Metaphilosophy Special Issue CFP: Toward a Philosophy of Blockchain Technology
4,000-5,000 words - Submission deadline: October 1, 2016

The Internet has been one of the most transformative existences in the contemporary world and modernity. Monnin and colleagues attempted to articulate some of the philosophical aspects of the Internet in _Toward a Philosophy of the Web_. Whereas a clear first phase of the Internet could be formulated as the free and widespread transfer of information, a new and emerging phase of the Internet could be shaped as the secure and decentralized transfer of value. Blockchain technology is one means of enabling secure value transfer across networks; blockchains are the distributed ledger software that underlies cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin. More broadly the ability to transfer value across networks in ways that obviate the need for traditional intermediaries could come to allow all human interaction regarding value transfer and contractual engagement to be instantiated in blockchains for quicker, easier, less costly, and less risky execution. Blockchains could become a tracking register for all of the world's activity: essentially a society's memory, and a tool for more profoundly automating human patterns and integrating human and technological activity.

Just as the Internet was a revolutionary occurrence in reality that triggered a rethinking of self, world, materiality, embodiment, the individual and society, subjectivation, objectification, potentiality, temporality, and other philosophical topics, blockchains too warrant philosophical inquiry. Many philosophical topics might be probed, including and extending beyond the classical fields of study in ontology, epistemology, and axiology/ethics. Ontology most broadly treats questions of existence; what is blockchain technology, how might it be characterized, how is it being created, implemented, and adopted; how does it operate in the world; definitions, classifications, teleology, possibilities, and limitations. Epistemology deals with knowledge; are there new kinds of things that blockchain technology is helping us to know, such as what, for example; and with what proof or truth standard; how do we know; what new knowledge is required to engage with blockchain technology? Axiology, ethics, and aesthetics concern how blockchain technology is valorized, taken up, and regarded; what aspects are being valued, overvalued, or undervalued and why; what behavioral norms are arising; what constitutes a blockchain aesthetics, what aspects are seen and valued as beautiful, elegant, or aesthetically pleasing? A philosophy of blockchains might also be quite practical and aim to provide a concise definition of what the technology is, its purpose, and dimensions.

The scope of _Metaphilosophy_ is to consider a wide variety of philosophical approaches, schools, methods, and fields, and accordingly invites the broad philosophical investigation of topics related to blockchain technology. This _Metaphilosophy_ special journal issue welcomes submissions of papers (4,000-5,000 words) addressing these and any other related topics:

- Organizational models: hierarchical, decentralized, hybrid, complex adaptive systems
- Inter-agent coordination systems, human-technology relations, algorithmic reality
- Individual and society: digital social realities, social contracts, and rules of law
- Blockchains and cognition, learning, artificial intelligence, automated memory
- Parts-whole; global-local; atomism-holism; plurality-monolithicity; materialism-idealism; digital-physical realities; immune systems (porous-fixed); organicism

- Intelligent agent reputation systems, consensus trust, network reality, system design, checks and balances, good-agent behavior; producing social reality; automation economy
- Blockchains and automation: smart contracts, Dapps, DAOs, DACs, DCOs, DASs
- Blockchain-enabled technology entities: IoT, drones, robotics, cognitive enhancement
- Blockchains and mining: decentralized participative ecosystems, innovation
- Blockchain temporality: blocktime, programmable time, contingent time, futurity, historicity, virtual reality, cloud computing, temporal multiplicity
- Blockchain sociality: social good-social pathology; abundance-scarcity; transcendence-immanence; microaggression-recognition; *forms of life*, blockchain language grammars; virtue; happiness (hedonic-eudaimonic); personal utility functions, actualization
- Blockchain Aesthetics: digital morality, computational ethics modules; moral pluralism

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