UNIVERSITY of NICOSIA

Guest Lecturers

Ezechiel Copic – cLabs, Celo

BLOC 611: Introduction to Decentralized Finance

Ezechiel Copic

Ezechiel Copic is a Partner at cLabs Inc., working on the Celo platform, where he leads the company's public sector research and development efforts.

- Previously, Ezechiel worked in the Markets Group at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York in a variety of roles, focused on the understanding and implementation of monetary policy for the Federal Reserve System. Additionally, he served as Director of Central Banks & Public Policy at the World Gold Council, advising central banks on gold reserves management.
- Ezechiel has an undergraduate degree in International Relations from the University of Pennsylvania and a Master's degree in International Political Economics from Fordham University.

cLabs & Celo

cLabs is a member of the Alliance for Prosperity and part of the community working on Celo. Based in Berlin, Buenos Aires, San Francisco and around the world, cLabs' built an open, decentralized platform, designed to support stablecoins and tokenized assets, which are optimized for mobile phones.

Celo is a mobile-first platform that makes financial dApps and crypto payments accessible to anyone with a mobile phone. It operates on proof-of-stake, is EVM-compatible, open source, and community governed.

Suggested readings of the guest lecturer

- Influencing the Velocity of Central Bank Digital Currencies

  The advent of stablecoins offers new and innovative ways to improve financial inclusion, reduce transaction costs, and increase the efficiency of the global financial system. The following paper explores the assets and process necessary for creating a central bank digital currency (CBDC) on the Celo platform, as well as the potential impact on the financial system. Perhaps most importantly, the paper also introduces the idea that current technological advancements allow for a better understanding of the velocity of money, and may afford central banks the ability to influence money velocity, thus potentially creating a new transmission channel for monetary policy.

- Shaping the Future of Digital Currencies

  The digital currencies powering the financial system of the future are likely to come in a variety of different versions. Some will be issued by central banks (what we currently call central bank digital currency, or CBDC), but others may be issued by the private sector and backed by central bank liabilities. As policymakers become more familiar with the pros and cons of issuing a digital currency (essentially the why), it's natural that they will begin to turn their attention towards how a digital currency could be issued. Although there is still some debate as to whether digital currencies necessarily need to be issued using blockchain-based technology, the following report will, nonetheless, provide a detailed description of how a digital currency, either issued by a central bank or backed by a central bank liability, could be issued on the Celo blockchain […].