Call for Papers
Special Issue on "Digital Finance, Blockchains, and Artificial Intelligence"

Hardly a month goes by without a new FinTech startup claiming multi-million seed rounds and regulators all over the world creating new legislation with respect to this burgeoning sector of the centuries-old traditional finance domain. While early attempts to digitize finance have mostly been involved with porting traditional finance processes to an environment of ubiquitous smartphones, today's approaches are characterized by a high degree of innovation, often thanks to a healthy dose of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the mix (Nguyen et al., 2022).

In a recent review paper, Goodell et al. (2021) attempt to uncover the thematic structure of AI and Machine Learning (ML) research in finance over 1986–April 2021 and show a rising trend of research in three areas as far as AI applications in finance are concerned: i) AI, ML, and asset pricing; ii) AI, ML, and FinTech; and iii) AI, ML, and financial fraud. The impact of digital finance, blockchains, and AI has been documented for various aspects of financial markets, products, and services, e.g., access to finance through FinTech (Bollaert et al., 2021), financial inclusion (Aziz and Naima, 2021), supply chain finance innovation (Du et al., 2020), entrepreneurial finance (Elisa et al., 2021; Bogusz et al., 2020), stock price forecasting and big data (Akyildirim et al., 2021), and family farms' green control techniques adoption (Yu et al., 2020).

The intersection between digital finance, blockchains, and artificial intelligence is also evolving rapidly and academic discussions often single-out specific aspects of the fields. On the one end of the spectrum, we find the purely engineering driven approaches in the sense of "what can be done?". On the other end of this spectrum, we find discussions of the ethical implications of "what should be done?".

The present Special Issue intends to be an outlet for holistic research that will combine different aspects of financial innovations by not only highlighting the possibilities but also the consequences. Therefore, pluri-disciplinary research teams are encouraged and welcome to submit.

Possible topics include, but are certainly not limited to:
- Influence of digitization in the financial sectors
- Shaping of investment decisions through AI and Big Data
- Effects of blockchains on banking and financial services
- Fake news lifecycle: creation, detection, correction
- Ethical implications of data mining in finance applications
- Sustainable investments and green washing in the era of omnipresent information
- The digital future of banking
- FinTech, RegTech, InsurTech: what's next?

Submissions of teams that include industry practitioners are welcome, provided they follow academic best practices of rigorous and relevant research.

This Special Issue is launched in cooperation with several conferences in 2022 such as Paris Financial Management Conference, Forecasting Financial Markets Conference, International Research Meeting in Business and Management, and Vietnam Symposium in Banking and Finance. Participants of these conferences are especially encouraged to submit their work, yet, participating in the conferences is not a requirement for a submission.

Important dates
- Papers to be submitted by 31 December 2022.
- Expected completion of the review process: September 2023

Special Issue Guest Editors
- Duc Khuong Nguyen, *IPAG Business School, France & International School, Vietnam National University, Vietnam*
- Charalampos Stasinakis, *University of Glasgow, United Kingdom*
- Hans-Jörg von Mettenheim, *IPAG Business School, France and Oxford-Man Institute of Quantitative Finance, Oxford*
- Ioannis Psaradellis, *School of Economics and Finance, University of St Andrews, United Kingdom*

References

Akyildirim, E., Nguyen, D. K., Sensoy, A., & Šikić, M. Forecasting high-frequency excess stock returns via data analytics and machine learning. *European Financial Management*.

Aziz, A., & Naima, U. (2021). Rethinking digital financial inclusion: Evidence from Bangladesh. *Technology in Society*, *64*, 101509.

Bogusz, C. I., Laurell, C., & Sandström, C. (2020). Tracking the digital evolution of entrepreneurial finance: The interplay between crowdfunding, blockchain technologies, cryptocurrencies, and initial coin offerings. *IEEE Transactions on Engineering Management*, *67*(4), 1099-1108.

Bollaert, H., de Silanes, F. L., & Schwienbacher, A. (2021). Fintech and access to finance. *Journal of Corporate Finance*, 101941.

Du, M., Chen, Q., Xiao, J., Yang, H., & Ma, X. (2020). Supply chain finance innovation using blockchain. *IEEE Transactions on Engineering Management*, *67*(4), 1045-1058.

Elisa, U., Annalisa, C., Armin, S., Massimo, C., & Alexander, B. (2021). Digital technologies and the changing entrepreneurial finance landscape: Status quo and perspectives for future research. *Technological Forecasting and Social Change*, *168*, 120768.

Goodell, J. W., Kumar, S., Lim, W. M., & Pattnaik, D. (2021). Artificial intelligence and machine learning in finance: Identifying foundations, themes, and research clusters from bibliometric analysis. *Journal of Behavioral and Experimental Finance*, *32*, 100577.

Nguyen, D. K., Sermpinis, G., & Stasinakis, C. (2022). Big Data, Artificial Intelligence, and Machine Learning: A Transformative Symbiosis in Favour of Financial Technology. *European Financial Management*.

Yu, L., Zhao, D., Xue, Z., & Gao, Y. (2020). Research on the use of digital finance and the adoption of green control techniques by family farms in China. *Technology in Society*, *62*, 101323.