



We are excited to announce and invite you to the COALA Theory Workshop taking place on **29-30 April, 2019** (from 10:00 to 19:30) in Florence Italy, at the **European University Institute** with a **COALA welcome dinner for all participants** on Monday evening. It is organised in collaboration with the **Global Citizenship Governance** project.

Blockchain-based solutions are developed to address myriad governance challenges; from decentralised autonomous organisations for corporate governance to “virtual nations” for the decentralised governance of citizenship and migration. This workshop will focus on analysing blockchain governance from a theoretical perspective, relying on the extensive body of literature on legal and political theory, identity, citizenship, collective action and game theory.

We will investigate the extent to which we can use existing literature to help us understand the operations and governance of existing blockchain-based systems—**standing on the shoulders of giants to derive new theories and insights**.

Our ultimate objective is to compare the challenges faced by current blockchain systems with those faced by existing legal and political institutions, and explore whether the governance of these distributed systems can be informed by previous scholarship on the matter.

The theoretical research undertaken by the COALA community at this workshop will provide the underlying basis to first understand and, in subsequent workshops, elaborate **new modes of governance for distributed systems that better comply with our current conception of legitimacy and justice**.

This event is partly funded by the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union’s Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme (Grant No. 716350).

BLCKCHAIN WRKSHPS

This workshop will focus, *inter alia*, on the following topics:

- **Commons-based governance:** drawing from the commons literature originating from Ostrom's work to study the current practices and possible improvements to the governance of existing blockchain-based systems.
- **Political philosophy and social theory:** analysing the difference between governance as administration and political action, drawing amongst others from Mintzberg's work on bureaucracy to explore the desirability of a "trustless" technology entailing a transfer of trust from *people* to *procedures*.
- **Legal philosophy and theory:** exploring the operations of on-chain and off-chain governance in light of decisionist and legal positivist debates on sovereignty and the rule of law.
- **Identity and sovereignty:** drawing on citizen studies to investigate the potentialities and drawbacks of blockchain technologies and self-sovereign identity systems for the constitution of new citizenship regimes, for instance for providing citizenship to stateless migrants.
- **International law:** exploring the operations of decentralized blockchain-based networks as a type of new legal order or as a new jurisdiction that operate outside of the purview of the law, and investigating the extent to which we can create alternative arbitration system that operate according to a new body of customary law.
- **Collective consciousness, cultural production and social organization:** exploring interdisciplinary fields that govern complex adaptive systems, and cultural production and social organization - from Gramsci's work on cultural hegemony, semiotic theory from Saussure to Peirce, to Kahneman's work on behavioral economics and individual decision-making, among other giants.

Let us know at your earliest convenience if you will be able to join our discussion in Florence, as well as any dietary requirements for attendance.

We hope you can join us!

Best Regards,

Constance Choi —COALA

Primavera De Filippi —COALA, CERSA/CNRS, RSCAS/EUI, Berkman Center/Harvard

BLACKCHAIN WORKSHOPS

European University Institute “Cappella” Via Boccaccio 121, I-50133 Firenze Monday, 29 April 2019 10:00 am - 19:30 pm	
10:00 - 10:15	Welcome and Introductions
10:15 - 12:00	Collective brainstorming: Legal & Political Theory: What are the key references we should be aware of? What can we learn from previous theory related to law and politics?
12:00 - 13:00	Definition of the Working Groups: Legal Theory; Political Theory; Commons-based Governance; International law; Collective Consciousness
13:00- 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 - 16:00	Break-out into working groups
16:00 - 16:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>
16:30 - 18:00	Break-out into working groups
18:00 - 19:00	Plenary: Restitution & feedback
20:00 - 22:00	<i>COALA Dinner (Location TBD)</i>

European University Institute “Cappella” Via Boccaccio 121, I-50133 Firenze Tuesday, 30 April 2019 10:00 am - 19:30 pm	
10:00 - 10:30	Plenary: Insights from yesterday
10:30 - 12:30	Break-out into working groups
13:00 - 14:00	<i>Lunch</i>
14:00 - 16:00	Break-out into working groups
16:00 - 16:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>
16:30 - 18:00	Break-out into working groups
18:00 - 19:00	Restitution & Roadmap