Title: Cryptocurrencies, Blockchain, and Criminology: Emerging Challenges and Opportunities

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Proposal

This special issue aims to explore the intersection of cryptocurrencies, blockchain technology, and criminology. The rapid development and adoption of cryptocurrencies have revolutionized various sectors, including finance, supply chain management, and digital identity. However, these innovations have also introduced new challenges related to crime, regulation, ethics, and law enforcement. This special issue invites contributions that address these challenges, offering multidisciplinary perspectives from criminology, law, economics, and technology.

KEY THEMES AND TOPICS

1. Regulation of Cryptocurrencies and Blockchain

- National and international regulatory frameworks for cryptocurrencies.
- Legal challenges in regulating decentralized financial systems.
- The role of government and international bodies in ensuring compliance.
- Case studies of successful and unsuccessful regulatory attempts.
- Future trends in cryptocurrency regulation.

2. Cryptocurrencies as Tools for Crime Facilitation

- The use of cryptocurrencies in money laundering, terrorism financing, and other illicit activities.
- Dark web marketplaces and cryptocurrency transactions.
- Anonymity, privacy, and their implications for criminal activities.
- Case studies of cybercrimes involving cryptocurrencies.
- Comparative analysis of crime rates in cryptocurrency vs. traditional financial systems.

3. Blockchain for Asset Tracking and Recovery

- Blockchain's potential for enhancing transparency and traceability in financial transactions.
- Case studies on the use of blockchain for asset recovery in criminal investigations.
- Technological solutions for tracing illicit cryptocurrency transactions.
- Legal implications of using blockchain in criminal investigations.
- Collaboration between law enforcement agencies and tech companies for asset recovery.

4. Ethical Considerations in Cryptocurrency and Blockchain

- Ethical challenges posed by the decentralization of financial systems.
- The balance between privacy and transparency in blockchain technology.
- Ethical implications of using blockchain for surveillance and tracking.
- The impact of cryptocurrency on vulnerable populations and social equity.
- Debates on the morality of certain regulatory approaches.

5. Innovative Law Enforcement Approaches

- Emerging tools and techniques for tracking cryptocurrency transactions.
- The role of artificial intelligence and machine learning in crime detection involving cryptocurrencies.
- Law enforcement collaboration across borders to tackle cryptocurrency-related crimes.
- Challenges in prosecuting cryptocurrency-related crimes.
- Training and capacity-building for law enforcement in dealing with blockchain and cryptocurrencies.

6. Blockchain in Criminal Justice

- Potential uses of blockchain technology in the criminal justice system.
- Blockchain for secure evidence storage and chain of custody management.
- Enhancing transparency and accountability in criminal proceedings using blockchain.
- Case studies of blockchain applications in criminal justice.
- Future prospects for integrating blockchain into criminal justice practices.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

We invite submissions of original research articles, review papers, case studies, and critical commentaries. All submissions will be subject to a rigorous peer-review process. Authors are encouraged to explore interdisciplinary perspectives and offer practical insights into the challenges and opportunities presented by cryptocurrencies and blockchain technology in the context of criminology.

Important Dates

Submission Deadline: 30th December 2024
Notification of Acceptance: 30th January 2025
Publication Date: 30th February 2025

This special issue will provide a comprehensive platform for scholars, practitioners, and policymakers to engage in a critical dialogue on the rapidly evolving landscape of cryptocurrencies, blockchain technology, and their implications for criminology.