# Capability Statement

**Blockchain Innovation Hub**

2021
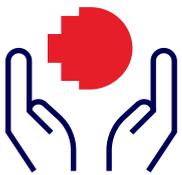
**RMIT**
UNIVERSITY

## Overview

Formed in 2017, the Blockchain Innovation Hub at RMIT University was the world's first social science research institute on blockchain technology.

Blockchain is a new institutional technology for the industrialization of trust in recording transactions that are the basis of economic organization. Blockchain allows complex digital economic coordination and will be the new digital economic infrastructure, disrupting and transforming our economy and society. Our goal is to understand how that will happen.

We are an interdisciplinary team of researchers in economics, political-economy, organisational theory, law, sociology, politics and communications. We work on crypto-economics, business strategy and adaptation to blockchain technologies, mapping the blockchain economy, and identifying the public policy challenges that will hold back or accelerate this economic revolution.

The Hub seeks to undertake collaborative research with industry and contribute to policy debates surrounding the adoption of digital technologies such as blockchain, artificial intelligence and machine learning, 5G, IOT and other technologies of trust, prediction and information.

The Hub is based in the College of Business and Law at RMIT University. RMIT University is a global university of technology and design and Australia's second-largest tertiary institution. The University enjoys an international reputation for excellence in practical education and outcome-oriented research.

The BIH and RMIT is now seen globally as leading experts in this new technology space. In June 2019 RMIT was ranked third in the world for the study of digital currencies (behind Cambridge and MIT) by Kaiko, a leading financial data provider.

## Research Focus Areas

The RMIT Blockchain Innovation Hub has been studying and mapping the future global economy with an emphasis on resilience, adaptability, and decentralised coordination.

### Key Research Themes:

- Digital technologies –such as blockchain, artificial intelligence and machine learning, 5G, IOT, and other technologies of trust, prediction, and information – allow for complex digital economic coordination and will be the new digital economic infrastructure
- Supply chain and production information and resilience – How can new economic infrastructure for supply chains create more transparent, robust and adaptable supply chain networks?
- Governance - Digital and Distributed infrastructure - How can we build and extend decentralised infrastructure - not just communications, but for contracting, business management, digital transformation, intellectual property, finance and the challenges with managing interface between physical and digital infrastructure, and what is the role for government is navigating that interface?
- Data Markets – investigating user control over data (ie health data, smart cities, privacy), new journalism models
- Civil Society - working with the not-for profit sector – investigating donations management for non-profits, governance reform, intellectual property management

### Global Focus

The strength of our research has enabled the Hub to build a global research network to connect with other world leading research centres in the US, Singapore, Europe and China. We currently have active research connections with: Harvard University (US); MIT (US); George Mason University (US); UCL (UK); and the Vienna University of Economics and Business (Austria).

### Members

- Professor Jason Potts
- A/Professor Chris Berg
- Professor Sinclair Davidson
- Dr Darcy Allen

- Dr Aaron Lane
- Dr Elizabeth Morton
- A/Professor Ellie Rennie

- A/Professor Stuart Thomas
- A/Professor Marta Poblet
- Dr Vijay Mohan

### Industry Collaboration

The Blockchain Business Lab (BBL) is a new initiative being led by the Blockchain Innovation Hub. Through the BBL we are collaborating with industry to solve economic, social science and technology challenges in designing the blockchain economy, generating industry impact and feeding research outcomes.

Partners of the Blockhain Innovation Hub include:
- Leading technology companies - IBM, Infosys, Oracle, Salesforce
- Blockchain Companies – Civic Ledger, Flexdapps, Powerledger, TypeHuman, Agoric
- Government partners, Australian Government, National Blockchain Roadmap, Data 61, CSIRO, Victorian State Government
- RMIT Activator, Health Transformation Lab, Cyber Security Research Centre, Australian APEC Study Centre
- Industry Associations – Blockchain Australia, CPA, Stone and Chalk
- Not for Profits - Red Cross, Oxfam,
- RMIT Singapore, RMIT Europe
- Global Partners - MIT, UCL, NUS, Zurich University, Vienna University

## Education/Capacity Building

We provide education through Under-graduate, Postgraduate and PhD programs. We also offer online short courses, micro-credentials and executive education offerings.
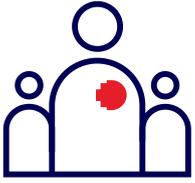
**Contact Us**

### Website

Vistit the Blockchain Innovation Hub website at:
https://rmitblockchain.io/

### Blockchain Innovation Hub Contacts

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