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EDITORIAL

Inaugural Editorial for the *Journal of Blockchain and Distributed Ledger Technologies*

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The *Journal of Blockchain and Distributed Ledger Technologies* is a peer-reviewed international journal devoted to the publication of high-quality, original research that advances the theoretical foundations, technological developments, and real-world applications of blockchain and distributed ledger systems.

The journal aims to provide a high-impact platform for the publication of original theoretical developments, methodological innovations, and practical applications, seeking to promote community-wide discussion on novel blockchain research. The emergence and popularity of DLT approaches have significantly changed the operation and management of ecosystems, in all industries and academia globally. New applications of blockchain technology exhibit a variety of highly-complex problems which challenge the research community, policy-makers and practitioners.

We seek papers that investigate new applications, address and set forth novel techniques, introduce advanced methodologies, propose research directions and provide solutions to presently unsolved issues. We intend to publish a blend of original research work and innovative practice-driven advancements by internationally distinguished DLT experts and researchers from academia, and public and private sector organizations.

The topics of interest for the *Journal of Blockchain and Distributed Ledger Technologies* Topics include, but are not limited to: cryptocurrency adoption and DeFi/CeFi spaces, regulation authorities, institutions and law enforcement, smart contracts and distributed ledgers, new protocols and algorithms, distributed consensus and fault tolerance mechanisms, security and privacy for DLT approaches, permissioned and permissionless chains, forensic techniques in fraud detection and financial crime prevention, legal, ethical and societal aspects of DLT-related applications, real use-cases, sandbox applications and case studies of adoption, attacks, forks, scams etc, integration of blockchain with other emerging technologies, scalability, optimization of decentralized schemes, economics and game-theoretic analysis of cryptocurrency protocols, stable- and algo-coins and fiat money, CBDCs, interoperability and cross-chain interactions, partition tolerance and stability analysis, language-based security and formal verification, green DLTs, anonymity, privacy and network forensics, simulation tools and platforms, consensus protocols including PoW and alternatives, economic incentives and payoff mechanisms, consensus mechanisms of

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DAOs, design methodologies for different blockchains, certification and audits, integrity verification, applications in financial industry, healthcare, supply chain management, education, e-government, legal and smart infrastructure applications, new smart contract programming languages and tools, transactional privacy/anonymity, mining pools and swarms, smart contract attacks, Internet of things (IoT) and blockchain technology, artificial intelligence and blockchain, DLTs intertwined with big data science, quantum-resistant cryptography, Web3 and Metaverse, decentralized data management, incentive and consensus algorithms, blockchain interoperability, cryptocurrency and cashless ecosystems, synthetix/derivative contracts & transactions, FinTech DLTs, tokenisation and governance, prediction marketplace systems and platforms, real-world applications and case studies.

All submissions undergo a rigorous peer-review process to ensure scientific rigor, technical soundness, and relevance to the field. The journal publishes empirical and theoretical works with a primary focus on novelty. Submissions must be technically sound, and clearly presented. We accept both regular papers, empirical and theoretical, and technical notes/letters. In addition, survey articles and discussion/case studies papers are welcome. The journal audience comprises academia, industry, and practitioners. Authors are strongly encouraged to make their datasets and code publicly accessible via a repository of their choosing. Please see our guide for authors for information on article submission.

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Conflicts of Interest

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Ethical Approval and Consent to Participate

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He has been awarded numerous prestigious Grants including the Max Weber Fellowship – the largest postdoctoral programme in the social sciences in the world hosted by the EUI and funded by the European Commission (DG Education) – three MSCA Fellowships & Awards for pioneering work in multidisciplinary research, many national grants/awards by the EU, NWO, RC-AUEB/GSRT, whilst he was appointed Scientific director of European EC projects (FP-7, H2020) in many universities and institutions. (Email: stelios.bekiros@unito.it, stelios.bekiros@um.edu.mt, stelios.bekiros@eui.eu)