how exactly can competing demands for privacy, legality and ethical

behaviour be incorporated into best practice? And what of the infamous practice of browser mining? Is there a viable, legitimate place for it in the cryptoeconomy? Readers will find thoughtful arguments addressing these very questions.

The challenges facing any new technology or business process is hype. How can we know that any new technology or process is living up to its promise? It is not enough to ask tough questions, it is important to have a tough framework that informs those questions. Readers should find the paper on evidence based blockchain particularly valuable when evaluating blockchain use cases.

Then who will do all this work? Blockchain is destined to be the economic infrastructure underpinning the future digital economy. Who is going to build it? What skills will they need? Economising on the cost of trust is what makes the blockchain so valuable. Industrialising energy and power gave rise to the industrial revolution; Similarly, industrialising trust will drive the next revolution in economic activity. To better understand that process, and to allay fears that this is all hype, there is a huge need for careful and thoughtful analysis of existing use cases and industry needs. That type of analysis can be found in these pages.

My congratulations to all the authors of the papers in the issue. Thank you for your hard work and for thinking of the Journal as an outlet. Without your research and thought leadership, the blockchain space would be intellectually poorer. Then to the referees who provided insight and guidance to the authors – thank you for your voluntary contributions. Finally to the editors and production staff at the Journal itself – running a journal can often seem to be a frustrating and thankless task – so, thank you!

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