

**The Blacksburg Blockchain Symposium**

Disruption, Digitization, and Resilience

30th March 2018

Location: Steger Hall, Virginia Tech

The Blacksburg Blockchain Symposium seeks to explore today’s technical and regulatory challenges emerging around the blockchain technology and its various applications. The event will be divided in two main components: a **half-day conference** involving local blockchain entrepreneurs and academics from across the university and a student-led “idea-based” hackathon.

With a focus on finance and innovation, the Blacksburg Blockchain Symposium pursues a transdisciplinary approach to build a blockchain research cluster of scholars from across VT which will facilitate a **partnership** between industry and VT faculty and students.

This partnership will enhance the debate on the blockchain technology across disciplines and will integrate research emphasizing the **Data Analytics and Decisions Sciences** and **Integrated Security** Destinations Areas, and the **Policy** Strategic Growth Area.

Informed by the inputs from scholars and business-leaders at the event, we aim to publish the first **Global Forum Policy Brief** on blockchain regulation*.* The first symposium will serve as an impetus for an **annual event** on technological innovations and economic applications.

Program (tentative):

1:00 – 1:15 Welcome and introduction by Global Forum

1:15 – 2:00 **Keynote speech 1**: *Dr. Charles Clancy,* VT Hume Center

2:00 – 2:15 **Session 1**: Digital Currencies: Policy & Governance

*Daniel Notestein & Peter Menegay* – blocktrades.us and SynaptiCAD

*Michael Moehler* or *Eric Jardin*

2:15 – 3:00 Break

3:00 – 3:15 **Session 2**: Digital Identity, Crisis & Refugees

*Manu Sporny*, digital bazaar

*Naren Ramakrishnan* or *Lane Watson*

3:15 – 4:00 Break

4:15 – 5:00 **Keynote speech 2:** *Dr. John Schindler*, Federal Reserve Board of Governors

5:00 – 6:00 Conclusion; Hackathon results and awards ceremony; Reception