

Call for Paper Proposals on Digital Finance for a Panel at the *Dreiländertagung (D-A-CH-Congress) 11.-13. September 2023*

General Topic: The Politics of Digital Finance in a Changing Globalised World

Names of Organisers:

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Introduction

Technology-driven financial innovations have transformed retail and wholesale finance worldwide, encompassing new applications, products and services in diverse areas including payments, asset management and peer-to-peer lending. Traditional finance companies such as banks and large asset managers are being joined and challenged by small and large tech companies entering the field and offering digital financial services. In the Global North, the big five tech companies Microsoft, Google (alphabet), Apple, Facebook (meta) and Amazon offer payment platforms to their billions of users worldwide. In China, the digital finance trend is arguably even more significant, with the three major platform companies Baidu, Alibaba (including Ant Financial) and Tencent expanding rapidly, offering a variety of digital banking, investment, lending and insurance services (Langley & Leyshon, 2021, p. 380). In Europe, Chinese and especially American dominance in this area lead to concerns about missing out on an important part of financial services. Geopolitical trends underscore the importance of the digital in general and digital finance in particular.

Recent research looks at benefits and opportunities as well as risks for individuals, companies and investors. On the one hand, new technologies can, for example, make online transactions cheaper, make markets more efficient, and expand opportunities for investment and financial services to those excluded by traditional providers (Gabor & Brown 2017). On the other hand, customers could go bankrupt due to the high price volatility of many crypto assets. The same applies to financial service providers, like banks, as they offer ways to store, pay and trade crypto-based assets. Given the size of the crypto market, which was already larger than the subprime mortgage market at the start of the financial crisis, stress in the crypto asset markets could spill over into the broader financial system. However, social science research has not yet fully explored the socio-political implications of the politics of digital finance in the context of recent radical global transformations.

Aim of the panel & potential research questions

We are planning to organise one (or more) panels at the *Dreiländertagung (D-A-CH Congress)* from 11.-13. September 2023, which takes place at the Johannes Kepler University Linz, and are looking for contributions that deal with the politics of digital finance. There is both a growing importance of the political dimensions of digital finance and increasing academic work in this area. However, we believe that research on digital finance has been relatively segregated across different sub-disciplines of political science and neglected the broader picture of its socio-political implications. We want to use

this call and our panel to bring together researchers working on digital finance and enable an academic exchange that could lead to more projects in the future.

We invite paper proposals from all areas of political science, from international politics, (international) political economy to political theory, and are open to all methodological and theoretical approaches. Possible questions could be, but are not limited to: How and through which mechanisms do technology-driven financial innovations pose new challenges for citizens and regulators, for example in relation to data protection, financial stability, monetary sovereignty or social inequality? What actions are being taken by public institutions in response, and do these responses differ from regulatory approaches used to deal with traditional finance? What global differences are there in the political handling of digital finance, are we observing the emergence of different varieties of crypto-capitalism? How do the politics of digital finance play into the recent changes in the global world order?

Timeline

Paper proposals should be sent until **12 February 2023** to one of the following email addresses:

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