

Philosophy of Ethereum governance

A photograph of a white rabbit sitting in a field of tall, green grass. The rabbit is positioned on the right side of the frame, facing towards the left. Its fur is a pale cream color, and it has long, upright ears. The background is filled with dense green foliage and small yellow flowers, creating a natural and somewhat wild setting.

Lane Rettig // @lrettig

1

Photo by Victor Larracuente on Unsplash

Intro



An operating
system for building
better human
institutions.



GOVERNANCE BY BLOCKCHAIN

**GOVERNANCE BY
BLOCKCHAIN**

**GOVERNANCE OF
BLOCKCHAIN**

How governance can go wrong



On Collusion

Apr 3, 2019

Special thanks to Glen Weyl, Phil Daian and Jinglan Wang for review

Over the last few years there has been an increasing interest in using deliberately engineered economic incentives and mechanism design to align behavior of participants in various contexts. In the blockchain space, mechanism design first and foremost provides the security for the blockchain itself, encouraging miners or proof of stake validators to participate honestly, but more recently it is being applied in [prediction markets](#), “[token curated registries](#)” and many other contexts. The nascent [RadicalXChange movement](#) has meanwhile spawned experimentation with [Harberger taxes](#), quadratic voting, [quadratic financing](#) and more. More recently, there has also been growing interest in using token-based incentives to try to encourage quality posts in social media. However, as development of these systems moves closer from theory to practice, there are a number of challenges that need to be addressed, challenges that I would argue have not yet been adequately confronted.

Collusion and capture
and corruption, oh my!



Autonocrats and Anthropocrats

A photograph showing a group of rabbits of various colors (black, white, brown, grey) gathered around a wooden bowl filled with food. They are all looking down at the bowl, eating. The background is a blurred outdoor setting.

Against Szabo's Law, For A New Crypto Legal System



Vlad Zamfir

Jan 26 · 18 min read

Earlier this week (on Sunday night, in fact), I came across a definition and understanding of “legal systems” that has really cleared up a lot of things that have been weighing heavily on my mind for a long time. Here it is:

Legal systems are protocols for the management of disputes.



Ethereum governance today



Photo by Andrea Reiman on Unsplash



PROGPOW



eip	title	author	status	type	category	created
to-be-assigned	Commitment to Sustainable Ecosystem Funding	Gregory Markou <greg@chainsafe.io>, Kevin Owocki <kevin@gitcoin.co>, Lane Rettig <lane@ethereum.org>	Draft	Standards Track	Core	2019-03-13

Commitment to Sustainable Ecosystem Funding

Simple Summary

Ethereum currently provides a block reward to proof of work miners every block, but it does not capture any block rewards for ecosystem funding. This EIP adds a simple mechanism for capturing a portion of block rewards for ecosystem funding as a credible commitment to doing so in future, but it does not actually capture any such rewards.

Abstract

A mechanism that allows specification of two parameters, a beneficiary address and a per-block reward denominated in wei, that allows a portion of block rewards to be captured for the purpose of ecosystem funding. Both values are set to zero.



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Ethereum governance has failed.

We are a de facto technocracy, where a small group of technocrats, the core devs, have final say over what goes into the protocol.

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The path forward



Steve Randy Waldman
@interfluidity



Replying to [@lrettig](#)

Effective systems mix and marble centralized and decentralized elements. The best economies are *mixed* economies. The decentralized elements check the centralized elements, make it difficult for them to act in arbitrary and harmful ways. The centralized elements' first and

4:09 AM · Mar 31, 2019 · Twitter for iPhone

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- Have an honest conversation
- Goals, values, vision
- Hybrid centralized-decentralized
- Keep on researching, start small, work towards decentralization
- Fail fast

Don't take yourself
too seriously!



Thanks!

Lane Rettig // @lrettig

