

Centre for Digital Finance

Foreword

The rapid pace of technological innovation over the last two decades has changed the way we do business and finance. The Centre for Digital Finance (CDF) brings together researchers to investigate this new electronic world. This includes research in electronic financial markets and banking, which are by far the largest and most important electronic marketplaces in the world today. It also includes the business and financial aspects of technology research. The Centre was established in 2014 and has developed a track record of regular publication in international journals and successful research grant applications. In addition, group members regularly disseminate their research via seminars, workshops and international conferences. We actively seek joint activities with other international research centres and institutions.

Vision

The Centre for Digital Finance is to become a leading hub for innovative, collaborative and multidisciplinary research that transforms the existing understanding of challenges of technological innovations in finance and provides solutions for contemporary business problems.

Mission

The CDF mission is in line with the Southampton University core principles:

Collegiality

One team working, planning and delivering together, toward our shared vision.

We believe that the best results can be achieved via collaboration, transparency and trust. We are committed to treat each other, our external partners, collaborators and other stakeholders with integrity and respect.

Quality

Our research is ambitious, original and relevant. We believe that our multidisciplinary research in digital finance, blockchain, and cryptocurrencies can make a difference to communities, advance existing theories, and inform policy-makers and financial regulators.

Internationalization

We are proud of our research work and we are committed to disseminate the results via seminars, workshops, international conferences, forums, and in the media. We are keen to organize international research events, build linkages with other institutions and work within international research teams.

Sustainability

We believe that our research in digital finance benefits society as a whole and our actions lead to financial, social and environmental sustainability. We are keen to explore alternative funding sources to support CDF activities, manage costs and enhance productivity.

Objectives

- To explore the opportunities associated with the rapid growth of technological innovation for the wider economy and society as a whole.
- To contribute to debates about current issues in digital finance using a range of multidisciplinary research.
- To inform stakeholders, such as financial institutions, corporations and government about the advances in digital finance research.
- To explore novel blockchain-based applications across multiple domains.

Area of Interests

The CDF research is centered around key themes:

International and empirical finance: interconnectedness, contagion and safe haven; cryptocurrency as a financial asset; asset price bubble; portfolio construction and diversification benefits; efficiency/inefficiency; herding behavior; media attention and effect of announcements; price dynamics; price volatility; price discovery; market risk.

Corporate Finance: crowdfunding; initial coin offering (ICO); fintech startups; the impact of digitalization on corporate governance issues, agency problem and transparency; new investment opportunities created by blockchain; impact of digitalization on traditional financial institutions.

Multidisciplinary Research in Digital Finance: cybercrime, potential other uses for blockchain; fintech; environmental issues in cryptocurrencies; legal issues; financial regulation; future for digital payments; taxation; ethical issues.

What we do

To achieve our strategic goals we are working on a range of activities that falls under the three main streams:

CDF Insights

CDF Events

CDF Media

CDF Insights

The Centre for Digital Finance is the place for sharing your research results or insights from professional and industry experience helping to maximize the research output of all members.

We are keen to:

- Promote research collaboration across schools and departments to produce multidisciplinary research;
- Regularly share the research ideas and results to better understand the research work of each other;

- Help to develop research skills of all members using the existing expertise within CDF;
- Involve PhD students in CDF activities if their thesis overlaps with digital finance;
- Support research-informed and research-led teaching in academia.

The Centre for Digital Finance is hosting weekly research seminars. If you are interested to present, please contact Antonios Kalyvas (N.A.Kalyvas@soton.ac.uk) or Anthanasios Sakkas (A.Sakkas@soton.ac.uk)

CDF Events

The Centre for Digital Finance is also a platform for collaboration between academics, businesses and policy makers brought together to better understand, discuss and rapidly respond to contemporary finance and business issues. The CDF helps to maximize the impact of our research and attract external research funding.

We are keen to:

- Organize local and international research events;
- Build networks with organisational stakeholders, businesses and policy makers;
- Bridge the gap between research and practice by inviting industry speakers;
- Fill the shortage of skills/expertise within CDF by organizing staff development sessions and sharing the external opportunities for staff development;
- Develop joint grant applications for UK, EU and global research funding calls.

Forthcoming International Event organized: [Cryptocurrency Research Conference 2019.](#)

CDF Media

Digital finance is a rapidly growing field that attracts a high media attention and interest from the general public. The CDF acknowledges the increased role of science in the media and the challenge of communicating the research results to the public.

We are keen to:

- Disseminate the research results widely via tv/radio interviews, podcasts and social media;
- Establish reputation of the CDF members as media speakers and digital finance experts;
- Organize media trainings and help to advance digital media skills;
- Use digital marketing to support career development of the CDF members;
- Ensure that our research findings are accessible for non-academic audience and society;
- Participate in external academic and business events as a panelists and invited speakers.

Measures

We are getting assessed too much already! But we will know that we are doing well by keeping an eye on the following measures:

- Published research and working papers;
- Developed funding bids and secured funding;
- Quantity, quality and scope of the events organized;
- Established external linkages, partnerships and collaborations;
- Media presence;
- Positive feedback and consistent engagement with activities by CDF members.

We are always open to discussion of the new ideas and celebration of our achievements at regular CDF meetings.