

# Call for Papers

## *Blockchain: Impact on Accounting and Accountants*

### *Guest Editors*

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### *Keynote Speakers at the Paper Development Workshop*

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### **Aims and Scope**

At the outset, blockchain was designed to revolutionize how payments could be made between computer users without the involvement of financial institutions to validate these transactions, and using a currency (i.e., cryptocurrency) not issued by a central bank instead (Nakamoto, 2008). Crypto-assets, running on a blockchain, may take different forms including cryptocurrencies (tokens used for payment), utility tokens (granting access to an application), asset tokens (securities issued) and hybrid tokens (for example, utility and payment token at once). The possibilities to create various types of tokens contribute to the debate on what they really are, challenging the accounting domain from how to audit transactions to how to present crypto-assets in financial statements. Recent blockchain applications deployed in organizations may represent at a time threats and opportunities for accountants dealing with accounting systems.

Crypto-assets running on blockchains permit the development of new business models, including the creation of cryptocurrencies, digital platform exchanges, or raising funds through initial coin offerings (ICOs) (Bourveau et al. 2022; Boulianne et al., 2020; Howell et al. 2020; Chod et al. 2021). An increasing number of organizations experiences or already accepts cryptocurrency for payments, which is a challenge for central banks. Others perform significant transactions using crypto-assets (including mining), which is a challenge for producing audited financial statements (Pimentel et al., 2021). These practice trends further highlight the importance to understand more about the potential of blockchain, and its impacts on accounting and accountants (Jans et al., 2022).

This special issue aims to respond to calls for more empirical work into actual and future blockchain applications, implementations, and utilizations (Pimentel and Boulianne, 2020). Blockchain may have a significant impact on accounting systems and the role of accountants and auditors - whether in managerial accounting, financial reporting, financing, and other accounting domains (e.g., Centobelli et al. 2022; Coyne et al., 2017; Dai & Vasarhelyi, 2017; Dyball & Seethamraju, 2022; Liu et al., 2019; Lombardi et al., 2022; Pimentel and Boulianne, 2022). Some have offered more conceptual guidance and directions on this fluid and emerging technology (eg., Carrasco & Romi, 2022, Kuruppu et al., 2022, Pflueger et al., 2022, Tyma et al., 2022). Recent literature reviews provide insightful status-updates and plant relevant research directions for future blockchain developments (Garanina et al., 2022; Lardo et al., 2022, Moll & Yigitbasioglu, 2019). With this special issue, we aim to expand the knowledge base on blockchain in the accounting context, fostering empirical and conceptual work using various frameworks, paradigms and methods.

This special issue aims to address the following topics and questions to enrich discussions and reflections on blockchain including, but not limited to:

- **Blockchain and Accounting Information Systems**
  - Challenges to implement blockchains in organizations
  - Blockchain as a new ledger to record transactions
  - Challenges of linking “on-chain” and “off-chain” transactions; the oracle concept
  - Triple-entry accounting
  - Integration of smart contracts into blockchain and accounting systems
- **Blockchain, Governance and Regulation**
  - Accounting and auditing standards for crypto-assets
  - System design, code, governance, and human interaction
  - Risks and benefits of ICOs in a regulated and unregulated environment
  - International perspectives on cryptos: crypto-friendliness and sandboxing
  - The limits of transparency in blockchain
  - How financial regulators may balance investor’s protection, capital formation, and FinTech innovation?
- **Blockchain and Auditing**
  - The role of auditors in auditing immutable blockchain ledgers
  - The use of blockchains to facilitate existing audit practices
  - Training of auditors for blockchain based-assets
  - What is a recognized audit for key actors in the crypto space?
  - Why do audit firms still refuse to audit businesses operating in the blockchain space?
- **Blockchain, Internal control and Fraud**
  - How to set internal control systems in a blockchain environment?
  - Is blockchain more or less prone to fraud?
  - Fraud cases in ICOs: how to detect them?
  - Red flags and lessons learned from collapsing projects such as FTX, Celsius
- **Blockchain and Management Accounting**
  - The role and effects of using blockchain in management accounting practices
  - Streamlining business and accounting processes
  - Blockchain use case in supply chain context

## **Submission information**

This special issue of the *British Accounting Review* (BAR) is associated with the special issue conference 4th International Conference on Digital, Innovation, Financing and Entrepreneurship (DIFE) held by the John Molson School of Business in Montreal on July 3-4, 2023 (<https://dife2023.sciencesconf.org/>). Relevant papers or extended abstracts should be submitted to the related Workshop “Digital and Blockchain Accounting” [erica.pimentel@queensu.ca](mailto:erica.pimentel@queensu.ca) and [emilio.boulianne@concordia.ca](mailto:emilio.boulianne@concordia.ca) before May 31, 2023. Participation via Zoom is also possible. Acceptance to the conference is not a prerequisite for submission to the special issue.

Authors of full paper submissions at the 4th International Conference on Digital, Innovation, Financing and Entrepreneurship (DIFE) will be invited to participate in a subsequent *Paper Development Workshop* (PDW) during October 27-28, 2023, to be held at the John Molson School of Business, Montreal, Canada. Participation via Zoom is also possible. New full paper submissions will also be considered. Authors of high-quality papers presented at the *Paper Development Workshop* meeting will be invited to submit their papers to the special issue. However, attendance or presentation at the PDW is not a prerequisite for submission to the special issue. Similarly, presentation at the conference does not guarantee acceptance in the special issue.

Articles for this special issue should be submitted to the journal by January 31, 2024. All submissions must be made via *British Accounting Review*'s online system and will be subject to an initial screening and reviewing by the guest editors of the special issue.

The guest editors will manage the editorial and review process. All papers will be subject to the standard referee process of the *British Accounting Review* and will undergo a final review by the Editorial Board after conditional acceptance by the guest editors. Submissions must be original, unpublished works that are not concurrently under review for publication elsewhere. All submissions should conform to the *British Accounting Review* manuscript submission guidelines available at: <https://www.elsevier.com/journals/the-british-accounting-review/0890-8389/guide-for-authors>. Papers will be reviewed according to the *British Accounting Review* double-blind review process. For any queries, please contact the Guest Editors.

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